



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 15th January 2019

in the Allan Centre

Present : Mike Watson : Chair (MW), Janie Meikle Bland (JMB), Michael Burt (MB), Sandra Davidson (SD), Anna Doeser (AD), Bill Fortune (BF), Leslie Harkness (LH), Siobhan Hencher (SH), Iain McCusker (IMcC). Victoria McDowell (VMcD), Alasdair Taylor (AT).

Apologies : Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB), Joanne Chisholm (JC) Stephen Kerr MP, Andrew Davis (Stirling Council).

In attendance : Councillor Douglas Dodds, Councillor Graham Houston, Councillor Alastair Majury, Councillor Alasdair Tollemache, Councillor Jeremy McDonald, Alexander Stewart MSP.

Abbreviations : Community Council (CC), Stirling Council (SC)

B 1544 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest

MW opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed everyone. Apologies were given, as indicated above, and it was noted that IMcC wished to declare a conflict of interest in terms of a planning application relating to a proposed development on the site of the former police station, a matter covered in Item 11 of the agenda.

B 1545 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log

The minutes for the meeting of 16th October, 2018 were read and approved (Proposed : JMB ; Seconded : SD). LH indicated that any matters arising from the minutes would be covered in the current agenda and he also explained that, since the October meeting had been the final meeting of the former CC, no action requirements had been identified at that meeting.

B 1546 Police Report Since the officers in the Community Policing Team were

unable to attend the meeting, their written report was read out to those present at the meeting. The key elements of the report were as indicated below.

Anti-Social Behaviour

*December 22nd, 2018 : a male was issued with an Antisocial Behaviour Fixed Penalty Fine for urinating at Blairforkie Drive while, on the same date, a male was issued with a Recorded Police Warning for urinating in Henderson Street.
Between the 24th and 28th of December, 2018 : a window pane was smashed at a retail property in Henderson Street with no suspects identified to date.
Between the 29th and 30th December, 2018 : a motor vehicle parked within Churchill Drive had its tyres slashed with as yet no suspects identified.*

Drug Misuse

There have been no reports of drug misuse.

Violent Crime

There have been no incidents of violent crime.

Housebreaking/Crimes of Dishonesty

Between the 20th and 21st of December, 2018 : number plates were stolen from a vehicle parked within Stirling University Innovation Park with no suspects identified.

Road Safety and Road Traffic Related Crime

*24th December ,2018 : a female motorist was stopped on the A9 Edinburgh to Perth road, close to Bridge of Allan, and charged with Drink Driving.
During the evening of 27th December, 2018, a fatal road accident occurred at Cornton Road where a male was struck by a car. A Fatal Road Accident inquiry has been carried out ; from the information available, this would appear to be a tragic accident and there is nothing from which to infer any criminality or vehicular speed as being a contributory factor.*

Matters of Note

Since the last CC meeting, there has been a total of 75 calls relating to the Bridge of Allan beat code : 4 were public nuisance calls, 1 call related to missing persons, 1 call was noise related, 4 calls were related to concern for person/mental health issues and 8 were road traffic related type calls.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

The Community Policing Team has carried out hand held radar monitoring within Henderson Street and Cornton Road on the 27th December, 2018 and 8th January, 2019 and this resulted collectively in 4 drivers receiving warnings.

The Community Policing Team is intending to hold a surgery with local residents in the Allan Centre on February 12th (1900-2100 hours), assuming the venue is available. As and when the date and venue are confirmed, the Community Policing Team will promote the event locally.

Current Priorities

These continue to be Anti-Social Behaviour, Housebreakings, Road safety and Community Engagement and Reassurance.

Activity for Forthcoming Month

- 1. Patrol areas where crimes of dishonesty have been reported*
- 2. Patrol areas where crimes of disorder have been reported*
- 3. Carry out patrols in areas where concerns have been identified*

B 1547 Associate Membership

MW invited the members of the CC to consider the question of offering associate membership to Moira Randall and to Lawrence Mearns. Given the general feeling that such a decision would enhance the breadth of the CC, it was agreed unanimously that the two candidates be confirmed as associate members of the CC. MW explained that the new members had no voting rights and that they could not stand for office.

B 1548 Community Action Plan

JMB confirmed that it had been for some time the intention of the CC to build on the work undertaken in 2011 and develop an updated community action plan within the context of the CC's emphasis on supporting an active and thriving community in Bridge of Allan. She emphasised that the fact that the CC had received an infusion of new members meant that the time was a propitious one for a fresh start and she underlined the importance of carrying out appropriate consultation for the shaping of the plan.

In terms of the funding that would be required, bearing in mind that a substantial level of funding had been available in 2011, JMB reported that Jean Cowie of SC had suggested that funding might be available through the Community Pride Fund /Community Grants Scheme.

Action : It was agreed that the question of funding should be a headline topic at the CC's next development meeting.

JMB also highlighted the fact that Stirling Active Travel Hub has just produced an Active Travel Action Plan report which is designed to complement existing community plans and which includes the outcomes of a consultative survey

collecting the views of people living and working in Bridge of Allan; the top five concerns raised in Bridge of Allan were Traffic, Infrastructure, Safety, Weather (as a barrier to walking and cycling) and Time/Distance. It was agreed that some threads from the report might well inform the work of the CC.

SH provided an update on the CC 's response to a resident who had reported the need for new equipment to be provided for a local playground area. She reported that the possibility of providing a roundabout and a swing, both designed, on an inclusive basis, to meet the requirements of all children, including those with special needs, was being considered; JMB felt that that this would add positively to the amenities of the village. It was recalled that, some years ago, Cala Homes had provided funding in the sum of £6,300 and that embarking on some form of match funding was a further option. AT indicated that Charity Plus was also an option worth considering. The fact that Kings Park was currently submitting a major funding application was noted. AD pointed out that the Stirling University Student Union's Green and Blue Space (its recreational hub) has been awarded funding for a range of cycling activities. JMB underlined the importance of "joining all the dots" in terms of the varied initiatives involving different bodies - Stirling University, Sustrans, etc.

B1549 Dementia Cafe

Councillor Dodds explained that he and Councillor Tollemache had come together to help in facilitating the establishment in Bridge of Allan of a dementia friendly and wellness cafe on similar lines to the Braeport Memory Cafe now operating in Dunblane He reported that the project had already attracted a complement of volunteers led by Linda Shields, that the venue will be the Honeyman Hall in Bridge of Allan Parish Church ,that the proposed café will not be called the Dementia Café and that Bridge of Allan Funeralcare was involved in the project.

It was indicated that, since elected members could not submit a funding application, such an application would have to come from the Community Council which would be the official 'front' for the initiative. Councillor Dodds emphasised that the scale of funding would not be substantial and would simply be limited to the level required to initiate the project; thereafter it was intended to have a donation box available. It was affirmed that two volunteers from the CC would be required for the submission of the application and it was stressed that it would be relatively straightforward for all monies to move in and out through the CC accounts. Councillor Tollemache pointed out that in the case of Dunblane, many of the organisers were themselves elderly in age. It is hoped to launch the café in approximately six to eight weeks time.

ACTION : AT and SH have volunteered to take forward the funding application.

B 1550 Road Safety

MW confirmed that the CC would not be discussing the recent tragic fatality in Cornton Road since it was still the subject of a police investigation but he asked that the minutes record that the Community Council wished to offer its sincere condolences to the family of the deceased and also its sympathy for the driver. It was, however, agreed that the whole subject of road safety in the village was an area that we should revisit, particularly in terms of the contention that some motorists appear to drive round the corner close to where the fatality occurred at an excessive speed, although it was suggested that, since the fatality, excessive speeding does appear to have diminished to some degree.

LH reported that the CC had received a communication from a resident of Bridge of Allan who, in some detail, outlined her concerns about the stretch of road where the fatality had occurred; she stressed that her concern had intensified since the new lighting had been installed and she maintained that the new lighting was inadequate, particularly in winter, since the LED lighting throws light directly down leaving dark spots between the lights, and also given the Hawes Park side is unlit. She also suggested that the lighting at the crossing is excessively bright and causes a glare which makes it difficult to see if someone is waiting to cross; the fact that some drivers are simply not stopping at the crossing, believing themselves to have priority, adds to the problem. AT pointed out that it is not the LED lighting per se which can cause problems but rather the choice of light and the light spacing; he suggested that, possibly, different lights could perform more effectively in these circumstances.

In the discussion which followed, JMB voiced her concern about the cycle path in Cornton Road. Councillor Dodds reported that the cherry tree is to be stripped back to improve safety. LH noted that the unlit side of a section of Henderson Street was very dark, while Gavin Drummond indicated that a light at the Museum Hall was not currently functioning. Councillor Dodds confirmed that, once the police had completed investigation into the fatality, he would raise any relevant road safety implications with them. BF raised the issue of the 30mph repeater signs on Airthrey Road and also underlined the advantage of having police with radar guns monitoring traffic; in terms of the Airthrey Road signs, an issue also raised by a resident, the meeting was reminded that the new 30mph stretch of road is simply a continuation of an existing 30 mph stretch and would, accordingly, not require restriction signs. IMcC emphasised that it was essential to have the highest possible standard of safety at crossings and that push button pedestrian operated crossings met this criterion. JMB maintained the importance of engaging with all interested parties, while VMcD felt that we required expert input. JMB felt that, since Wallace High schoolchildren used one specific side of Airthrey Road, this required further consultation.

In conclusion, MW underlined the need for informed dialogue between SC officers and stakeholders.

B1551 The Fountain

Councillor Tollemache indicated that residents have expressed regret that such an iconic symbol of the village is no longer operational and he reported that he has contacted senior SC officers about the matter.

Gavin Drummond explained that, while in 2011 the CC and the Friends had considered the viability of restoring the fountain, it was decided that a number of discouraging considerations had militated against proceeding with the renovation; these were the cost (including the need for a recirculating pump), the practicalities of maintaining the fountain, health and safety concerns (eg the risk of legionnaires disease) and the question of assuming responsibility for the operation of the fountain. It was agreed that that the overall cost of bringing the fountain back into use would certainly run into six figures. It was, however, noted that the much loved Black Boy Fountain in Stirling had been restored in 1997 and MB suggested that consideration be given to establishing a feasibility group.

Action : Councillor Tollemache will continue to look into the viability of initiating a renovation project and will report back to the CC.

B.1552 ScotRail Update

LH read out an update report from JC which indicated that well attended public meetings with a ScotRail representative had been held in Dunblane and Bridge of Allan in November to hear commuters' concerns, that Stephen Kerr has written to the Transport Minister to establish what formal recourse could be taken by the Scottish Government in relation to the Abellio contract, and that the Scottish government has issued an Improvement Notice to ScotRail giving it 8 weeks to address matters of concern. In addition, JC's report confirmed that Alex Hynes has issued a public apology, explaining that the most recent disruptions were attributable to staff training and a now resolved union dispute, and that compensation in the form of free weekend travel has been offered to season ticket holders plus guest for two weekends.

Councillor Tollemache reported that, as late as the past week, commuters were still having to stand from Stirling to Edinburgh, and he indicated that he will be meeting with the Transport Minister within the next two weeks. Councillor Majury stressed that there were still public concerns about the interim timetable and that ScotRail has agreed to hold further public meetings in Bridge of Allan and Dunblane. Councillor Houston highlighted the encouragingly high level of

attendance at the two public meetings and he explained that, given that ScotRail claims that it can take 8 months to effect a timetable change, it is difficult to anticipate improvement happening quickly, particularly if new trains do not meet their delivery date, a problem which can have a negative impact on staff training, and if a work to rule arises; he pointed out that the timetable will remain unaltered until May.

Alexander Stewart reported that he and other MSPs were continuing to press the Transport Minister on the problems of the 'crush' hour at peak times, problems which were still unresolved, and he insisted that ScotRail could not be allowed to absolve itself of responsibility. MW closed the discussion by agreeing that there will be no measurable improvement until the new trains arrive.

B 1553 Tennis Courts

MW spoke to the paper he had produced to provide the CC with an update on the progress made towards improving the Public Courts on Keir Street and he paid tribute to the support provided his two colleagues from the Friends of Bridge of Allan, Graham Russell and Douglas Neilson. He also underlined the helpful nature of his meeting with the coaches in terms of building up a bank of information. In his paper, he asked the CC to consider, agree and comment on the development proposal, on potential funding avenues including the Common Good Fund, and on undertaking appropriate community consultation.

MW explained that the proposal was to totally replace the current blaes surface area with an all weather maintenance free polymac surface to house two full size courts and, potentially, an outdoor gym area or two mini courts. The current MUGA court would be solely developed as a multi ball games area without a tennis capacity and with the net removed. The new configuration would maximise the whole area in terms of multiple use while retaining the tennis courts. In terms of financial considerations, "ball park" estimates range from £30,000 to £70,000, dependent on surface quality, but it is clear from discussion with Tennis Scotland that no major funding is available from them and that the responsibility for raising funds would remain with the community, (a local sponsor, crowd funding etc). MW also stressed that consideration might have to be given, with community consent, to using the Common Good Fund as a source of funding, going beyond the custom and practice of solely using the interest.

In the discussion which followed, AD stressed it was important to target funding in terms of identifying a need in the community. The issue of parking on the grasslands on the east side of the courts was raised as was the viability of securing a financial contribution from the University. MW noted that the CC could make use of the level of expertise displayed by JC in developing the parking consultation survey. MB stressed the importance of having SC maintain the

surface; MW agreed that it was essential to be in partnership with SC and to establish a working agreement in this regard, particularly since maintaining the surface was not an onerous job, and he also pointed to the working relationship that the CC had with SC in relation to the Memorial Park.

The proposals met with the agreement of the CC.

ACTION : In the absence of MW, BF will take forward the project.

B1554 Planning Update

IMcC reported that a number of planning applications required attention. These included the erection of a 3 bedroom dwelling house in Pendreich Road, an application which faced a number of objections ; fascia signage on the vacant TSB building (CC members agreed with IMcC that it was a pity that most of the frontage would remain unchanged); the erection of two semi detached townhouses on the police station site in Henderson Street which had generated a detailed objection on grounds of not observing conservation requirements. IMcC also indicated that an application to build 188 housing units on the existing UCP factory and car park site, and on part of the playing field west of the factory, had been withdrawn.

In relation to the application for the police station site, IMcC reiterated that, since he had a conflict of interest in the matter, he would not be taking part in the discussion on the application. LH stressed that, since we are part of a system of representative democracy, while we listen carefully to the views of residents, where these conflict, we make decisions on the basis of what, in our judgement, is the best interests of the whole community, and when we intervene in a planning matter, we do so when the application has conservation applications where we are on much more solid ground; he emphasised that, while the police station is not an architectural gem, the CC would wish to see a well designed residential building which appropriately reflects the character of the village. LH further stated that, in terms of conservation concerns, he was surprised that the response of residents to the CC over its view that the new lighting was not fully in sympathy with the character of the older residential areas was very muted. After some discussion, the CC agreed that it should raise an objection with SC on the police station site proposal on the basis that it did not appear to meet fully conservation requirements. **ACTION : Since IMcC had declared a conflict of interest, BF would, as a matter of urgency, submit a CC response to SC in relation to the Henderson Street application.**

B 1555 Chair's Report

MW expressed concern that Councillor Tollemache had confirmed that the SC meeting planned for February 12th to discuss the Park of Keir development has

been postponed and that ministers have agreed to grant the developer a further extension of time until March 18th to complete the legal obligation.

He also raised the matter of the proposed CPMP for Bridge of Allan. Councillor Majury pointed out that there will be future consultation with Bridge of Allan on the issue and that the Environment and Housing Committee would have to approve all plans. In relation to the question of parking charges, Councillor Houston stressed that the problem in Dunblane was essentially one of misuse of parking and that having two enforcement officers inevitably involved a cost and the widening of the parking zone. JMB took the view that any parking solution which pushes the problem into another area is unacceptable. Councillor McDonald pointed out that a community can resist the imposition of charges if these are not deemed necessary.

B1556 Secretary's Report

LH indicated that a number of key items of correspondence had emerged since the last formal meeting.

Scottish Stall Hire and Events has expressed an interest in operating a monthly food and craft market at an appropriate site in the village. SC has informed us that it is working with Tactran (Tayside and Central Scotland Partnership) on a Transport Scotland funded study on measures to reduce the number of cars travelling in and out of Stirling City and SC will hold consultative workshop sessions on this in February. A local resident contacted the CC to raise a concern about the replacement of two old iron gates at the SW corner of the garden at Westerton House with a wooden fence.

A resident has complained that SC street sweeping has diminished in recent times. On a related aspect, Councillor Dodds has asked SC Land Services to ensure that, for a future deep clean in Bridge of Allan, Graham's Dairy be asked to deal with litter on the verge bank on the left hand side of Airthrey Road between Wallace High and Graham's Dairy. One of the CC's members has drawn attention to a litter issue in Station Road and Cawdor Road. MB has written to SC and, in response, Derek Leitch has confirmed that the mechanical sweeper operates on a cyclical programme between January and September, with the village being swept on at least two occasions (impediments might be parked cars or narrow roads). Between October and December, the leaf programme is ongoing, with high risk areas swept several times. Councillor Dodds noted that the steps leading up to Kenilworth Road had been cleaned recently.

Gavin Drummond informed us that he reported to SC that the Provost's Lamp was inoperative and a repair has now been effected. Councillor Dodds confirmed that the short but intensive SC initiative on dog fouling has now taken place. The

2019 Forth Valley Third Sector Conference on Growing Your Communities will take place in Alva Academy on Wednesday, 13th February. Councillor Dodds informed the CC that CityFibre and SC are organising a stakeholders' event at the Engine Shed in Stirling on Wednesday, 30th January and Councillor Majury wrote to suggest the CC might wish to invite a CityFibre representative to a CC meeting to discuss the initiative to roll out citywide full broadband in Stirling and Bridge of Allan. The CC has received an email about the new Stirling Library Service project, Reading Friends, and MB has placed the details on the website.

B1557 Treasurer's Report

AD indicated that, as she has still to obtain the financial records, she has as yet nothing to report; it was her intention to obtain bank signatures immediately. MB noted that the former treasurer would be happy to meet with AD.

B1558 Residents' Voice

A resident raised the issue of a cyclist riding on the pavement in Henderson Street. The matter of the wooden structure outside Friend of Mine was raised and it was confirmed that planning permission had been obtained for this. A resident pointed out that the wheelie bin storage area adjacent to the Allanwater Café required attention.

B1559 AOCB

MW raised the issue of the Christmas Lights and suggested that that this be placed on the agenda well before Christmas in order to generate partnership ideas.

JMB raised again the Stirling Active Travel Hub survey and indicated that a representative would wish to come and discuss the survey with us.

ACTION:JMB will invite a representative from SATH to the February meeting.

It was agreed that a development meeting to discuss the key issues emerging from the current meeting be scheduled as soon as practicable. MW reminded the audience that no formal decisions were taken at development meetings.

B 1533 Date of Next Meeting

MW closed the meeting at 9.05pm and indicated that the next meeting would be held in the Allan Centre at 7.30pm on **Tuesday, 19th February, 2019.**

(LH : January, 2019)