



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

**Held on Tuesday 18th June 2019  
in the Allan Centre**

**Present :** Mike Watson (MW) CHAIR; Leslie Harkness (LH) SECRETARY; Anna Doeser (AD) TREASURER; Michael Burt (MB); Siobhan Hencher (SH); Iain McCusker (IMc); Bill Fortune (BF); Alasdair Taylor (AT), Duncan McDougall (DMcD) (associate member)

**Apologies :** Joanne Chisholm (JC); Janie Meikle Bland (JMB); Vicky McDowell (VMcD); Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Sandra Davidson (SD); Moira Randall (MR) (associate member); Councillor Graham Houston; Alexander Stewart MSP; Stephen Kerr MP

**In attendance:** Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Councillor Alastair Majury; Councillor Douglas Dodds; Andrew Davis (Stirling Council)

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

### **B 1615 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest**

MW opened the meeting, welcomed all and confirmed meeting apologies as noted above. No conflicts of interest were noted.

### **B 1616 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log**

The minutes of the previous meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 were approved (Proposer: IMcC , Seconded: AD).

#### **Matters Arising**

With reference to Item B1607 and the issue of the upkeep of the grass in the station, Councillor Majury forwarded a statement provided by Scotrail for Stephen Kerr to the effect that, while the grass is maintained on a regular basis, the maintenance teams have to prioritize urgent and safety critical work; they have given an assurance, however, that work on the station grass will be undertaken as soon as possible. This does appear to run counter to an assertion about the disputed issue of responsibility for the grass cutting which was made by Scotrail at last week's public meeting, and indeed, Gavin Drummond has now received confirmation from Paul McKay that Scotrail and not Network Rail is in fact responsible for having the grass cut. Item 1619 provides more information on the Scotrail public meeting held on 10th June.

With reference to Item B1606 and the Glen Road stabilization project, we received a communication from Bridget Clark, the co-ordinator of the Glen Road volunteers, to tell us that the volunteers have launched a public appeal to add to the grants they have secured and are being applied for, particularly given that a

recent survey has indicated that the drainage above the road is no longer functioning and that £10,000 is needed to repair this in order to reduce the erosion, thus improving the life of the road. She emphasizes that the volunteers would be grateful for any financial contribution we, as a community council could make. We also received a communication from Barbara Allan, Chair of Dunblane Development Trust, confirming that the trust supports the volunteers and holds and administers all funding they receive towards repair of the road; she states that the Trust would welcome any funding support we could give. MW suggested consideration of funding from the CC. Following input from IM and MB, Cllr Tollemache offered to facilitate a meeting with Bridget to enable further consideration of the detail, to be reported back to August meeting. This proposal was agreed.

## **B 1617 Police Report (PC Dee Chalmers and PC Paul Gilliland)**

### ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

On 8<sup>th</sup> June at Keir Street a male was arrested in relation to shouting and swearing at police. On being arrested the male violently resisted and it took three officers to restrain him. The male was thereafter taken to custody whereby he was released when he was sober. This male was not local to the area.

Between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June a 'For Sale' sign was damaged on Allanvale Road. This sign was for estate agent Harper and Stone who have stated to police that this has happened on other occasions not reported to police. If anyone has any information regarding this please contact 101 Ref: PS-201906616-1646.

### DRUG MISUSE:

None reported.

### HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

On 10<sup>th</sup> June at Well Road a ladies white Apollo mountain bike was stolen from an insecure close. If anyone has any information regarding this please contact 101 Ref: PS-20190610-3067.

### ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Airthrey Road a female was found to be driving without insurance and a valid class licence. The vehicle was uplifted, the driver was charged with the offences, and a report will be submitted to the fiscal.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Airthrey Road two males were found to be driving without a valid insurance certificate. The vehicle was uplifted, the males were charged with the relevant offence, and a report will be submitted to the fiscal.

### MATTERS OF NOTE

On 5<sup>th</sup> June at Stirling University a male in his 60s was observed putting a live cage trap containing a live grey squirrel into the loch. This male was challenged by staff and dog walkers. The male thereafter left the university grounds in a lime green coloured Vauxhall Corsa. If anyone has any information in relation to this incident, please contact wildlife crime officer PC Laura Robertson at Dunblane Police office on 101.

We have been receiving recent complaints about vehicles parking within the cycle lanes in Henderson Street, primarily near to the bus stop and exit from the train station platforms. Officers would like to remind all motorists that parking in the cycle lane is an offence and a conditional offer of fixed penalty can

be issued. There is a large free car park within the train station.

It has been brought to officers' attention that there has recently been some fly tipping within the Sheriffmuir area. Could officers ask members of the community to be vigilant when out within this area and contact the police or council if persons are seen to be fly tipping.

There have been 85 calls to police from the Bridge of Allan beat code, please note that this beat code also covers parts of Cornton, Causewayhead and the motorways. Of these calls, 2 related to a missing person, 3 to domestic incidents, 10 to road traffic matters, and 11 to drop 999 calls.

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

Unfortunately due to annual leave commitments we were unable to engage with community events this month.

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

1. Carry out patrols in areas in which road safety concerns have been identified
2. Attend and patrol areas in which crimes have been reported

#### **B 1618 Community Action Plan (JMB)**

As JMB was unable to attend this meeting, this topic was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **B 1619 Scotrail Public Meeting (LH)**

Councillor Majury initiated a public progress meeting for Bridge of Allan and Dunblane residents with Scotrail staff on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Although (as at the last meeting) very few residents attended, the three Scotrail representatives were subjected to rigorous and searching questioning from Alexander Stewart (MSP), our elected Councillors, Bill Young of the Strathallan Community Rail Partnership, and Gavin Drummond.

Although several issues were raised concerning the cosmetic condition of the station, other issues of concern generally produced a relatively reassuring response from the Scotrail representatives. Alexander Stewart (MSP) stressed that, while it was encouraging to see improvements taking place, given that customer satisfaction had been at a very low ebb, it was sensible to maintain a degree of cautious scepticism in case the service deteriorated again. He also noted that public concern on this whole issue had resulted in a genuine cross party approach among politicians.

In terms of service improvement, the Scotrail representatives reminded the meeting of the highly unsatisfactory situation which had arisen between December and April, with only 83% of services arriving within 5 minutes (versus a contractual figure of 95%), and with cancellations at 7% (versus a contractual limit of 1%), and indicated that since April there had been a significant improvement. Cancellations had again risen over the previous 3 weeks, but Scotrail claimed that this was due to factors outside of their control such as trespassers on the line, the breakdown of an LNER train, and cows on the track. Scotrail underlined the fact that, on social media, the organisation is now getting more praise than criticism, particularly for increased seating and the overall quality of the new trains. Scotrail staff spent 3 days at Edinburgh Park station at peak times and established that over this period all passengers were seated. Since the start of the new timetable in May there have been only two occasions at morning peak times when a six carriage train has been reduced to three.

Discussion then turned to the topic of the 7:30 direct train from Dunblane. Scotrail recognizes that passengers do not like having to change and they have a solution to this, but will not be able to introduce it until the requisite staff are fully in place, which is expected by May 2020 at the latest, with the possibility that it might be achievable by December 2019. It was noted that 40 passengers currently make the morning change at Stirling, which is a major drop in numbers, presumably because passengers are taking different trains, or travelling by other means. Scotrail is now monitoring the evening service which splits at Stirling. It was agreed that Scotrail could lose morning passengers who take the bus to Stirling and then take the express bus to Glasgow. Although, between December and April, passenger numbers have increased overall by 13% and 4% for the Edinburgh and Glasgow corridors respectively, Scotrail urges caution in interpreting these statistics.

The Bridge of Allan - Glasgow timetable is still at an interim stage as there are currently insufficient inter-city trains, with only 5 of the planned 26 refurbished inter-city trains having been delivered. The remaining trains should be in place by May 2020, and at this point, the Bridge of Allan – Gleneagles – Dundee service will also be in place. This service will run at two trains per hour, including peak times, with one stopping at Bridge of Allan. The ScotRail representatives explained that they have to submit their service requests for December by February, so they recognise that incremental change does not work. They understand that the key issues for passengers are journey times and securing a seat, and also that ScotRail have not communicated their philosophy effectively.

Other issues discussed included the ticket anomaly of the lack of cheap day returns to Dundee, with ScotRail conceding that the fare structure was still highly arcane in nature. Councillor Tollemache raised the matter of informing passengers of cancellations, and Bill Young emphasised the need for lateral thinking in addressing the problem, for example announcing alternative options when a train is cancelled. Gavin Drummond voiced his concerns about the failure to cut the grass at the station, and, in response, ScotRail maintained that this was a contractual issue since its lease agreement specifies that Network Rail carries responsibility for the grass cutting. Councillor Dodds expressed his frustration about the general condition of the station car park and stressed that what was needed was a complete resurfacing of the car park before repainting the lines; Scotrail had resurfaced 20 car parks last year so ultimately this is a budget and priority issue. Bill Young pointed out that the flooding at the southern end of the car park is as bad as ever and Gavin Drummond drew attention to a fence in need of repair. Councillor Tollemache noted that ScotRail appear not to be addressing the hogweed problem.

In conclusion ScotRail representatives confirmed that they would provide the CC with a draft of the next timetable when available.

**B 1620 CPMP Steering Group Nomination (MW)**

MW explained that there will be two separate studies, for Dunblane and Bridge of Allan, and asked for volunteers from the CC to get involved in this. BF and AD will attend.

**B 1621 Tennis Courts (BF)**

BF advised that not all quotes were yet available. When they are available he will consult with Jean Cowie on funding applications. Update will be provided at the next CC meeting.

**B 1622 Speeding Issue (MW)**

The ongoing issues with speeding traffic were discussed. Councillor Dodds indicated that flashing speed indicators may be a potential way of improving the situation, and may be considered by the council.

**B 1623 Christmas Lights (MW)**

MW explained that the Christmas Lights are now the responsibility of Bridge of Allan CC, and that we would have to start planning now for a funding solution for Christmas, since past experience indicated that this

was a long process with considerable work required. MW advised that we should initiate a dedicated sub-committee to deal with this. AD, SH, and MB agreed to work together on this. Councillor Dodds and Gavin Drummond also volunteered to help.

#### **B 1624 Play Park Initiative (SH)**

SH gave an update on fundraising for the play park initiative. £1500 has already been secured from the Community Pride Fund, and various other fundraising activities have been taking place. There will be a "Big Push" community day event on 8<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm in the Parish Church. The aim is to get the required funding of circa £22k in place by the end of September.

#### **B 1625 Planning Update (IMc)**

- Application for 80 space car park at Scotbeef. This may be in the green belt, so IMc will e-mail out information for comment.
- Application for 5 Airthrey Drive. This is to demolish the existing property and build two new properties. This will need a response within the next two days. Councillor Dodds advised that if the application received less than 5 objections, it would not go to panel.
- Airthrey Kerse. DMcD gave an update on his involvement on this topic over the month, including discussion on the Network Rail drilling report, and whether this changes the flood risk assessment. At the date of the meeting there had been no request yet from the reporter for us to provide comments. The CC thanked Duncan for his continuing involvement and expert input, and also the elected members for their continued support.

#### **B 1626 Chair's Report (MW)**

In relation to the CGF, there was some discussion over who should scrutinise documentation provided by the applicants. It has previously been stated that all applications must be accompanied by appropriate documentation in line with the rules governing the CGF. LH asked who should validate these documents and it was confirmed that this is the responsibility of the Provost's Panel. It was confirmed that both Councillor Dodds and Councillor Tollemache sat on the Provost's Panel. Councillor Dodds advised that the Stirling Council standing orders were going to be changed to ensure that Bridge of Allan CC would in future be formally consulted on such applications. Councillor Majury agreed with this, saying that the guidance will be changed to reflect Bridge of Allan CC involvement in future. Councillor Dodds confirmed that the form of this consultation would be that SC would write to Bridge of Allan CC, and we would then have to formally respond.

#### **B 1627 Secretary's Report (LH)**

SC's School Holiday Meals Provision Task Group is working to develop a Stirling model of school holiday provision of meals, clubs and activities and it has contacted all CCs to publicise a survey it was undertaking (now finished) to ascertain which holiday clubs are currently in operation in the area.

SC Licensing Team contacted us about two consultative surveys it is carrying out to ensure that Stirling's taxi and private hire licensing framework best meets future local needs; the surveys, one for the trade and one for users, are online until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

A resident contacted us via our website to express concern about the large amounts of litter left in our parks during the good weather, and advocated an increased supply of squirrel proof bins. We referred the matter to Councillor Dodds and he has asked Land Services of SC to monitor the bins more regularly within their collection cycle. In response, Land Services have indicated that although picnic park bins are

checked on a daily basis from Monday to Friday, the problems arise at the weekends when resources for servicing those areas are limited. The service will try to source some funding with a view to increasing the litter bin capacity if possible.

SC informed us that the voting stage of Your Stirling, You Decide is now open online and in local libraries until June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Gavin Drummond informed us that the Peterson Clock is running fast, and has been in contact with SC about repairing this. He has also raised with SC that the door of one of the Provost's Park toilets cannot be locked, and that the paper towel dispenser in the other has come away from the wall.

Stephen Kerr MP generously sent us a cheque for £75 to be passed on to Teas Company. He also sent us a copy of his May bulletin indicating that he has been re-selected as a Conservative candidate.

Councillor Majury and Councillor Dodds have both asked SC to investigate the possibility of having a traffic Regulation Order (including double yellow lines) on either side of the entrance on Inverallan Road to a private residential parking area in response to a resident's concerns about members of the public parking close to the entrance. SC has agreed that, to address the unsafe parking issue, it has been considering a double yellow line restriction preventing parking over a 30m section of the street, including the private access entrance, and Councillor Dodds forwarded confirmation of SC's proposal.

Councillor Dodds has secured an update from SC on the situation in Allanvale Road, where an unsafe wall has caused a section of the road to be temporarily closed. SC has indicated that the wall requires extensive re-pointing to stabilize it and that, since the occupiers of the adjacent properties have shared ownership of the wall and are responsible for its repair, if no action is taken, SC will invoke its legal powers. This will be a prolonged legal process since many of the occupiers are tenants.

Councillor Majury and Councillor Dodds have sent us details of CityFibre's rollout works schedule which includes details of the works programme for Bridge of Allan, and of the upcoming Community Council briefing on this topic. Councillor Majury has also indicated that SC officers hope to start the Community Parking Management Plan process for Bridge of Allan fairly soon.

The issue of fly-tipping has arisen again: SC have been asked to remove further material from the Pendreich car park on Sheriffmuir Road, but unfortunately SC is unable to remove a further quantity of fly-tipped waste dumped in a farmer's field, since this is on private land. Councillor Majury has suggested that CC consider the use of CCTV cameras along both the Carse of Lecropt and Sheriffmuir Road.

Lastly, Councillor Dodds has forwarded an e-mail he has sent to SC to underline his concerns about the significant increase in speeding on the whole stretch of Henderson Street.

#### **B 1628            Treasurer's Report (AD)**

AD informed us that Jackie Dunlop has now been appointed as Treasurer for Teas Company.

#### **B 1629            Residents' Voice**

Concerns were raised about the paving on the south side of Henderson Street. Councillor Dodds advised that the issue has been logged with SC.

#### **B 1630            AOCB**

With regard to the CityFibre presentation, AT advised that he was no longer going to be able to attend, and that IMc will attend instead.

AT advised that the lights on Inverallan Drive were still on permanently after the recent repair works. Councillor Dodds advised that he would investigate with SC.

IMc raised the issue of the self-storage vehicle parked in Henderson Street, apparently as an advertising strategy, and it was discussed that this is also happening in other locations. Councillor Dodds advised that there was nothing that SC could do about this since the vehicle was parked legally.

SH commented that Memorial Park is looking very nice, and complimented Friends of Bridge of Allan for their work.

**B 1631            Date of Next Meeting:**

MW closed the meeting at 9:16pm and indicated that the next meeting would be held in the Allan Centre on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**