



## Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Alastair Majury; Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Duncan McDougall (DMcD) Associate Member; Moira Randall (MR) Associate Member; Lucy McCormick (Minute Secretary); Alexander Stewart MSP; Alyn Smith MP; PC Paul Gilliland; PC Dee Chalmers; Andrew Davies (Stirling Council)

**In attendance:** Councillor Jim Thomson (Convenor of Environment and Housing Committee); Lesley Anne Cain (Network Rail); Niamh Hegarty (Network Rail); Alastair McNeill (Stirling Observer); Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Graham Houston (GH); Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Sam Shortt (SS); Jim Thomson (Stirling Council); Gavin Drummond (GD);

Abbreviations – Community Council (CC), Common Good Fund (CGF), Stirling Council (SC), Annual General Meeting (AGM)

### **B 1881 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest (MW)**

MW chaired this meeting. MW opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all those in attendance via Zoom; apologies were recorded as noted above. IMcC indicated a conflict of interest relating to the Scouts application to the Common Good Fund; LH advised the attendees that that under SC's rules, engaging in discussion is acceptable providing those with conflicts do not participate in any voting on the matter.

### **B 1882 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log (MW)**

The minutes of the February 2021 CC meeting were approved: proposed by SH and seconded by LH.

Matter arising:

- Reference **Item B 1875**:
  - o Regarding deterioration of the recently repaired road surface at the entry to the Health Centre parking area, Councillor Dodds wrote to say he has again raised the issue with SC.
  - o Regarding Airthrey Kerse - our associate member, DMcD has forwarded two documents, firstly, SC's official response to the reporter on the housing land supply issue indicating 6.5 years supply i.e. more than the requisite 5 years and a copy of the SC Draft Housing Land Audit 2020.
- Reference **Item B 1869** on Speeding, Councillor Dodds forwarded SC's response that an officer had attended the site and that the signs had been installed at the location as identified and advertised.
  - o VMcD advised that SC's response confirms that the positioning is correct as per the map,

however the dispute is regarding the accuracy of the map itself which Councillor Dodds agreed to reiterate to the relevant officers.

- JMB flagged potential for confusion regarding the school sign indicating 20mph 'when lights are flashing' on Kenilworth road; this may lead drivers to believe the limit is different otherwise and begs the question of whether existing signage has been considered when installing new signs.
- Sam Shortt highlighted concerns about some of the signage on the A9 by train station/allan bridge being obscured. Also expressed concerns over the volume of thermoplastic chips escaping into local water courses etc from the red speed limit patches installed on various roads as part of the speeding initiative; suggested the installation contractor should be requested to return a few days later to scoop up the wayward chips. Councillor Dodds agreed to raise this with SC.

#### Actions:

- Reference **Item B 1872** on Dog Fouling – JMB & Lecropt nursery had discussions and support is being provided in the form of leaflets and posters produced by the nursery and after-school children as well as ongoing discussions with local businesses to explore additional support/ideas. A group of five residents are working to build a positive campaign along with the dog warden and posters have been placed in various locations around the village; information is being gathered to determine appropriate locations for signs and / or additional bins. Invitation to the next CC meeting to be extended to the dog warden.
- Reference **Item B 1874** Regarding Active Travel, AD has a meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> March with some former colleagues and the consultant tasked with community engagement relating to the Active Travel Cycling and Walking route project between BoA and Dunblane; will provide an update at the next CC meeting.
- Reference **Item B 1856** (Jan-21 meeting) IMcC confirmed that a new planning application for the old wellhouse has yet to be submitted.
- Reference **Item B 1876** – AT will be able to view the current state of repair of the lights prior to the next CC meeting.

#### **B 1883 Police Report**

Between 16<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, a total of 8 crimes occurred within the Bridge of Allan beat code, the crimes detailed below are those that are of relevance to the local community.

**ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR** - none reported.

#### **DRUG MISUSE**

On 27<sup>th</sup> February, at University of Stirling two individuals were traced in possession of Cannabis. The individuals concerned will be issued with Recorded Police Warnings for being in possession of controlled drugs.

#### **VIOLENT CRIME**

On 21<sup>st</sup> of February an incident occurred in the Queens Court area of Bridge of Allan whereby a male was observed in possession of a knife and was seen to be shouting and swearing. No persons were injured and an individual has since been traced, arrested and remanded in relation to carrying a knife in a public place and a Section 38(1) Criminal Justice & Licensing Scotland Act 2010 offence.

#### **HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY**

Between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of February a resident of Bridge of Allan became aware that his online banking account had been compromised by unknown means. This has been crimed as Fraud and is an ongoing

enquiry at the time of submission.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February a resident from Bridge of Allan was the victim of an email scam resulting in a financial loss. This has been crimed as Fraud and is being investigated.

On 11<sup>th</sup> March a resident from Bridge of Allan whilst attempting to sell property online, was duped into transferring money via online bank transfer to a suspect account. This has been crimed as Fraud and will be investigated in due course.

We would advise the public that they install appropriate security applications on to their electronic devices to minimise the risk of becoming the victim of online fraud.

In addition, we would encourage the community to carry out appropriate checks should they receive any suspicious emails, texts or calls from unidentified sources and not to engage in dialogue or part with any banking details with any parties whom they deem to be suspicious.

#### **ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March, police stopped a vehicle in Henderson Street which was being driven without insurance. The motorist was thereafter arrested for a number of other offences including possession of a controlled drug and Section 38(1) Criminal Justice & Licensing Scotland Act 2010.

#### **MATTERS OF NOTE**

There have been some recent reports of youth related antisocial behaviour including egg throwing, within Allanvale and Cornton Road, Bridge of Allan. CPT will continue to monitor this and carry out additional patrols during the evenings when and where possible.

Between 16<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (inclusive) there were a total of 95 calls to the Bridge of Allan area. Please note this also covers parts of the Cornton, Causewayhead and Stirling University.

A breakdown of some of these calls is as follows, 8 were concern for person type calls, 20 were public nuisance calls, 2 call were drugs/substance related, 2 were disturbance type calls and 10 were road related traffic calls.

#### **Community engagement and reassurance:**

The pop-up policeman has been deployed within Keir Street, Bridge of Allan. CPT will continue to utilise this when the opportunity arises as a means of tackling vehicular speed.

Given the return of all primary school pupils as of 15<sup>th</sup> March, CPT officers will where possible carry out patrols in and around the school to monitor vehicular speed and parking behaviour.

#### **Activity for forthcoming month:**

1. Monitor and patrol areas where youth related antisocial behaviour has been identified.
2. Conduct speed checks in area in which speeding concerns are raised.

#### **B 1884 Common Good Fund – (AT)**

Some discussion was held around potential conflict of interest for attendees who also sit on the Provost Panel; the result of which was agreement that the relevant councillors should remain present for these conversations in order to gain a firm understanding of the background and rationale for CGF requests thereby best representing the views of the community at the Provost sessions. See B 1896.

#### **B 1885 Tennis Courts (BF)**

A meeting was held with Sports Scotland who indicated that an application for funding would likely to positively received and this would be for the higher standard refurbishment, rather than the simple tarmac being discussed with Active Stirling / Andy Davies. Sports Scotland highlighted the need for any application to be robust and properly demonstrate that there are processes and funds to ensure maintenance of these higher standards. A meeting is scheduled for w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> March with Land Services as owners of the site to determine the scale of any budget for maintenance; once this position is understood further meetings will be held with the interested parties to build a solid application.

It is understood that a contribution will be required from the CC although it is not clear at present the likely amount and this will be discussed as the application is put together.

### **B 1886 Cornton Level crossing (MW)**

MW welcomed Lesley Anne Cain and Niamh Hegarty from Network Rail and indicated that the main points of concern indicated by the community are waiting times, Active Travel and project finish dates.

Lesley Anne indicated that the vehicular level crossing in Cornton road was previously proposed for closure in Jan 2016 and if not possible then an upgrade to a 4-barrier system would be necessary due to the installed equipment becoming end-of-life. Network Rail's planning application to replace the level crossing with a road bridge was withdrawn in 2017; subsequent plans to upgrade have been delayed due to COVID-19 and the works originally due to be completed by Dec 2020 are now expected to be completed in May 2021.

By 10<sup>th</sup> May, the new barrier will be operational, however the ongoing works will require further road closures every Saturday night with two significant closures planned:

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 11:30pm to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 06:00am

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 11:30pm to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 06:00am

Barrier down-times will be longer than the current system which has around 5 minutes per hour. Lesley-Anne advised that Network Rail had estimated the new barrier down-time would be approx. 28 minutes; however now the installation has progressed and the design/location of all the parts is clear this has been revised to an estimate of between 15 and 20 minutes per hour on average. When correlated with the actual train schedule; the average down-time was 14 minutes. Lesley-Anne noted that the 50 minutes which was recently reported came from the traffic study completed in 2017 which was submitted alongside the new calculations in the planning application for continuity purposes only.

MW queried the barrier down-time per train; Lesley Anne confirmed the average to be 132 seconds (2m 12s) for a single carriage; further figures could not be provided due to too many variables including speed and length of the train.

Councillor Tollemache queried whether there were projections of impact per 60 minutes based on normal (post-COVID) and future train timetables; is this likely to stay stable or will there be additional trains? Lesley Anne indicated that the normal timetable is 8 trains per hour and this is the same currently as passenger trains removed from circulation in Scotland during COVID-19 have not been on this route. Freight trains have protected routes but don't always use them so numbers can vary and it is anticipated that the average of 8 trains per hour will remain consistent for at least the next few years. Timetable changes from Scotrail or the Train Operating Companies can take approx. 18months to 2 years to implement however the Government's sustainability plans do involve moving transportation off the roads likely towards the railway system. Network Rail prepared a study in conjunction with Government, Pre-COVID that looked forward up to 2048 which predicted up to 14 trains per hour on average; it was noted that this was hypothetical and not an indication of commitments or plans.

Lesley Anne confirmed that the crossing itself will be upgraded as part of the ongoing works.

Sam Shortt queried the length of time required for barriers to open and close compared with the current system which is much quicker. Lesley Anne explained that a train on the track activates a sensor which tells the red & amber lights at the level crossing to start flashing, the entry barriers start to come down; at that point the radar and lidar systems both scan the crossing to confirm there's nothing trapped between the barriers. If clear, then the exit barriers close and another lidar scan is completed; the train can only pass once this third scan provides a clear result to the signalling system. More information regarding the technology used can be provided.

Sam also queried whether a traffic management plan has been produced which considers the impact to entry/exit of residential side-streets in the area. Lesley Anne confirmed that there is currently no traffic management plan and the point around blockages resulting from the northbound queue attempting to pass parked vehicles beyond the crossing potentially resulting in vehicles becoming stranded on the crossing itself was duly noted to be discussed between Network Rail and Stirling Council. As an experienced traffic engineer, Sam suggested offered to support these conversations and proposed measures that could be considered including yellow box markings to avoid blocking residential access and restriction of parking on the main street to ensure free movement of the north-bound traffic.

Councillor Thomson queried what funding provisions Network Rail would be making to Stirling Council for investigation of the potential issues relating to the barrier down-time as clearly there are concerns whether there are 8 or 14 trains per hour. Lesley Anne confirmed that no additional monies are available for anything relating to this matter and it would have to be a matter for Transport Scotland consideration as this is the source of all Network Rail's funding for the project. The traffic modelling tool provided by SC at the time of the original assessment did not consider congestion or additional journey times.

IM acknowledged that the CC had objected to the previous application to replace the crossing and queried the reasons for Network Rail's withdrawal. Lesley Anne confirmed there were 4 main reason:

- 1- Cost escalation with no additional funding sources;
- 2- Problems securing land for the building of the bridge;
- 3- The 'uncomfortable' level of objection from local residents;
- 4- Electrification of the area required certainty of the plans which couldn't be provided at the time.

MW thanked the representatives for attending and providing a thorough update.

### **B 1887 Wallace Monument (JMB)**

Presentation made to National Wallace Monument Stakeholder Advisory Group late last month with a number of proposals made including offering BoA as a pilot for National Wallace Monument's Digital Marketing Project they are looking to launch which would involve the businesses, community organisations, arts, culture and leisure being promoted. As an ideas group keen to build the village brand (e.g. boutique brand) and excitement about marketing BoA as a food and drinks centre. Marketing and Tourism Manager Charlie Croft due to attend meeting tomorrow with his team to pick up on recommendations and hopefully move forward to action stage. Also, working towards BoA and Stirling more broadly as an access friendly destination for people who are coming to the area.

### **B 1888 Ivy Hotel/ Eagleton Building (MW)**

Ongoing concern over the state of this building and ongoing deterioration of it. Councillor Douglas Dodds provided an update. The Building Standards looked at it and said it was safe but that doesn't stop ongoing vandalism to it. Some individuals were caught in it a few weeks ago but no one has been in since. Planning

application was withdrawn but they are resubmitting a new application and it is expected that this new application will include the actual Ivy Hotel being renovated and the Hotel forming part of the application.

The CC agreed to write to Historic Environment Scotland detailing concerns about the building which is listed.

#### **B 1889 Play Park Initiative (SH)**

Park is looking fantastic. New accessible roundabout has been installed and the brand new triple based swings are all up. New paths around park. There is going to be an extension to the picnic tables to make more accessible. Probably will be another month before it is all finished.

#### **B 1890 Community Council Vacancies (AD)**

Volunteers positions advertised on noticeboards and social media sites. Another week before application deadline. Will then need to be sent to SC for eligibility check. 3 applications received so far.

#### **B 1891 Visions, Values and Development Meeting (JM)**

Agree the Development Meeting to be put on back burner until a time when face to face meeting can take place later in the year. Aiming for an August/ September meeting.

#### **B 1892 Chair's report (MW) – nothing to report**

#### **B 1893 Secretary's report (LH)**

##### ***Residents' Communications***

A resident wrote to inform the CC that Historic Scotland has raised an objection to the demolition of the Eagleton/Ivy building. A resident emailed to report that, after forwarding photos of potholes to Stirling Council, this has led to remedial action in Airthrey Avenue and Mayne Avenue.

A resident wrote to ask about the purpose of the newly installed parallel cables on Henderson Street and, after checking with Councillor Dodds, the CC was able to confirm that the cables would capture data on both traffic volumes and vehicular speeds.

A regular correspondent has written to suggest the CC should contact SSE to have the large mature trees at the Well Road electricity sub station cut back. He also suggests the CC provides a short precis of the outcomes of its meetings for the Stirling Observer.

An alarming email came from a resident whose 3 year old son ran from the Fountain Road play park directly on to the road in front of a car which missed him by inches; the near accident occurred as a result of the gate being left open.

A resident wrote to inform the CC that a Reading registered camper van has been parked on Pendreich Road. Just in case the local police could take any action, the email was forwarded to them.

On behalf of the group of residents concerned about the potential Blairforkie Drive housing development, one of those residents sent a communication summarising their concerns in terms of the negative impact of the development, outlining what they see as the way forward in responding to this development and voicing concern that some developers may be using loopholes in Scottish housing policy to challenge councils on the basis of shortfalls in their housing land supply.

### ***Elected Members' Communications***

In relation to the potholes mentioned above, Councillor Tollemache wrote to say he has asked SC to confirm their current arrangements for addressing the problem of potholes.

Councillor Tollemache forwarded SC clarification on the Darn Walk, confirming that it does not own the Darn Walk land nor adjacent lands, all of which are in private ownership; that SC has a statutory obligation to uphold access rights on core paths; that the Darn Walk also has Heritage Path status as an ancient drove route; that the Council does not hold details of private land ownership; and that the land between the Allan Water and the Cocksburn is owned by Drumdruids Farm.

The councillor has also informed the CC that, in relation to concerns about the vandalism of the Ivy Hotel, the Convenor of the Planning Committee has raised the issue with the enforcement officers. In addition he forwarded a communication from SC who, after Councillor Tollemache had expressed concern about the proximity of road works traffic lights to Lecropt nursery, confirmed that signs would be placed on site to encourage drivers to turn off their engines while waiting at the lights

### ***Stirling Council Communications***

SC wrote to the CC to remind community councillors about insurance that can be taken out if they use their own vehicles on community council business. SC also reminded the CC that, by 19th March, it should provide the Council with details of any assets they would wish to be insured.

General Communications

### ***General Communications***

The CC received a copy of the Friends of the Ochils Newsletter.

## **B 1894 Treasurer's Report (AT)**

- No movement on playpark fund. Likely charging will come through soon.
- Councillor Dodds asked to give the CC Account Details to Open Minds and £25 donation made to the CC.

Bridge of Allan Community Council				
Treasurer's report March 16th 2021				
Restricted Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
<b>1. Playparks Fund</b>	<u>£29,896.06</u>			<u>£29,896.06</u>
<b>2. Administration &amp; Unrestricted Fund</b>	<u>£3,083.23</u>			
Minutes - January			£40.00	
Annual Zoom Subscription - M Watson			£143.88	
Webinar 100 Subscription - M Watson			£24.78	
Web hosting - Mar			£9.00	
				<u>£2,868.57</u>
<b>3. Covid Funds</b>	<u>£2,280.00</u>			
Open Minds Donation		£25.00		
Bridge of Allan Hardware - Larder Supplies			£149.83	
				<u>£2,156.07</u>
<b>4. Christmas lights 2021</b>	<u>£24.00</u>			<u>£24.00</u>
<b>Total Available Funds</b>				<u>£34,944.70</u>
<b>Add unrepresented cheques/payments:</b>				
Traic's company training		Transaction pending	£262.43	
Minutes - January			£40.00	
Annual Zoom Subscription - M Watson			£143.88	
Webinar 100 Subscription - M Watson			£24.78	
<b>Less outstanding receipts</b>				
Cash in Hand (Larder)				£40.00
Bank balance at 16th March				<u>£35,375.79</u>
Alasdair Taylor Treasurer March 16th 2021				



### **B 1895 Residents Voice**

Nothing raised.

### **B 1896 Common Good Fund (AT)**

Councillor Dodds left the meeting at this point. Application from the Scouts Group for £3,210.00 for funding from Common Good Fund. Collated position of responses – 5 out of 6 in support. The CC agreed to support the full amount of the application.

### **B 1897 Planning Report (IMc)**

- Care home application on Henderson Street has been withdrawn. Awaiting revised application.
- Application for caravan park on Carse has been withdrawn.
- Application for new single dwelling in Lecropt area. Don't usually comment on single development but it is on the green belt. The application proposes to demolish existing garage and workshop and replace with a house. No feedback from anyone yet about objecting so members are encouraged to respond if they have any objections.
- Co-op application. Sent response in support of application given they had held a meeting with the CC, answered all questions and addressed all points raised previously. In response to support it, the CC did ask for all appropriate measures to be taken in respect of privacy of the neighbours which was a concern raised at the last meeting.

### **B 1898 AOCB**

Road from Stirling, towards Bridge of Allan. Option to turn left towards level crossing or go straight on. Sign before bridge, saying over eight traffic to turn left. Question was how this will work when road is closed for 10 weeks and whether sign needs re-positioned. Councillor Alasdair Tollemache agreed to raise it with SC.

### **B 1899 Close and next meeting date (MW)**

MW closed the meeting at 9.30pm and confirmed next meeting will take place Tuesday 20 April, 2021