



## Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
in the Allan Centre

**Present** : Joanne Chisholm (JC), Janie Meikle Bland (JMB), 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** : Mike Watson : Chair (MW), Michael Burt (MB), Alexander Stewart MSP, Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB), Stephen Kerr MP

**In attendance** : PC Chalmers, Councillor Douglas Dodds, Councillor Graham Houston, Councillor Alastair Majury, Councillor Alasdair Tollemache, Councillor Jeremy McDonald, Andrew Davis (Stirling Council ), Lucy McCormick (Minute taker)

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

### **B 1560 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest**

JC opened the meeting, welcomed all and confirmed meeting apologies as noted above.

Conflict of Interest was raised in relation to IMcC and planning application. See B1567 Planning Update for further details.

### **B 1561 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Proposer: VMcD; Seconded: AT)

### **Matters Arising (LH)**

**Item B1550** which included the issue of the effectiveness of street lighting in terms of road safety, particularly in Cornton Road, Councillor Dodds contacted SC and in its response it has reported that the lighting upgrade in Cornton Road was due to be completed imminently with work to replace the 28 older columns with the LED lighting due to start on 21<sup>st</sup> January. The Council's response emphasizes that the new lighting is designed to comply with the requirements of **BSI 5489**, the Code of Practice for the design of Road Lighting and will increase the levels of lighting to a high standard as well as increasing efficiency and reducing carbon levels.

**Item B1552** on ScotRail, our four elected members have all forwarded a recent update provided by ScotRail for Keith Brown MSP. In the update, ScotRail indicate that the number of cancellations improved in January, although some services had fewer carriages as some high-speed trains required maintenance. The

update reiterates that the two causes of recent shortcomings in the quality of service have been the need to compress staff training due to late delivery of new trains and also industrial action; it also underlines the fact that season ticket holders most affected have received some compensation. ScotRail anticipates that performance will continue to improve this month and maintains that things are moving in the right direction. The December 2018 timetable continues to bed in and customer use in the Stirling area is being monitored; customers are also being invited to comment online on the May 2019 timetable and changes have already been made to it including strengthening key morning and evening peak trains and looking how to provide a direct service from Dunblane to Edinburgh arriving at 8.30 am. In addition to the update, Councillor Majury, in an earlier communication, reported that there will be another public meeting with a ScotRail representative to be held in the Allan Centre from 8.00pm to 9.00pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

**Item B1555 (Chair's Report)** and the future SC consultation about the CPM - Community Management Parking Plan – for BofA, Councillor Tollemache contacted the Council and the Council has indicated that the consultation is due to be undertaken around June/July. In addition, Councillor Majury has provided us with further information on the role of the E and H (Environment and Housing) Committee, of which he is a member, and which has to approve each individual plan; he has also stressed he is happy to deal with any questions we might have on the plans and that he personally would not be voting for the introduction of parking charges where officers are unable to demonstrate support from the community. In his communication, he provided us with helpful links to SC's very broad document on the Council's Parking Policy and on the role of Community Parking plans within its parking strategy.

Also in relation to **Item B 1555**, with regard to the Park of Keir development and the further extension granted to the developers, Councillor Dodds sent us a copy of a communication he has sent to SC to remind them that 23 elected members had supported a motion that the development discussions be open and transparent to and to request that the issue be brought back before the full council.

#### **B 1562            Police Report (PC Chalmers)**

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:** On 20<sup>th</sup> January at Union Street a bottle was thrown over a garden fence broke at the feet of a female whom was working in the garden luckily she was uninjured. It is believed that the persons responsible are youths and enquiries are ongoing to identify these youths.

On 12<sup>th</sup> February at Blairforkie Drive, a female was subject to racial abuse by 2 youths while she was walking her dog. The males are described as white male youth, aged 12-13, round build, with fair/blonde hair, wearing white coloured headphones and ,white male youth aged 12-13, slim build wearing a black baseball cap with white or silver NY thereon on a bike, not further described. If you have any further information in relation to this please contact 101 ref: CF0018650219.

**DRUG MISUSE:** There has been 3 occasions whereby the police have attended at Stirling University in relation to drugs misuse within Student accommodation. These persons have been dealt with and warned accordingly.

**VIOLENT CRIME:** On 2<sup>nd</sup> February at Henderson Street the community policing team were on foot patrol when at this time a male known to them approached. The male was stopped and searched and found to be in possession of a knife. The male was arrested and taken to custody where he was remanded for this and other offences.

**HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY:** On 14<sup>th</sup> January within 2 local shops in Henderson Street a male passed fake £20 notes as genuine. Enquiries are ongoing in relation to identifying the male

responsible. We would ask all businesses to be mindful when taking notes and do checks on these where possible.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January at COOP, Fountain Road a male entered the store and stole a quantity of alcohol. Enquiries are ongoing to identify the male.

On 21<sup>st</sup> January at Stirling University a male's black diamondback mountain bike was stolen. If you have any information in relation to this please contact 101 ref: PS-20190123-1230. We would ask all people to make sure their bikes are secure and have the relevant details on them.

On 13<sup>th</sup> February at Stirling University 2 lockers within the sport facility (which weren't locked) have been entered and cards and monies taken. Police traced the male suspect and he will be reported to the PF for this offence. We would ask that all person using lockers make use of them and lock them properly.

**ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME:** On 31<sup>st</sup> January at Keir Street roads policing team were on mobile patrol and noted a vehicle which they believed to be uninsured. The vehicle was stopped and the female driver was found to have no insurance or MOT in place. The vehicle was seized by police and the female was charged in relation to these offences.

**MATTERS OF NOTE:** There has been 111 calls to the police for the Bridge of Allan beat code (this also covers Cornton and Causewayhead). 1 of these calls relate to a missing person. 4 of these relate to domestic incidents. 6 of these relate to concern for person calls and 9 relate to road traffic matters.

**Community engagement and reassurance:**

The community policing team have carried out over 1 hours foot patrol within Henderson Street, Fountain Road and Inverallan Road. The pharmacies within Bridge of Allan were also given relevant safety advice due to a robbery which occurred to another pharmacy within the Falkirk area.

Handheld radar was also conducted on Henderson Street re recent complaints and 2 drivers were warned in relation to their speed.

The community policing team held a local surgery within the Allan Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> February between 1900-2100hours, 1 person attended to discuss the issues of cycling on the pavement. We will aim to conduct this again at the weekend to see if more people can attend.

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 in which road safety concerns have been identified.

**B 1563            Stirling Active Travel Hub (Guest: Chris James)**

A consultation was undertaken to gather insights on habits and behaviours in relation to moving actively (biking & walking), understanding barriers and identify opportunities for to empowering people to overcome these barriers. A survey was undertaken in 2018 which resulted in 95 surveys completed, in addition to face to face engagement. Top barriers identified were: Traffic (amount and speeding), Infrastructure, Safety, Weather and Time/ Distance. Top three most helpful activities to encourage cycling 1) Greater knowledge of routes 2) Dr Bike (free bike check up) 3) bike maintenance sessions. Of the 95 survey responses 84% have access to a bike and 31% would like to make every day journeys by bike but currently don't.

There is a Cycle Scotland – Cycle Friendly Community Award. To achieve bronze status requires implementation of a steering group. **Any volunteers please contact JMB. Also, proposed to link in with the end of March 2019 event (see Community Action Plan)**

#### **B1564 Community Action Plan (JMB)**

On review of the existing plan, it was confirmed that although the aspirations still hold true, sometime has lapsed since the 2011 plan and it needs to be rewritten. It was proposed JMB and JC to start a process of community consultation to review and update the Community Action Plan.

**CC gave approval for JMB and JC to open community consultation. This proposed event will coincide with the Scouts Daffodil tea being held in Chambers Hall, Bridge of Allan Parish on the 30 March 19.**

#### **B1565 Wellness Café (AT)**

A funding application has been submitted and a response should be received by 13 March 19. There are some previous monitoring reports required which are being progressed. **CC agreed this will be included in 30 March 19 open consultation.**

#### **B 1566 Tennis Courts (BF)**

BF provided an update following his meeting with Graham Russell and other interested parties regarding the potential upgrading with surfacing and fencing of the public tennis courts. A cost has been provided for approx. £50k. Keen to obtain a view of the community interest in this & opportunity to do a survey toward end of June.

#### **B1567 Planning Update (IMcC)**

1 – Conflict of Interest was raised in relation to the former police station site. This Conflict of Interest remains with IMcC (personal conflict). A new planning application has been received for the site (the previous one was withdrawn). Any comments should be sent to BF.

2 – A planning application has been received for a 9 bedroom residential dwelling house in the Carse. Details have been circulated to the CC. The site is not within the green belt but follows guidance for building in countryside.

**Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking in response to the opinion of the Court of Session regarding the appeal for a major development at Airthrey Kerse.

**Kevin Stewart:** On 23 January 2019, the Court of Session quashed the Scottish Ministers' decision of 18 June 2018 to refuse planning permission in principle for a housing development at Airthrey Kerse, Bridge of Allan, Stirling. The case will in due course be returned to the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (DPEA) to reconsider in light of the Court Opinion. The DPEA reporter will take full account of any representations made to the original application or appeal as well as any further submissions the reporter considers necessary to re-examine this appeal following the decision of the Court of Session. The reporter will then make a recommendation to Scottish Ministers.

#### **B1568 Secretary's Report (LH)**

We have received a number of significant items of correspondence since last meeting. SC informed us that the Scottish Government was willing to accept further CC signatories to the joint Strategic Environment Assessment legal representation on fracking if submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> Jan.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service would like to attend one of our meetings to update us on the Rapid Response Vehicle due to come to the Fire Station.

Councillor Majury brought to our attention notification of two SC community workshops tomorrow and Thursday on the Stirling Strategic Park and Ride strategy.

Councillor Dodds reported that he has voiced again his concerns about speeding in Henderson St. and has asked for more camera work and for tickets to be issued. PC Chalmers has confirmed that the police will continue to undertake speed checks on both sides of Henderson St and will issue fixed penalty tickets when they can. Councillor Dodds has also forwarded from First Scotland East a publicity release on forthcoming network changes and improvements to Forth Valley Services.

SC has provided us with documentation relating to the routing of this year's Stirling Marathon.

David Budd of the dementia enabling community project, Our Connected Neighbourhoods, emailed to update us on the activities of the project and to endorse the contribution of the Wellness Café.

A member of the CC received a letter from a resident with significant medical issues who feels she requires a local authority house which is not simply wheelchair accessible but also wheelchair usable; in her letter she stresses that the house currently offered to her is inadequate for her needs.

On behalf of the CC I have written to her to express our sympathy for her situation and to explain that the appropriate action is for her to contact her relevant elected member and I have offered to pass on her letter should that be her wish.

We received only yesterday notification of SC Community Energy priorities drop in events and the one for Stirling is Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> March between 3 and 7pm in the Albert Halls. Michael has placed the details on the website.

Just today, we have received an invitation to the NHS Forth Valley Annual Review of performance; this is a ministerial public meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March between 11.30 and 1pm at Forth Valley Hospital.

### **B1569 Treasurer's Report (AD)**

Bank Account - received bank statements for the account up to Nov 2018. Will collect more recent ones from Marie and would welcome any emails/ invoices from members.

Current financial situation is in credit of approx £4,500. This consisting of:

- Play Parks fund from Cala homes - £1,907 - possible use for play together funding?
- Christmas lights - £0, as the remaining balance of £138 from last year has been transferred to the new committee.
- Website and hosting - set up using the Community connect funding - negative £18 - web hosting fee can continue to be funded from the general admin grant.
- Council grants around - £2,700 - not sure if this allocated to a particular project.

- This came up as an issue when applying for funding as need to justify why reserves are not available for use.
- Looking into past accounts indicates it was community donations for memorial park benches,
- Will investigate further to confirm. If anyone has any relevant paperwork please send a copy for records.

For receipt of insurance for our assets for 2019/2020 these are to be declared to Stirling Council and consist of:

- PA system
- Christmas Lights – fixed infrastructure and lights
- Telephone box

Assumed full minute meeting grant of 11 meetings for the minutes grant allocation

Andy Davis from Stirling Council indicated that if all efforts to trace the source of funding do not find it allocated to anything specific, the community council can agree to spend as they wish.

Gavin Drummond former CC chair through the surplus was from past unspent admin grant over the years. And that from his recollection all money collected for park benches was spent. He will look into his records for anything relevant and forward to AD.

#### **B1570 Residents' Voice**

Concern raised about significant amount of dog fouling in the memorial park and around the tennis court areas. DD said there was new signage being placed around the area. Some enforcement notices issued which JMB will post on facebook. DD will speak to enforcement officer. Also noted there were 15 dog poo bags left at the reservoir area.

#### **B 1571 AOCB**

Keep Scotland Beautiful are doing a Spring Clean 2019 in April and May and keen to get community groups involved (they will supply equipment). Opportunity to clean up an area of BoA. **It was agreed to use the 30 March event to promote this.**

#### **B1572 Date of Next Meeting**

JC closed the meeting at 8.55pm and indicated that the next meeting would be held in the Allan Centre on **Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.**