



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

**Held on Tuesday 19th November 2019
in the Allan Centre**

Present : Mike Watson (MW) Chair; Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Michael Burt (MB); Anna Doeser (AD) Treasurer; Bill Fortune (BF); Leslie Harkness (LH) Secretary; Siobhan Hencher (SH); Iain McCusker (IMcC) Alasdair Taylor (AT)

Apologies : Janie Meikle Bland (JMB); Jo Chisholm (JC); Sandra Davidson (SD); Vicky McDowell (VMcD)); Duncan McDougall (DMcD) (associate member); Moira Randall (MR) (associate member); Alexander Stewart MSP; Stephen Kerr MP; Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Lucy McCormick (Minute Secretary); PC Dee Chalmers; PC Paul Gilliland

In attendance: Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Graham Houston; Councillor Alastair Majury; Councillor Jeremy McDonald; Douglas Neilson: Chair of Friends of Bridge of Allan; Andrew Davis (SC)

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

B 1690 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest

MW opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed all those in attendance; apologies were recorded as indicated above and no conflict of interest was noted

B 1691 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log

The minutes of the previous meeting of 22nd October 2019 were approved (Proposer: LH, Seconded: AD). Two amendments were made and are as indicated below:

B 1685: (Memorial Park Priorities) - the reference should have been to the Memorial Park Steering Group and not to the Friends of Bridge of Allan.

B 1677: (Glen Road Stabilisation Project) – MW asked that the minutes record that SC has now agreed to allocate £3,000 to the project and that, accordingly, the CC will release the £1.000 intended for the project. In addition, Councillor Houston indicated that, for the purposes of the audit trail, SC has asked Bridget Clark for the relevant details relating to the project

In relation to matters arising from the minutes, LH reported on the following items :

In relation to **Item B 1685** and the SC statistical data on the work of the enforcement officers, Councillor Houston has subsequently forwarded informative and detailed Freedom of Information statistics relating to the number of officers deployed in Bridge of Allan and the number of tickets issued, including those relating to parking beyond bay markings. In the context of Keir Street parking concerns, Alexander Stewart has forwarded a copy of his letter to the University and to Causewayhead CC, proposing a future joint meeting on the issue. Councillor Dodds has now conveyed to SC his disappointment over the fact that the Paterson Clock was not fixed at the changing of the clocks as promised.

Regarding **Item B 1681**, on the Common Good Fund, local resident, Gavin Drummond has sent some helpful comments on potential investment options to Councillor Houston who has subsequently proposed that SC should investigate alternative investment options and discuss these with the CC.

In relation to **Item B 1673** and Councillor Tollemache's endeavours to secure information from SC on extensions with regard to the Park of Keir development, he has received confirmation that, while progress has been made, a further extension to 30th January, 2020 has been agreed in order to complete the requisite processes.

Following on from **Item B 1679** and the Community Parking Management Plan, SC has sent us details of the dates and times of the three Steering Group meetings and of the two Information Drop-in events. On more specific parking issues, a Kenilworth Road resident has contacted us to explain that due to parked cars restricting the view at the point where the road narrows and bends, turning in and out of the driveway now carries a high degree of risk of collision with fast moving vehicles. Another Kenilworth Road resident has written to stress that, while parking has never presented any serious issues for most of the past 20 years, driveway access is now regularly blocked and cars parked at the narrowest part of the road are compelling lorries to mount the pavement and pedestrians to use the road; since this resident believes that, as a consequence of the parking restrictions between the school end of the road and Coneyhill Road, parking has shifted to the narrowest area of Kenilworth Road; LH has written to this resident to advise on the current SC Community Parking Management Plan public consultation. CC member, JMB has been assured by SC enforcement officers that the two hour parking limit is not enforceable as there are no road markings and she is of the view that the resurfacing of the road would be an ideal time to lay out the appropriate road markings.

In relation to **Item B 1685** and the matter of the proposed electric car chargers, and in response to letters to SC from JC and from Councillor Tollemache, along with a communication from the Health Centre expressing serious concern about the impact on frail and elderly patients of reducing the number of parking spaces and also about the fact that the Health Centre is now a hub for children's vaccinations, SC has now confirmed that the Allan Centre parking spaces would be used in preference to spaces outside the Health Centre / Library, although this will involve a compromise in terms of installing the slower 7kW chargers.

All matters arising from the Action Log were covered in relevant agenda items

B 1692 Police Report

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & VIOLENT CRIME

No incidents reported

DRUG MISUSE

On November 13, at Stirling University, a female was found in possession of cannabis and was issued with a recorded police warning.

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

25th October: a children's handbag was stolen from a local shop and a female suspect was identified.

27th/28th October: overnight at Woodlands Car Park, Pendreich Road, a vehicle was stolen and recovered a short distance away; enquiries are ongoing.

5th November: at Stirling University, a number of ink cartridges were stolen; a suspect has been identified and enquiries are ongoing to trace this individual.

Between October 18th and November 16th: a female was a victim of a fraudulent scheme (via Facebook) which deceived her into sending money to an unknown person to release a large sum to her; enquiries are ongoing and **the public are urged to be remain vigilant in relation to these social media scams.**

Between November 11th and November 19th: a male, identified by the police, stole a quantity of alcohol from the Co-op, Fountain Road and will be dealt with in due course.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME

November 16th: at Henderson Street, a male driver was found to be travelling above the permitted speed limit and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal

MATTERS OF NOTE

Between October 19th and November 18th: the police received 73 calls to the Bridge of Allan beat code; 4 were concern for person calls, 1 was a missing person call, 1 was a domestic related call and 6 were road traffic related calls.

Community engagement and reassurance

PC Gilliland and Police Sergeant MacDonald attended at the Bridge of Allan fireworks display. A great night was had by all and no issues were reported to police.

November 9th: CPT conducted hand held radar in Henderson Street and one driver received a warning.

Activities 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 of dishonesty have been reported.

B 1693 Stirling Council's Participatory Budgeting

MW welcomed to the meeting Stirling Council's Lynne McKinley and Lesley Sheasby; he explained that the CC would welcome a degree of clarification on a number of concerns about the Participatory Budgeting process, particularly in terms of the issue of allocating weighting to ensure that a smaller community is

treated fairly and with appropriate parity in relation to a larger community in the same ward. In the question and answer session which followed, a number of significant points emerged.

Iain McCusker reminded the CC that it had been told that nothing had been in place to address any relative imbalance between Bridge of Allan and Dunblane and Lynne McKinley stressed that weighting had only been applied in the case of wards whose population fell below 2,500. In response to a question from MW relating to ensuring that there would be no further disadvantage to Bridge of Allan in a future exercise, she explained that, given that there was no model to follow in 2018/19, the Participatory Budgeting team had decided to use the fixed sum allocated by SC to attempt to increase engagement and participation by testing a variety of methods which may or may not inform a future model; it was hoped that local people would vote for projects about which they felt some level of enthusiasm and passion. It was also indicated that it is unlikely that any model going forward would involve a system of weighting, including providing support for smaller communities as had happened on this occasion.

AT raised the option of allocating funding to individual communities on the basis of population levels and allowing CCs to make the relevant decisions; Lynne McKinley pointed out that in officer/member groups, elected members had expressed a preference for allocating funding on a ward basis. MW stated that he hoped that AT's suggestion would be taken back for consideration by the SC team.

Gavin Drummond emphasised the importance of ensuring that a level playing field was established for the operation of the process and he underlined the fact that, in any community, a vociferous minority can exercise a disproportionate influence. Councillor McDonald stressed that it was important to ensure that the projects emerging in the different areas should not be lost and should also be considered for future SC programmes ; he agreed that it would be helpful to have CC involvement in the process. Lynne McKinley indicated that a number of the proposed ideas and initiatives were outwith SC control as they involved private owners and buildings and she suggested that SC might consider looking at whether external funding sources would be of value; she was also in agreement with the notion that SC services could look at some of the ideas to see if any of them could be built into specific service plans.

B1694 Christmas Lights

SH provided a detailed report on the arrangements for December 1st as indicated below.

All 18 lights are now fully sponsored. The whole of the Parish Church will be available for the December 1st event with the Christmas Fayre running from 2.00pm to 4.00 pm with 16/17 stallholders; the switch on will take place from 4.00pm to 4,30pm in the Provost's Park. Community groups (including Scouts, Guides, and the Primary School) will have their stall free of charge while commercial stallholders will pay £15. The Rotary Club will have a rowing challenge with the money raised going to local charities. Entertainment will be provided by the Stirling University Choir, Monument Dance Centre and the Gaelic Choir; it is also intended to have carol singing and children's poetry readings, along with Santa and his grotto. All the merchants have been contacted. All the relevant information will be located on Facebook.

MB confirmed that Gordon Electrical will deal with the lights on the day and have been contacted. He also reported that the Friends of Bridge of Allan would be putting up the sponsorship plaques on the lamp posts and that the footnotes about the origins of each sponsorship would be retained. He indicated that it was intended to have a daily online advent calendar for the sponsors.

On behalf of the entire CC, MW expressed his warmest appreciation of the time and energy invested by SH and her team in this exercise of benefit to the whole town.

B 1695 Strathyre Community Council Conversation Meeting

AT delivered a short report on the meeting he had attended on behalf of the CC; it had been an interesting and informative event, although he felt there was insufficient time to talk at length with the participants. The most significant outcome of the meeting was the indication that some CCs have relatively high levels of funding to utilise; one presentation had examined in detail the wide range of funds to which CCs had access. AT suggested that it would be worthwhile getting in touch with some of the participants to glean further information.

Councillor McDonald stated that he would be willing to contact Callander CC on the issue of sources of funding.

Action: AT will contact relevant participants.

B 1696 Common Good Fund

MW reported that the meeting of the CGF subgroup had been very productive and that AT had produced a very comprehensive and cogent summary of the subgroup's deliberations.

AT delivered a succinct outline of the four areas covered in his summary: expenditure strategy; investment strategy; grant application process; and internal CC grant application process. In his response, MW stressed that the most sensitive and difficult challenge would be the determining of alternative investment options; Councillor Houston agreed and emphasised the significance of minimising risk in such a process. Gavin Drummond noted the relative uniqueness of the Bridge of Allan Common Good Fund in terms of the fact that it consisted entirely of liquid cash assets, whereas other common good funds had land; he also suggested that the CC should bear in mind the liability issue, particularly in the context of Lord Penrose's judgment in favour of establishing a common good fund and not simply a discretionary trust fund. Andrew Davis raised the issue of what would happen to the CGF were the CC to fold.

At the close of the discussion, MW thanked AT for his very helpful summary paper.

B 1697 Tennis Courts

BF reminded the CC that the second draft of the online survey was now available; LH confirmed that he had now circulated BF's covering email to all CC colleagues. Andrew Davis suggested that, rather than carry the matter forward to the next CC meeting, it might be preferable for CC members to appraise the survey before Christmas so that, in the absence of any relevant issues, it could be operational by January, 2020. This met with the agreement of the CC.

Action: All CC members will evaluate the survey draft and provide feedback to BF before Christmas

B 1698 Play Park Initiative

Utilising a display board, SH provided an update report confirming that the initiative had now secured the requisite financial sum required and providing an indication of the three items of equipment which would be purchased.

MW thanked SH for her productive involvement in the initiative.

B 1699 Telephone Box

ADB provided an update on the matter of the telephone box. He reported that some progress had been made in terms of giving consideration to the viability of moving the box into the centre of the town. He has contacted BT and they will disconnect the electrics free of charge. He has also begun to investigate the cost of moving the box and has obtained one quote of £200 for the hire of an HIEB lorry with crane (cost of driver included); a further option would be to use the services of Power Tech Utilities from Paisley, a firm which would take care of everything, including disconnection and recycling. HIEB has stressed that the only potential problem would be that it might be necessary to break up the concrete base if the area of concrete is particularly extensive. One suggestion for the new location of the box was the area outside Lloyds Pharmacy. In response to a question from LH, Andrew Davis confirmed that relocating the box would indeed require planning permission and this would not be a particularly difficult process.

B 1700 Planning Report

IMcC reported that he had received no objection to the second application relating to the Bologna building; the general feeling was that this application represented an improvement, particularly in terms of the increased parking provision. MW stressed that restoring the building to its former state was to be welcomed. MB stated that he had been personally interested to learn of the history of the building.

IMcC also reported on the application to replace the Co-op building with an entirely new store located in the lower car park and fronting on Keir Street. In his report, while noting that investing in a new building would be regarded as a welcome development, he indicated a number of potential concerns about the proposal, including the fact that a slate roof would be more in keeping with the surrounding buildings than the proposed 'zinc' roof, the fact that the scale of the building and its proximity to Keir Street would clash with the Victorian parish church and with the residential buildings in Keir Street, the loss of a number of mature trees, and an apparent reduction in the number of parking spaces. On the positive side, it was noted that, in some respects, there was a genuine attempt to fit in with the character of the area, for example the use of sandstone cladding and white rendering. The parking implications of the proposed Artex deliveries were noted.

In the discussion which followed, a local resident who is an architect, and who was in favour of the overall design, suggested it would have been preferable to have the new building following the line of Fountain Road. One resident living close to the Co-op voiced his concern about the limited degree of consultation/notification he had received and he reported that subsequent contact with SC had not been particularly productive, while another neighbouring resident had issues about the possible flooding of his property owing to the level of the car park. MW wondered if the Parish Church had been consulted on the proposals. IMcC pointed out that there had been no pre-planning application.

In conclusion, MW indicated that more than three weeks is required for the fullest analysis of the application and its implications.

Action: As a matter of relative urgency, all CC members will submit their comments to IMcC by the middle of the following week.

B 1701 Chair's Report

MW indicated that he was happy to remain as Chair until the AGM. He also reported that work on the Sensory Garden had now started.

B 1702 Secretary's Report

LH reported on a number of items of correspondence.

SC has provided details of a firm of insurance brokers able to offer additional cover for community councillors who use their own vehicles for community council business. SC also suggested Bridge of Allan CC might wish to link up with Dunblane CC to seek partial funding from Community Pride for a series of benches and resting spots around both towns and on walking routes between both towns.

Councillor Dodds has communicated with the CC on a number of issues. He has written again to ScotRail, on behalf of the Friends of Bridge of Allan, to express their concern about the condition of the railway station and about the fact that the car park has yet to be lined, and he has forwarded correspondence between the Friends and ScotRail which indicates that a ScotRail Community Development representative is ready to meet with the Friends to discuss their concerns. He informed the CC that SC's repair of the raised bed frame in the Sensory Garden was imminent. He has asked SC to clean up the leaves in the Fountain Road car park as this is contributing to the flooding of the car park and he has received confirmation this will be done.

Councillor Houston has also taken up the matter of the Friends' concerns about the condition of the station and the Senior Public Affairs Manager at Network Rail is intending to look into the issues raised.

Councillor Majury has informed us that, after he had asked SC to consider alternatives, it has ended using single use plastic teaspoons in all primary schools; in addition, SC will trial for one menu cycle in two large primary schools an alternative to single use ketchup sachets, using a sauce pump and small paper cups for distributing the sauce to the children.

Councillor Tollemache has communicated with the CC on a range of matters. He has emailed the SC Planning Department seeking confirmation of when the Park of Keir application is likely to come before Planning and also confirmation that SC will advise elected members and community councillors accordingly and that elected members will receive an appropriate briefing before any such meeting; SC is not yet in a position to confirm a date but will inform elected members and community councillors when it is known and there will be a prior briefing with the local ward councillors. The councillor has forwarded an email from Scottish Water regarding a proposed replacement of the Cocksburn Reservoir footbridge. He has informed the CC that within half a day yesterday, SC had disposed of a black litter bag left beside an SC waste bin in Blairforkie Drive. He has just informed the CC that he has raised with SC some issues related to the Darn Walk such as broken signs, a broken bridge slat and a number of broken railings. SC is investigating the issue of animal/bird proof bins.

NHS Forth Valley is seeking a new Chair to lead the Health Board

A resident has written to the CC to express concern about the lack of public consultation prior to the Co-op development application

B 1703 Treasurer's Report

AD provided a succinct but comprehensive income and expenditure update.

In relation to the Christmas event, she reported that 8 new lights had been sponsored and that she had received ten £15 cheques for the Christmas Fayre stall/table bookings. The balance of the Christmas Lights account now stood at £2,646, including £1,296 lights sponsorship.

AD also indicated that the balance in the Teas Company account was £634.43 (the hall rental remains at £22 per week), that the Administration Fund, with the annual insurance charge of £233.50 yet to be paid, stood at £6,305.60 (this balance including the £3,000 from the Outlander filming), that the Play Park Account had received £10,000 from the Lottery Fund along with a donation of £1,250 from the 'Merchants Association', giving a balance of £26,895.06.

MW asked if the annual insurance premium covered wear and tear; AD did not think that it did

B 1704 Residents' Voice

A resident raised the matter of the optic cable work currently being done on the pavements in Chalton Road and Kenilworth Road and he asked if there was any intention to resurface the roadways. Councillor Dodds confirmed that, while resurfacing would eventually be undertaken, it was not part of the current programme. The resident also asked if any thought had been given to installing traffic lights at the Keir Roundabout. MW pointed out that this was a national government matter and he was of the view that such a change was highly unlikely; Councillor Houston indicated that SC has raised with Transport Scotland the issue of the traffic now moving at a much faster speed through the roundabout

B 1705 AOCB

SH reported back on the Allan Centre AGM. She explained that the Centre has an issue with the proposed installation of the electric car chargers as the Centre car park is now full from 9.00 am due to parked cars being 'shifted' from Keir Street. Councillor Dodds confirmed that residents who participated in today's consultation event did view the issue of university students parking in the town as being a significant problem. SH also indicated that the Centre now felt there was a need for a changing places toilet in the building, located where the disabled toilet is at present; this would involve a cost of £60,000.

B1706 Date of Next Meeting

MW closed the meeting at 9:20pm and indicated that the next meeting would be held in the Allan Centre on **Tuesday 21 January 2020**.

