



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 19th October 2021.

Due to Covid-19 this meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

Present: Mike Watson (MW) Chair; Janie Meikle Bland (JMB) Interim Vice Chair; Leslie Harkness (LH) Secretary; Alasdair Taylor (AT) Treasurer; Anna Doeser (AD) Communications Officer; Iain McCusker (IMcC) Planning Officer; Sandra Davidson (SD); Bill Fortune (BF); Alastair Heron (AH); Vicky McDowell (VMcD);

Apologies: Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Duncan McDougall (DMcD) Associate Member; Moira Randall (MR) Associate Member; Alyn Smith MP; PC Paul Gilliland; PC Dee Chalmers; Lucy McCormick (LM) Minute Secretary; Councillor Alastair Majury; Graham Russell (Chair, Friends of Bridge of Allan) Maria Lucey (SC)

In attendance: Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Graham Houston Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Councillor Jeremy McDonald; Alexander Stewart(MSP); Douglas Neilson (Vice Chair of Friends of Bridge of Allan);

Abbreviations – Bridge of Allan (BOA), Community Council (CC), Common Good Fund (CGF), Stirling Council (SC), Annual General Meeting (AGM), Wallace Monument Stakeholder Advisory Group (WMSAG)

B 1971 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest (MW)

MW chaired this meeting. MW opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed all those in attendance via Zoom. Apologies were recorded as noted above and no conflicts of interested identified.

B 1972 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log (MW)

The minutes of the September 2021 CC meeting were approved by BF; seconded by LH

Matters arising

Reference item **B1966** and the issues raised with SC by Councillor Tollemache; the council has confirmed that the speed indicator sign in Henderson Street is now fully operational. In addition, a SC email to Councillor Tollemache has also suggested that, regarding the matter of the kerbs and footpaths in the Avenue Park area, improvements and repairs to any areas unadopted by the council would require private flat owners to contribute to the costs, although Councillor Tollemache has noted that the relevant maps appear to suggest that all the properties have actually been adopted. A subsequent SC email forwarded by the councillor has in fact indicated that a request has been sent to Roads Maintenance to investigate the appropriateness of adding the improvement of the footways and kerbs at the Avenue Park flatted properties to the works schedule; the same email confirmed that a works package for improving access to the 'chicken run' for those Avenue Park residents with mobility issues would be forthcoming

Reference **Item B1960** on speeding and road safety, Councillor Dodds wrote to inform the CC he had spent an afternoon with the police who were carrying out radar checks in the 30mph section of Henderson Street and that warnings were given to several drivers whose speed was at or above 35 mph. This monitoring will resume after the COP event.

B 1973 Flood alleviation (Maria Lucey SC)

Maria from SC was invited to discuss this topic but was unable to attend via zoom due to restrictions. Options were discussed including meeting via a different platform e.g. Microsoft Teams as this is available to SC personnel or for a sub-group to meet in person; however due to current COVID situation there is little appetite to meet physically, and Councillor Tollemache offered to push SC for a proper resolution.

B 1974 Community Resilience Group (Cllr Dodds)

Councillor Dodds is looking to establish a community resilience group; several local residents have already volunteered and they will receive training etc to be first responders should there be an emergency situation such as a flood. The CC is broadly supportive but with some reservations relating to the previous attempt to establish such a group – suggestions for avoiding the same issues arising were to ensure more people are involved, that strong leadership is put in place to provide direction and better engagement with SC and other community groups. Councillor Dodds is happy to lead and is already in consultation with the flooding group who have agreed to assist with writing a plan and providing equipment.

B 1975 Park of Kier / Airthrey Kerse appeals (MW)

Park of Keir appeal is progressing at pace with two submissions already made to the Minister from Dunblane CC and RAGE and another due to be completed by the end of October.

Airthrey Kerse – pre-examination meeting with reporter due to take place on 26th Oct, DMcD will lead with MW attending to support.

B 1976 Christmas Lights (AD)

Full refurbishment of the lights is planned with the expectation that this will provide functional lights for the next 4-5 years rather than repeating annual patching/spot fixes. The 18 existing sponsors have been approached to ask if they are willing to sponsor again for £300 with confirmation received from 12 that they are happy to continue sponsoring, one is unable to support at this amount, one is unsure and the remainder have not yet responded. The Crowdfunder is expected to cover the remaining costs (approx. £7000) and the Scouts are designing an 'I funded the Christmas Lights' badge. Due to the Crowdfunding model, if the amount pledged does not reach the required target, then no monies will be transferred and this will mean the refurbishment can't proceed.

£1467 has been pledged so far which is 20% with 12 days remaining; advertising in shops / social media with QR codes to take people to the page has reached thousands of people but this doesn't seem to be converting to actual pledges. JMB reassured that there tends to be a rush of donations closer to the end date and suggested that the CC members make use of their own networks to reach the local community. There is an article planned for inclusion in the Stirling Observer and there is hope that the badge imagery will help although a plan B may have to be considered at future meetings if the target is not met.

It was acknowledged that repair / maintenance implications were not necessarily understood when the CC purchased the lights and it was agreed that consideration needs to be given to this over the long term, although there is still goodwill and appetite for festive / decoration activity within the community.

B 1977 Common Good Assets (Cllr's Houston & Dodds)

In response to the concerns raised at the last meeting (B 1968) Cllr Houston advised that SC has not been maintaining a list of common good assets and work is now underway to get that up to date which is why information was issued and SC are asking for input on what should be considered an asset. This has been confirmed as entirely separate from the management of Common Good Funds and Cllr Houston is confident that issues such as maintenance costs etc can be effectively managed through the Civic Panel.

B 1978 Format for future meetings (LH)

Opinions were sought on revising the format for CC meetings now that SC has relaxed the mandate for all meetings to be online. Various options are available; however a 'hybrid' solution may be preferable so that individuals can meet in person should they choose but also have video conferencing facility to allow for remote participation as this makes the meetings more accessible. Cllr Dodds advised to contact the Community Engagement team for support with setting this up. Cllr McDonald indicated that tablets have been made available for SC staff to be able to attend zoom meetings although some may not yet be aware of the facility and advised that SC is also exploring options for a hybrid model.

It was agreed that the CC will continue to meet via Zoom and explore options for holding hybrid meetings when there is more appetite to return to face-to-face.

B 1979 Community Led Tourism & Destination Marketing (JMB)

A meeting was held with representatives from across the community to help consolidate thoughts / develop the community led tourist approach and agreement has been reached on establishing a Bridge of Allan Community Interest Company with brand being Visit BOA. This is expected to be formalised by Companies House in the next few weeks with Board members as follows:

- Chair - Euan Bain - resident and director Cold Town Brewery, and non-executive director Signature Pubs, including the Meadowpark
- Vice Chair - Douglas Ross - proprietor Allanwater Brewery, founder member of several tourism and food and drink networks including Forth Valley Food and Drink Network
- Secretary - Janie Meikle Bland - resident, director Picture the Possible incorporating the Stirling Photography Festival, Vice Chair Bridge of Allan Community Council
- Interim Treasurer - Sarah Cameron - resident and SENSOT culture and tourism lead, specialist in community led tourism
- Non-executive Board Member – Bob McGowan – resident & special advisor with background in local government, business strategy and consulting

The Steering Group consists of volunteers from a cross-section of the community with a variety of skills and expertise and is due to meet on Friday 20th October at the Innovation Park to finalise the Companies House application by agreeing the key activities and benefits to the community. There is a commitment to look at all

the social, commercial and environmental opportunities for the area and an acknowledgement that there needs to be an appropriate engagement model to ensure that the various community groups have a clear understanding and agree the scope of their activities, particularly where there are shared responsibilities.

Next steps are to setup the required bank accounts etc, engage a project manager and develop a Visit Bridge of Allan website.

It was agreed that members of the CC and VisitBOA team will meet separately to discuss roles and responsibilities and JMB will regularly provide updates via this forum.

B 1980 Tennis Courts (BF)

On 6th Oct BF met with interested parties from local schools, led by Active Scotland, mums on the run, disability groups in Stirling the purpose was to put together a durable application for funding. Another meeting organised for 3rd Nov to flesh out that application and determine which funding to target and to discuss obtaining new quotes due to recent price increases. Kirsty Hughes (Tennis Scotland) has been engaged previously and her opinion was the BOA was over-subscribed with Tennis Courts and therefore not a priority candidate for funding however this is going to be revisited following some conversations on Twitter between Judy Murray, the Tennis Club and Alyn Smith MP.

B 1981 Chair's report (MW)

Remembrance service time is expected to be 2pm on Sunday 14th November however still to be confirmed with Stirling Council. The CC members agreed to fund the usual wreath purchase.

MW expressed thanks to Inga and those involved with the presentation to the Minister regarding the Park of Kier appeal.

B 1982 Secretary's report (LH)

Councillor's Communications

Cllr Tollemache forwarded a SC email, confirming, in response to his query, that a community engagement initiative on the Pollinator Action Plan will be ready to go in mid-Autumn and that amendments to grassland maintenance schemes will be phased in over a two-three year period.

Cllr Tollemache also forwarded an email from a resident who reported that a portion of the riverbank has become detached after the heavy rainfall. The councillor has raised the issue with SC and he has forwarded a SC response confirming that an officer would inspect the site, would determine ownership of the relevant riverbank section and would establish if any immediate action were returned.

Cllr Houston, having raised the issue with SC after being contacted by a resident about the height of the new speeding signs, forwarded a response from SC indicating that it would consider whether any of the signs could be better located to ensure that motorists could see them more readily.

Residents' Communications

A resident has complained about the uncut grass, the broken glass and the unrepaired playhouse in the Hillview Drive swing park.

A resident who corresponds regularly has suggested that obtaining a formal financial valuation of the tennis

courts could be helpful.

Stirling Council Communications

SC wrote to inform community councils of the launch of its new Good Food for All Fund with grants of up to £10,000 for third sector and community groups to tackle food inequality with applications to be received by 11 am on November 8th

The Community Council Enquiries Co-ordinator wrote to point out that the CC minutes for the August 2021 meeting incorrectly stated that the minutes for the previous August meeting had been approved when, in fact, the minutes should have stated that the minutes of the previous meeting of June 2021 had been approved.

General Communications

A copy of the 4th Save Blairforkie Greenspace newsletter was received along with an intimation that Allanwater Homes might be seeking to avoid submitting an Environmental Impact Assessment with the application.

A copy of the most recent Scottish Rural Action newsletter was received.

B 1983 Treasurer's report (AT)

Treasurer's Report (AT)

- SC Admin grant received of £654.66.
- Play Park - £2543.27
- SC Admin fund - £430.42
- Unrestricted fund – £2727
- Covid Fund - £1370
- Christ lights - £24

Balance of £7,398

B 1984 Resident's voice

Care home – Councillor Dodds to take forward concern raised by Gavin Drummond in relation to car parking spaces in the plans for the Care home.

Resident acknowledged how worthwhile he finds being able to join the CC zoom meetings.

B 1985 Planning (IMc)

- CC objection to the Care Home has been submitted.
- Blairforkie Drive – screening opinion request received for environmental impact assessment.

B 1986 Common Good Fund (AT)

Lengthy discussion about the Well House application. It was stressed that the CC is fully appreciative of the importance of the restoration of the building. It was agreed that further clarification to be sought on a number of issues raised including – the degree to which it is envisaged that the project would meet the common good purpose, intended arrangements for providing access to building, arrangements for providing

appropriate story boards to outline historical context, level of financial support requested.

B 1987 AOCB

- JMB raised point about speeding and accident on Kenilworth Road and worrying behaviour about people speeding on Kenilworth Road and surrounding roads. Will raise awareness of issue on CC social pages.
- Graham Houston signed posted to useful information on the Stirling Council called Engage Stirling.
- CC to obtain from SC the map of gritting bins for the area.

Date of next meeting confirmed to be 16 November 2021 via Zoom.