**MEETING OF BRIDGE OF ALLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2017**

**(held in Honeyman Hall of Bridge of Allan Parish Church)**

**Present:**

Sandra Davidson (Chair); Leslie Harkness (LH); Siobhan Hencher (SH); Janie Meikle Bland (JMB); Michael Burt (MB); Mike Watson (MW); Vicky McDowell (VMcD); Nicos Yarrow (NY); Marie Gardner (MG);

**Apologies:**

Ian McCusker (IMc)

**In attendance:**

Cllr Graham Houston

Gareth Jones (Stirling Observer)

Joanne Chisholm (notes)

PC Alistair Mathieson

Andy Davis (Stirling Council)

7 Residents/Visitors

**B1376 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising**

The minutes of meeting held on 21st February were approved (Proposed: Siobhan Hencher; Seconded: Sandra Davidson)

**B1377** **Police Report**

Sergeant Alistair Matheson provided a verbal update. The written report was received after the meeting and is detailed below.

Current priorities in the Bridge of Allan area continue to be Anti-Social Behaviour, Violent Crime, theft, road safety and Community Engagement and Reassurance.

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

On 25th February there was a large scale party at Fountain Road and Police were called to disperse around 150 youths from within an address. The Police were the subjects of abusive language and a number of youths climbed on top of a marked Police vehicle damaging the roof. Unfortunately the persons responsible are currently unknown, if anyone has any information can they please contact the police by usual means or anonymously through crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Drug Misuse**

There have been no calls in relation drugs misuse.

**Violent Crime**

On 11th March there was a domestic incident at Blairforkie Drive and a male was arrested for assault and appeared at Stirling Sheriff Court the next lawful day.

**Housebreakings/Crimes Of Dishonesty**

Overnight from 24th February to 25th February a Shed in Rutherford Court was broken into and a number of high value bikes were stolen from within. Enquiries are on-going to identify who is responsible.

Sometime between 27th February and 6th March a shed was broken in to at Castleview Drive and a bike was stolen from within. Enquiries are continuing.

Sargeant Matheson reported another housebreaking that took place in Mayne Avenue where jewellery of significant value was stolen.

**Road Safety**

There have been no reports of road traffic offences being committed.

**Other Incidents Of Note**

On 9th March on two occasions the railway level crossing at Cornton Road failed. There was a further failure on 13th March. The failures caused some traffic delays and members of the public were concerned due to the safety of the barriers. On all three occasions Network Rail attended within a short period of time and rectified the issues, however the repairs took some time.

PC McMaster is on dog training which leaves PC Currie as the only community officer for BofA. Another officer will be seconded to cover the period of PC McMasters training.

**B1378 New Parking Enforcement Measures (plus other ‘street’ issues) LH**

LH advised that the Mark Fitzpatrick from Stirling Council was now no longer able to attend the meeting to provide an update on new parking enforcement measures. It was indicated that the representative would attend a future community council meeting.

**B1379 Active Community Plan (JMB)**

JMB presented a paper concerning the creation of an Active Community Plan. This is a response to Stirling Council’s Low Carbon Transport and Travel Policy, the work MB and JB have begun with the University on this, and in relation to parking in the village and the work the primary school is leading on with it's Active Travel Plan. Forth Environment Link would also like to work with Bridge of Allan and Active Community Partner and have some resources they could provide to support us.

The Community Council were supportive of the initial concept. The subject generated good discussion from across residents and Community Councillors. The discussion is summarised below:

* It was highlighted that Sustrans can be a good source of funding.
* A resident would like to see a map of all cycle routes published for everyone to see. It was mentioned that the Cycle Hub in Stirling has got good maps.
* Community Engagement day will be a good opportunity to get feedback on key issues and opportunities as well as showcase what is available in relation to walking, cycling, etc.
* We need to ensure that those who “don’t know” or “don’t care” are heard.
* Should we be considering 20 miles per hour around Bridge of Allan?
* We need to test out where the idea came from for moving the train station
* We need to consider how we manage the involvement of all the special interest groups and consider the role of the Community Council in this group.
* The university annual travel and parking survey is due to be issued. It was suggested to the university that they include surveying the residents who have been impacted recently by parking.
* Andrew Davis advised of a toolkit that is available to ascertain views called Place Standard and also referenced the Community Council Connect Fund as a potential source of funding.

This led into a discussion about the Community Action Plan (2011-2016) and considering whether it should be updated. This will be taken to a Development Meeting of the Community Council for further discussion. **Action: JMB**

JMB noted that further discussions would now take place about the Active Community Plan.

**B1380 Development Meeting (JMB)**

JMB proposing that the Active Community Plan is something that is discussed at the Development Meeting.

**Action:** JMB to agree a date with the rest of the CC of the next development meeting.

**B1381 Planning update** (Mike Watson)

Three requests have been received from Stirling Council Planning department for consideration.

Lecropt Kirk Hall: the Lecropt Kirk wish to replace their existing church hall with a new one. No objections were raised.

The Queen’s Hotel: there is a proposal to change the use entirely to become retail space (basement), restaurant/bar (east ground floor), wine merchant (on west ground loor), offices (1st and 2nd floor), residential accommodation (3rd floor). Current plans contain very little detail. No objection was raised. However, future comment may be required as further details emerge (for example, on frontage/signage, etc).

*Costa Coffee:* Costa Coffee have submitted a planning application for what is currently Altar Images (the bridal shop) on Henderson Street. MW advised that we have no grounds to object on the basis of the retailer in question. However, the community council wish to ensure that the shop frontage is kept in keeping with the spa town. A concern will be raised on the plans to have external seating given the proximity to the road and pedestrian crossing.

*Area to the front of Lloyds the Chemist:* Friends of Bridge of Allan wish to upgrade the space outside Lloyds the Chemist in conjunction with the council housing department who currently own this ground. A local contractor will remove the seating area completely, to then allow the Council to dig out the roots of the removed tree and re-tarmac the area. Friends of BofA then propose to install a large hanging basket display. It was requested that some form of seating is retained at the site as part of the new feature.

It was commented that Lloyds the Chemist have several large bins sitting outside the storefront, which are unsightly.

Action: MW to speak to Lloyds regarding the bins and Cllr Houston will also raise the matter with the relevant enforcement officers.

It was highlighted that the noticeboard that holds the Community Council minutes and information is no longer fit for purpose. Friends requested whether the Community Council would work in partnership with them to replace the noticeboard. It was commented that the community rail partnership may be a potential source of funding.

MB offered the idea of an adapted wishing well.

A resident raised an issue of a gin still installed in the rear garden of a property in Alexander Drive. A gap has also been created in the owner’s fence so that a car can exit onto Sunnylaw Road. This is believed to be dangerous. Neighbouring properties are complaining of noise. The Community Council advised that the neighbours should raise the matter with Stirling Council.

**B1382 Christmas Lights (SD)**

In the absence of a Christmas Lights committee, SD is going to approach all sponsors to see if they wish to re-sponsor the Christmas Lights again this year. SD has also received interest in a new sponsor for one light. MG raised the issue of the need to form a new committee to take on responsibility of these assets. AD (from Stirling Council) advised that it was not in the Community Council’s interest to manage the risks and liabilities associated with these assets. This led to a wider discussion about a possible events committee to lead on a number of events across the village. It was recommended by a resident that this is seen to be as inclusive as possible to avoid the developing of cliques and to ensure appropriate number. MB offered to prepare a communication seeking volunteers for an events committee via our usual communication routes.

**Action: MB**

**B1383 Chair’s Report (SD) –** no further update

**B1384 Treasurer’s Report (MG)**

The community council account is in credit by circa £2.5k. There is one expenditure item of circa £1400 for park benches in Memorial Park however funds were already raised for this.

There are two pieces of outstanding information in respect of the annual accounts. These are specifically around terms and conditions relating to Memorial Park benches and another in relation to the Big Lottery Funding Report. It has been brought to the Community Council’s attention that it is unclear whether our end of project report to the Big Lottery has been submitted.

**Action:** LH/MG to review previous email communications to clarify the position.

*Park Fund:* There is just under £2k left in the park fund. SH asked if there are any plans for using this funding. There are currently no plans for the remaining funds. SH asked if there is scope to add to the funds. MG responded that this would be possible if we apply for funding.

*Branding:* funding has to be spent by the end of the financial year. We now have a suite of logos which have been circulated for consultation. The Fountain logo was deemed the most popular and this will feature more prominently on the website. MB sought agreement for the suite of three logos and no objections were received. MB has requested the web designer to mock up a web design for the end of the financial year.

**B1385 Secretary’s Report**

*Hogweed Presentation:* On behalf of the Community Council, LH wrote and thanked Fisheries Trust for their support.

*Museum Hall plaque:* The matter is now closed in relation to installing a Beetles memorial plaque. Following consultation, the majority of residents were not supportive of this idea.

**B1386 Resident’s voice**

Nothing raised.

**B1387 Any Other Business**

MG raised a query about an email concerning the change in political boundaries. Cllr Houston confirmed that this was confirming the outcome of the review of constituency boundaries which took place last year. The main change is that the University and Logie will come out of Bridge of Allan and Dunblane and move to Stirling North.

Concern was raised for Community Councillor, Margaret Sprunt as it had been noted that she has been absent for a number of months.

**Action:** SD to follow up with Margaret.

Election of new members to the Community Council: A question was raised as to whether the CC should be seeking to recruit new members to fill the vacancies available. Joanne Chisholm (minute taker) expressed interest in being elected. Co-option of new members can take place between formal election periods. The agenda for the meeting at which co-option is being suggested must be issued 14 days before the next meeting. It was also noted that existing Community Councillors can proactively approach people who may be interested. August 2018 is the next formal election period for Community Councils.

Action: LH to include on April agenda and ensure that this is issued 14 days in advance of the 18th April.

**Meeting closed at approximately 9.30pm. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 18 April 2017**