



## **Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council**

**Held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

**in the Allan Centre**

**Present :** Mike Watson : Chair ( MW ), Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB), Michael Burt (MB ), Sandra Davidson (SD ), Anna Doeser (AD), Bill Fortune(BF), Leslie Harkness ( LH ), Siobhan Hencher ( SH ), Iain McCusker (IMcC ). Duncan McDougall (DMcD), Victoria McDowell (VMcD), Alasdair Taylor (AT ).

**Apologies :**

Janie Meikle Bland (JMB), Joanne Chisholm (JC ), Moira Randall (MR),Councillor Douglas Dodds, Councillor Alasdair Tollemache, Alexander Stewart MSP, Stephen Kerr MP, Andrew Davis (Stirling Council ).

**In attendance :** Councillor Graham Houston, Councillor Alastair Majury, Councillor Jeremy McDonald, Douglas Neilson (Chair of Friends of Bridge of Allan), Bill Young ( Strathallan Community Rail Partnership)

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

### **B 1600 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest**

MW opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed everyone. Apologies were given, as indicated above, and no conflict of interest was noted.

### **B 1601 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log**

The minutes for the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April,2019 were read and approved (Proposed: AD; Seconded: AT). LH confirmed that no action requirements had been identified at the last meeting.

With regard to matters arising, MW raised the issue of the funding application for the tennis courts and BF explained that this had not yet been done and that Jean Cowie of SC would take a lead in the process; he also indicated that the next step would be to obtain a set of appropriate quotations. MW drew attention to the press report of the involvement of Judy Murray in the funding of Maryhill tennis courts..

In the matter of the Food Train, it was noted that there was, as yet, no take up.

**ACTION : MB will give consideration to featuring the service on the website and AD will refer the availability of the service to Teas Company at its next session..**

In relation to Item B1595 and the issue of fly-tipping, LH reported that Councillor Majury has been keeping the CC up to date on the problem by providing SC data on the frequency of fly-tipping in Sheriffmuir Road and by recently confirming that any risk of recording misleading multiple reports of fly-tipping has now been rectified. LH also reported that Councillor Majury has indicated that Bridge of Allan will not have its new street lighting columns painted since they are made from high quality aluminium unlike the 15 Callendar lights which are made of steel. SC has explained that trying to overpaint aluminium would be a waste of resources and that, over time, the "shine" on the aluminium fades to a grey tone. SC has also reported positive feedback on the new street lighting levels in those areas where the new lights have been installed.

**B 1602 Police Report** Since the officers in the Community Policing Team were unable to attend the meeting, their written report was read out by LH. The key elements of the report were as indicated below.

### ***Anti-Social Behaviour***

*April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019: a male was issued with a recorded police warning for making threatening comments to a group of females in Pendreich Way.*

*May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, a male shouted and swore at a couple in Henderson Street and a positive line of enquiry is being pursued.*

### ***Drug Misuse***

*There have been no reports of drug misuse.*

### ***Violent Crime***

*There have been no reports of violent crime.*

### ***Housebreaking/Crimes of Dishonesty***

*In April, 2019, a bike was stolen from within the grounds of Stirling University and a positive line of enquiry is being pursued; a quad bike was stolen from a local farmyard but this is currently undetected; and an unattended mobile phone was stolen from a restaurant/cafe in Henderson street but to date no suspects have*

*been detected.*

### **Road Safety and Road Traffic Related Crime**

*April 30th, 2019: a two vehicle road accident occurred in Airthrey Road with one of the drivers failing to stop and this remains an ongoing enquiry.*

*May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019: a motorist speeding in Henderson Street has been referred to the Procurator Fiscal.*

*April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019: hand held radar checks were held within Henderson Street and Cornton Road and three drivers were advised regarding vehicular speed, while one driver was spoken to in relation to inappropriate parking.*

*May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019: two males were found poaching at Cockburn Reservoir and will be referred to the Procurator Fiscal.*

*Over the period since last month's report, a total of 93 calls to the Bridge of Allan area beat code (including calls to the Cornton area) have been made, 6 relating to assisting members of the public, 4 noise related, 11 related to road traffic matters, 4 related to theft matters and 2 related to disturbances. There were no domestic, hate crime or concern for person type calls.*

### **Community Engagement and Reassurance**

*On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Community Policing Team, as part of Police Scotland Doorstep Crime Initiative, spoke to elderly and vulnerable persons in Bridge of Allan and offered crime prevention and safety advice for tackling bogus type crime; the engagement was well received.*

### **Activity for Forthcoming Month**

*The emphasis will be on carrying out patrols in those areas where road safety concerns have been identified and attending and patrolling areas in which crimes of dishonesty have been reported.*

### **Current Priorities**

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

MW noted that the report had not mentioned the incident in Cornton Road in which an on duty School Crossing Patrol staff member was almost knocked down by a speeding vehicle at the pedestrian crossing at Pullar Avenue.

### **B 1603 Community Action Plan**

MW welcomed to the meeting David Byres from the Bridge of Allan Cycle Friendly Community Group and invited him to provide a brief update of the work of the group in the context of the work of the Stirling Active Travel Hub team. In his report, he explained that Councillor Tollemache, the Stirling Active Travel Project Officer and others had been closely involved with the work of the group and that their preferred project was an ebike station. Although Pete Mills of Cycling Scotland, who has to make a decision from around 60 applications, sees merit in the idea of an ebike station, FEL has advised that there should be a minimum of 13 stations, thereby rendering the project financially inappropriate. It was also emphasised that, since the closing date for applications was May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, there was insufficient time to develop an alternative project; David Byres and Councillor Tollemache will endeavour to develop a relevant project in a year's time. In the meantime, Councillor Tollemache has been in touch with Bridget Clark about the Glen Road Slip Stabilisation Project and its £5,000 shortfall, and the option of making a contribution may be raised with Cycle Scotland.

### **B1604 Common Good Fund**

MW indicated that, after much consideration, the CC was arriving at a clearer understanding of the operation of the Common Good Fund and of the CC's specific role and responsibilities in relation to it. He confirmed that, at present and in terms of the interest accrued, a figure in excess of £10,000 was available for grant provision and he reiterated that the current view of the CC continued to be that the principal should remain untouched.

Given the low rate of interest generated for the Fund, MW suggested that SC might require to review its investment strategy. Councillor Houston firmly underlined the fact that the money in the Common Good Fund was totally separate and was not accessible to the Council and that the Provost's Panel, in consultation with the CC, had full control of the expenditure. Councillor Houston explained that two rates of interest obtained, namely one lower rate for the instant access part of the fund and a higher rate for the larger part of the fund. LH asked about the higher rate and the importance of risk protection; Councillor Houston confirmed that this stood at a rate of 1.05 and that this was the rate for a one year fixed rate bond, a form of investment that was relatively risk free.

AT raised the issue of the clarity of the application process and Councillor Houston stressed that, in advance of any funding decisions by the Provost's Panel, the CC would automatically be consulted. LH asked Councillor Houston about the procedure for establishing the validity of the requisite documents submitted in support of an application and he indicated that it was the responsibility of the CC to make this check and he also emphasised that Jean Cowie of SC would be available to provide the CC with appropriate guidance on this. It was also confirmed that the permission of the full SC was required for funding allocations of more than £10,000 of the principal. MW noted that the CC currently has two applications for funding to be addressed and LH reported that he had written to one of the two applying organisations to bring to its attention the requirement for supporting documentation. VMcD suggested that we write to

the Provost's Panel to explain what the CC is currently considering in terms of its involvement with the Common Good Fund. MW closed the discussion by thanking Councillor Houston for providing a helpful degree of clarification on the operation of the Fund

### **B1605 Play Park Initiative**

SH reported that Jennifer Rutherford is leading the Bridge of Allan Play Together initiative and that her Facebook page is assisting her crowdfunding appeal which has only 5 days left to run.

**Action: MB will publicise the appeal for its final five days.**

SH indicated that the Round Table would be giving a £1,000 cheque to the appeal and that the total funds raised have now reached £7,786 with a target of £22,000; she explained that, since there is no match funding, the Play Together group added a further week to the appeal. ACB raised the issue of potential conflict of interest in relation to an application to the Common Good Fund but Councillor Majury did not think this would be an issue. SH expressed the gratitude of the Play Together group for the assistance provided by the Stirling Observer

### **B 1606 Glen Road Slip Stabilisation Project**

MW highlighted the lack of awareness in the community about the project and stressed that the road was a national cycle route well used both by residents of Dunblane and of Bridge of Allan. MW also underlined the fact that the long term future of this stretch of roadway was not a positive one..

**Action: MB will raise awareness by inserting an item on the website.**

### **B1607 ScotRail Timetable**

Bill Young of the Strathallan Community Rail Partnership provided an update on the new ScotRail timetable which commenced on May 19th. In his presentation, he indicated those the changes to services which were of concern to the SCRP. He emphasised that there were now fewer through trains to Glasgow with the loss of the 10.16 and the 19.16 services; there was now no service between 9.10 and 11.26 am and, in the evening, nothing between 6.15 and 8.11 pm. Trains from Glasgow to Bridge of Allan have also been affected.

On the positive side, the 5.17 morning service from Bridge of Allan connecting with the 8.52 East Coast mainline train leaving Stirling at 05.26 for Kings Cross has been reinstated as has the second last train at night from Edinburgh and stopping at Alloa and Gleneagles. Bill Young confirmed that these two changes

had been made after representations from the SCRP. It was also noted that a year from now there will be a non-stop service from Glasgow to Edinburgh. LH observed that the biggest single issue raised by local commuters at the two ScotRail public meetings which he had attended was the need to make a change at Stirling on the early morning service to Edinburgh.

Bill Young highlighted three other areas of concern : the fact that when the new service from Bridge of Allan to Dundee is introduced on receipt of the new rolling stock, it will be more cost-effective to purchase two cheap day tickets (SCRP is making representations for the availability of a cheap day return from Bridge of Allan / Dunblane to Dundee) ; the fact that the timetable booklet is limited to services to Dundee and that a separate booklet is required for services to Perth ; and the lack of attention to the upkeep of the grass in Bridge of Allan Station.

In conclusion, Bill Young, on behalf of the Strathallan Community Rail Partnership, requested the support of the CC in raising these concerns about the new timetable with ScotRail. MW expressed the gratitude of the CC to Bill Young for his impressively detailed presentation

**Action : LH will liaise with Bill Young and will draft a letter to ScotRail**

### **B.1608 Planning Update**

IMcC reported that, in relation to the sale of the former police station, the second planning application had been granted and two town houses will now be built on the site after demolition of the police station.

DMcD reminded the CC that he wanted to send off almost immediately his submission to Colin Bell at the DPEA (Scottish Government Planning And Environmental Appeals Division ) in response to the letter from Graham's agent dismissing the concerns expressed in the previous submission; he stressed that he required feedback from CC members as quickly as possible.

DMcD explained that the current reporter dealing with the Airthrey Kerse application was adopting a particularly robust approach in terms of his requirements and he appears to be considering the implications the two reports already submitted, including the Network Rail report, have for the developer's original report, particularly in terms of flooding and drainage issues; he has now apparently requested that SEPA and the SC flood team should provide an updated review of the flood risk and drainage assessments to determine any deviation from the assessments in the 'base' report. In relation to Network Rail, DMcD pointed out that that the only effective way to drain the Kerse is by means of a pipe under the railway line and it appears unlikely that Network Rail would grant permission to have a trench below a high speed line.

## **Action : CC members will provide prompt feedback on the submission**

.

### **B 1609 Chair's Report**

In relation to the communication from Keith Brown in response to a resident's concerns about road safety, MW reported that the MSP takes the view that SC should implement "flashing lights" at appropriate crossings and it is his intention to get back to the CC on this. Bill Young voiced concern about the safety risk from speeding vehicles to children playing at the roundabout in Cornton Road and he indicated that he would wish to have the 20 mph signs painted on the road. The recently instituted 30 mph limit on Airthrey Road was noted in this regard.

MW indicated that, now that the Christmas lights are back in the ownership of the CC, the issue of how best to manage them will require revisiting.

MW expressed his disappointment that nothing was being done to address the unacceptable condition of the grass in the station car park. Douglas Neilson {Chair Of friends of Bridge of Allan} reported that he had written about the issue but with no success and he explained that part of the problem was the absence of onsite grass cutting equipment.

### **B1610 Treasurer's Report**

AD indicated that there had been little activity to report since the previous meeting. She reported that the Bridge of Allan Play Together group had received two donations of £200 and £100 and she confirmed that the play park funding held by the CC currently stood at £2,418. AD also confirmed that there had been no movement in the Teas Company fund

### **B1611 Secretary's Report**

LH indicated that the previous month had been a very busy one for correspondence.

Councillor Dodds had informed the CC that he had raised with the police the issue of speeding along Henderson Street and, in their response, they indicated their intention to conduct handheld radar monitoring. He has also raised with the police the problem of speeding in Cornton Road with particular reference to an incident earlier in the month when an on duty School Crossing Patrol staff member was almost knocked down by a speeding car at the pedestrian crossing at Pullar Avenue. The Councillor reported to us at the weekend that local residents have raised with SEPA an issue of possible contamination of the burn alongside Centenary Avenue. Finally, Councillor Dodds raised with us his ongoing concerns about inconsiderate parking at the station, including parking on pavements, in disabled bays and on the hard grass area; he forwarded a

response from ScotRail in which it was pointed out that ScotRail has limited enforcement tools and is unable to issue a penalty notice although, on the positive side, it is currently trialling a partnership approach with two councils to allow the use of their decriminalised parking management powers, and it is willing to discuss this approach with SC.

Continuing with ScotRail, Councillor Tollemache informed us he has contacted ScotRail to underline strongly his concern over the fact that, for the week beginning 22nd April, at least two trains have not run from Stirling; he has asked ScotRail for an explanation and for an indication of the overall number of cancellations. The Councillor has sent us a copy of a public statement he has issued, reiterating his concerns about the number of cancelled, delayed and overcrowded trains in the past few weeks and underlining the need for a solution to the issue of morning commuters to Edinburgh having to change at Stirling; he has emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Scottish Government hold the train operator to account. It is worth noting that a resident wrote to say that, since October, she has only had 3 journeys where the train was not either cancelled or late. Councillor Tollemache has also raised with SC a concern about the poor condition of the footpath between Bridge of Allan and Lecroft Church where it is difficult for a wheelchair user to cross the road: SC has agreed to undertake an inspection of the footway to determine how to make it suitable for wheelchair users although, given its budgetary commitments in other locations, it is not in a position to carry out extensive repairs.

Councillor Majury has reported that the damage to the cast iron bollard on the corner of Henderson Street and Fountain Road has now been repaired and that the dumped mattress has now been removed from the Pendreich area. The Councillor has been addressing the matter of the failure of the Inverallan Drive lights due to an underground Scottish Power cable fault; the repair work could take 4 to 6 weeks. Councillor Majury has reminded the CC that he has initiated a public meeting on Monday, June 10th in the Allan Centre between 19.30 and 21.00 for Bridge of Allan and Dunblane residents. Most recently, the Councillor has informed us that there has been some slippage with SC's programme of Community Parking Management Plans and the review date for Bridge of Allan is not yet known.

A resident from Hopetoun Drive contacted us about the apparent tardiness of SC in initiating the grass cutting in the area and pointed out that, by cutting the grass in Alexander Drive at a later time, that area is now out of sync with the rest of the area. An elected member will raise the matter with the relevant SC department.

The Scottish Community Development Centre has sent the CC a link to its recent report on Strengthening Community Councils, particularly in terms of contributing to what it calls democratic renewal. The report gives a useful set of eight criteria for evaluating a community council and it makes nine recommendations to help community councils achieve their full potential as

vehicles for community empowerment, including increasing resources +and making them more representative of diversity ( young people, single parents, low paid workers, people with disabilities and the self-employed).

SC sent the CC details of the Scottish Government's proposal for further consultation on its preferred policy on Unconventional Oil and Gas, namely a cautious evidence-led approach which does not support onshore unconventional development. The additional period of consultation closes on June 25<sup>th</sup>. SC has also informed the CC that it wishes all community councils to be aware of its current online consultation on the regulation of short-term lets which closes on July 19<sup>th</sup>. SC has sent the CC a copy of the Best Value Assurance Report on Stirling Council services from the independent local watchdog for local government spending, the Accounts Commission. A forestry consultant wrote to the CC about a proposal to plant trees on a piece of local farmland along the Darn Walk {Drumdrills Farm}. SC has informed the CC that the new Investing in Communities Fund for tackling disadvantage is now launched and the deadline for applications is Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> June.

### **B1612 Residents' Voice**

Douglas Neilson reported that the principal current project of the Friends of Bridge of Allan involved the walling of the raised beds in Blairforkie Drive and he indicated that help was being given at no cost by the West of Scotland Drystone Walling Association. He also reported that the recent plant sale had been very successful

### **B1613 AOCB**

SD raised the question of who carried responsibility for the park benches along the riverbank. It was confirmed that this was not a responsibility of the Friends of Bridge of Allan.

IMcC reported that he had received a letter from a resident expressing concern about the car boot sale which had been raised at a previous CC meeting. LH reminded the CC that, when the matter had been raised before, he had written on behalf of the CC to the resident involved in organising the sale to inform him, in the interests of fairness, that a complaint had been made in a public forum and that the CC had not formed any view on the merits of the complaint. It was agreed that, since the person concerned now had a license to sell, it would be inappropriate for the CC to take any further action

### **B 1614 Date of Next Meeting**

MW closed the meeting at 8.57 pm and indicated that the next meeting would be held in the Allan Centre at **7.30pm on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019** and would be preceded at **7.00 pm** by the **Annual General Meeting** of the Community Council

(LH : May, 2019)