



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 21st January 2020
in the Allan Centre

Present : Joanne Chisholm (JC) Vice Chair; Michael Burt (MB); Sandra Davidson (SD); Anna Doeser (AD) Treasurer; Bill Fortune (BF); Leslie Harkness (LH) Secretary; Siobhan Hencher (SH); Iain McCusker (IMCC); Vicky McDowell (VMCD); Duncan McDougall (DMCD) (associate member); Alasdair Taylor (AT)

Apologies : Janie Meikle Bland (JMB); Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Moira Randall (MR) (associate member); Mike Watson (MW) Chair; Alexander Stewart MSP; Alyn Smith MP; Lucy McCormick (Minute Secretary)

In attendance: Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Graham Houston; Councillor Alastair Majury; Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Councillor Jeremy McDonald; Douglas Neilson: Chair of Friends of Bridge of Allan; Graham Russell: Vice Chair of Friends of Bridge of Allan; Valerie Sinclair: Chair, Causewayhead Community Council; Andrew Davis (SC); Andrew Bushell, Community Police Inspector; PC Paul Gilliland

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

B 1707 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest (JC)

JC, taking the chair in the absence of 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 1708 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log (JC/LH)

The minutes of the previous meeting of 19th November 2019 were approved (Proposed: BF, Seconded: MB).

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

In relation to **Item B 1702** and the issues reported by Councillor Tollemache concerning the Darn Walk, the councillor has arranged to accompany SC officers on a walk to view the relevant sites. With regard to the letter from Alexander Stewart to SC in relation to the parking in Keir Street, the MSP has sent the CC a copy of SC's response which essentially summarises the current steps taken by SC in terms of developing a CPMP for Bridge of Allan.

Regarding **Item B 1700** and the railway station, Graham Russell of the Friends of Bridge of Allan sent the CC an extremely disappointing and frustrating report on the meeting with ScotRail Adopt a Station

representatives who confirmed that, while appreciative of the invaluable work of the Friends, they could offer no guarantee on future maintenance as they have no control over the priorities of ScotRail Facilities Management; they asserted that the recent problems were a function of budgetary constraints, staff shortage and issues relating to the availability of the proper grass cutting equipment, the latter point being one which has aroused a degree of scepticism on the part of the Friends who would only be prepared to continue to work at the station if given guarantees about a proper maintenance regime. Providing an update, Graham Russell reported that ScotRail has now confirmed its intention to cut the grass every four weeks when the season starts in March, with all cuttings removed.

In relation to **Item B 1691** and the electric car chargers, Councillor Tollemache has reported that SC has received two quotes for the installation of the two dual chargers behind the Allan Centre but not, as originally intended, installed against the wall of the building in order to utilise the electricity supply, given the prohibitive level of cost and disruption.

Any matters arising from the Action Log would be covered in the relevant agenda items.

B 1709 Police Report (Duty Police Officer)

JC welcomed Andrew Bushell, the new Community Police Inspector to the meeting.

PC Paul Gilliland delivered the police report and covered the items detailed below.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & VIOLENT CRIME

A derelict property in Henderson Street was vandalised with no suspects identified,

During 15th/16th November, a car parked in Allanvale Road was vandalised with a key or similar being used to scratch the door panels.

On November 16th, police attended a minor disturbance at Queens Court leading to the arrest of a female who refused to leave and continued to shout and swear.

During 15th/16th January, a vehicle parked within Beacon Croft was vandalised with a stone thrown against the vehicle window and this is currently under investigation.

DRUG MISUSE

During November, two offences were investigated at Stirling University leading to a referral to the Procurator Fiscal for possession of controlled drugs, and to a Recorded Police Warning for possession of Herbal Cannabis.

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

Between 31st October and 9th November: money was stolen from an office within the University of Stirling.

During November 19th/20th there was an attempted housebreaking at a property in Queens Lane. On November 20th, a housebreaking occurred at a licensed property in Henderson Street and this is believed to be linked to the Queens Lane incident.

During December, there were two instances of mountain bikes being stolen, one from the grounds of

Stirling University and the other from a bike shed in university accommodation. During December 12th/18th money was stolen from a departmental room at Stirling University and enquires are ongoing

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME

Between December 9th/10th, a vehicle parked within Cawdor Road was struck by an unidentified vehicle which failed to stop.

On December 31st, a motorist was stopped in Cornton Road for failing to wear a seatbelt and was reported to the Procurator Fiscal. On January 17th, a motorist was stopped in Henderson Street for speeding and, due to the speed travelled, will be referred to the Procurator Fiscal.

MATTERS OF NOTE

Between November 19th and January 19th, the police received 165 calls to the Bridge of Allan beat code; 15 were concern for person calls, 7 were drug related calls, 3 were missing persons related calls, 5 were domestic related calls, and 19 were road traffic related calls.

Community engagement and reassurance

As a means of further engaging with the community, on November 30th, the community team carried out a Police Surgery within Bridge of Allan Library; the public response was positive. Arrangements are being made to hold another surgery in the Library on the morning of Saturday, March 14th (10.00am – 12 noon).

In response to community led requests to increase the police presence in the town, the community team have been carrying out high visibility foot patrols.

The community team were recently involved in the Festive Drink Driving campaign and carried out checks in the Bridge of Allan area.

In response to community led vehicular speed related complaints, speeding checks have been carried out in Henderson Street and Cornton Road.

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 1710 Tennis Courts (BF)

BF reported that the survey is now complete and has been widely publicised; it has been featured on the PTA website and appropriate posters have been located around the town and at the University. He also indicated that details of the survey had appeared in the Stirling Observer. The survey will close on February 14th and has secured 140 responses to date. BF highlighted the help the CC had received in this exercise from Andrew Davis and Stirling Council. MB reported that the survey will be covered again on the CC Facebook page and VMcD noted that it had been shared on the parents WhatsApp groups.

B 1711 Common Good Fund (AT)

AT provided a succinct update on the progress of the CC subcommittee's work on the Common Good Fund; to date the subcommittee had met on two occasions with a third meeting imminent. He reported that the CC had now received from SC the requested paper indicating alternative investment options; he stressed that the paper confirmed the CC's view that no substantial advantage in terms of yield could be secured without accepting a degree of risk, although he did remind the CC that it had sufficient flexibility to minimise risk by limiting the higher risk investment to only a portion of the fund. He emphasised that the CC can only advise SC on the level of risk that the CC could be prepared to take in order to achieve appropriate growth; the actual funding decision would remain with SC as would any consequent financial and legal risks.

AT also indicated that a significant issue which had to be considered were the CC to follow an alternative investment route was the question of liability and it was agreed that the CC might have to explore legal opinion on this issue; Andrew Davis pointed out that **SC would not be able to provide legal advice to the CC**. In the discussion which followed, it was noted that the question of charitable status might be worth investigating.

AT also reported that the subcommittee had considered the option of advising the CC to consider consulting a financial adviser before taking any final decisions, although such an option may well not be necessary. LH emphasised that the role of the subcommittee was to provide a set of recommendations to be considered by the full CC.

Gavin Drummond reminded the CC that, at all times and in accordance with the judgment of Lord Penrose, the Common Good Fund would remain under the control of SC. LH stressed that, since an SC officer had readily provided the CC with the paper covering a range of alternative investment strategies, this was a clear indication that SC had no difficulty in accepting in principle the CC's right to pursue these options; Councillor Majury confirmed that SC would be flexible in this regard.

B 1712 Play Park Initiative (SH)

SH provided a brief update on progress; she reported that AD has asked SC to indicate whether there were any relevant conditions attached to the fundraising. At present the committee is awaiting price quotations for the swings and the roundabouts and anticipates having these in the next few weeks.

B 1713 CPMP (JC)

JC provided a short but comprehensive update on the current situation.

In her report, she indicated that SC had undertaken an initial parking survey covering the duration, occupancy and turnover of specific streets and car parks in Bridge of Allan. The first meeting of the Bridge of Allan CPMP Steering Group had taken place, along with a public consultation exercise and a workshop for local businesses, to determine significant parking issues and ascertain ways of improving the parking experience. The outcomes of the initial survey and of the two consultation exercises are being analysed and will be carefully considered alongside the previous parking consultation undertaken by the Bridge of Allan Community Council, in addition to the Stirling area Access Panel's comments, with a view to developing a set of draft proposals. The survey and consultation event results, and also the draft proposals, will be

presented at the next Steering Group meeting on January 28th, after which further consultation, public and business, will take place.

JC reported that **206** respondents completed the preliminary questionnaire. That **40** very engaged residents attended the consultation event, while **10** representatives attended the business workshop.

In conclusion, JC emphasised that the process of the CPMP remains unchanged and that the timeline for the work will change significantly, despite the slight delay in holding the second Steering Group meeting.

B 1714 Changing Places Project (SH)

In terms of locating a changing places toilet in Bridge of Allan, SH reported that members of the Allan Centre committee were exploring the viability of utilising the space which is currently a disabled toilet; while the toilet is insufficiently large, a potential option would be to extend into the small storage cupboard adjacent to the toilet. SH explained that, were such an adoption to be adopted, a replacement disabled toilet would have to be established in the Centre, possibly in the broader context of having a lift at the entrance foyer for access to both the upper and lower levels and possibly making the changing room space a little smaller.

In conclusion, SH underlined the significance of the funding that would be required to take forward this worthwhile project; it was noted that, at present, there were no estimates of the financial costs involved, Andrew Davis underlined the fact that the issue was complicated by the fact that the Allan Centre is an SC building and may well already meet the full requirements of accessibility legislation; he indicated that SC could not provide funding and that the potential scale of the project could need funding of National Lottery standard.

B 1715 Co-operative Development (IMcC)

IMcC reiterated that the CC welcomed the opportunity of having a new co-op building but not unreservedly and he reported that the CC's submitted objection had received support in the community. He indicated that, although the original application has now been withdrawn, a fresh application will probably be submitted and he expressed to the elected members the CC's gratitude for their attempt to encourage the Co-op to meet with the CC to discuss the key issues.

Councillor Dodds confirmed that that he had spoken to a Co-op representative who had insisted that The Co-op would be willing to consult with the CC but only after the fresh planning application had been approved by SC planners. JC raised the option of the CC sending its own proposals to the Co-op but Councillor Dodds again stressed that these would only be discussed with the CC after planning approval had been granted by SC. LH asked Councillor Dodds if the Co-op representative had given any indication of whether the Co-op saw merit in the submitted objections but no such indication had been given. Valerie Sinclair pointed out that there was no consultation with Causeway Head Community Council when the new store was opened; Councillor McDonald confirmed that this was also the case in Doune. JC indicated that the CC could either adopt a proactive approach and write to the Co-op or simply fulfil the CC's responsibilities in terms of observing due process, AT suggested that the CC could consider writing directly to the Co-op CEO.

ACTION: IMcC will draft an appropriate communication to be sent to the Co-op senior management.

B 1716 Planning Report (IMcC)

IMcC reported on three planning applications. The first two were resubmissions namely one relating to the demolition of a house in Airthrey Avenue, with two new houses constructed on the site, and the other relating to the construction of a new build house in the garden of an existing dwelling in Wellgate Drive. Only one response from CC members had been received (with regard to the Airthrey Avenue application) and IMcC asked all CC members to send him their responses as soon as possible. The third application related to a change of use application in the former Beaconsburn School in terms of changing an IT block into residential accommodation and CC members were asked to submit any responses to IMcC.

IMcC raised the issue of a document receive by CC on Local Place Plans, something on which the Scottish government is currently consulting in preparation for secondary legislation; he commended the value of the document, particularly given that the planning process in Scotland can sometimes appear to be developer biased, and hestressed that the issue of LPPs is a matter which the CC might profitably take forward; LH underlined the fact that among the interesting features of the document was the way in which it touched on the broader issue of climate change. Councillor McDonald noted that he would be sending the relevant Strathard Community Life Plan as promised.

D McD confirmed that Graham' s have appealed against the decision of Scottish ministers on the Airthrey Kerse application, although there is as yet no information on the basis of the appeal; the matter is now back with the Court of Session and it could be months before a decision is reached. He also explained that the Court of Session might well take into account the housing availability issue and he stressed that, if unsuccessful, Graham's could be within their legal rights to submit a new planning application every few years or so.

B 1717 Secretary's Report (LH)

LH reported that Councillor Dodds had communicated with the CC on a number of matters. In terms of future marathons coming through the town, SC has agreed to put a proposal to the new event company on the difficulties for residents accessing and exiting the town. He has raised again with ScotRail the fact that the parking problem at the station is getting worse with double parking, parking on pavements, and disabled bays being occupied by non-disabled users. Prior to the withdrawal of the Co-op application. Councillor Dodds lodged an objection to having a recycling area in the car park in view of the fact that the previous bin had become an eyesore and he raised with SC the apparent lack of preliminary consultation by the Co-op; he had also raised the option of inviting a Co-op representative to a CC meeting, although SC indicated it has no powers to insist that an applicant undertake public consultation where the application is not a major application. The Councillor has forwarded confirmation from the SC Estates Team of the proposed future ownership and maintenance arrangements relating to the two car parks adjacent to the Co-op building.

Councillor Majury has also contacted the CC on a number of issues. SC has now confirmed that the posts for new Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) have been installed at two locations on Airthrey Road with the signs themselves to be installed shortly; any delay is due to the original signs being damaged in transit. SC has also advised that, in relation to the Active Travel project designed to introduce improvements for enhancing accessibility for cyclists and walkers along two busy travel corridors, including Airthrey Road, consultants are now working on the concept designs and these should be available early in the current year.

Councillor Tollemache indicated he has written to SC to express his concern about the Cornton Road level crossing in regard to cyclists using the crossing and in terms of which side of the crossing is used, given that the main cycle lane is on the left side coming from Bridge of Allan, whereas at the crossing it is on the right hand side.

The Dementia Services Coordinator at Town Dementia Support Services, Stirling, wrote to introduce herself to the CC as the new Befriender Coordinator for Town Break; she would welcome an opportunity to attend a CC meeting to discuss the services on offer. The Civic Trust has provided details of two forthcoming talks in the Smith Gallery, one on the evening of February 5th, on local Ecclesiastical Architectural Design, and the other on March 4th on local River restoration. RAGE is holding its AGM in the PE Room in the Allan Centre at 7.30 pm on Monday 10th February. A resident who works in Fairview International School has contacted the CC to stress that the school is keen to support and become involved in the community.

Courtesy of Gavin Drummond, the CC has now received an update on the progress of the darn walk bridge project from one of the project managers; two professional contractors, including a specialist bridge contractor, have concluded that the crossing should be built in smaller sections, using a different type of frame. Tenders have recently been issued.

A resident has written twice to voice concern about the condition of the stretch of Keir Street between Union Street and Fountain Road in relation to compacted tree debris. LH reported that he has passed the communications to Councillor Dodds and he also reminded the CC that where a resident has a concern about an issue which falls within the area of responsibility of an SC department, the matter should always be referred to an elected member. Councillor Dodds indicated that the section of Keir Street had in fact been cleaned by SC but he would raise with the relevant department the possibility of a further clean.

The SC project manager for the Walk, Cycle, Live Stirling initiative has written to the CC to request that it provide a representative for the proposed steering group; Anna Doeser has agreed to represent the CC in this capacity.

B 1718 Treasurer's Report (AD)

AD reported that the Play Park initiative had continued to receive donations and the funding now stood at just under £30,000. The Administration Fund currently stood at £5,114. The Christmas Lights Fund stood at £2,692 although it was anticipated that much of that would be accounted for in imminent expenditure; AD reminded the CC that funding had been allocated for new sponsor plaques.

AD suggested that the residue of the Christmas Lights money (£260) could be donated to a local charity; JC raised the alternative option of reinvesting the revenue. After some discussion, it was agreed to donate the Makers Market income of £165 to Start Up Stirling and retain the balance. MB indicated that it was likely that preparations for the next Christmas event would start at an earlier point in the year.

B 1719 Residents' Voice

A resident reported that, because of an objection made to SC, the authorised killing of grey squirrels had been stopped. Councillor Majury explained that SC had authorised this operation in error and had now felt compelled to impose severe restrictions on it.

A resident raised again the issue of the deteriorating surface at the entrance to the Health Centre car park and stressed that more was required than simply temporary patching; in addition, he noted that the crooked kerb stone in front of the Flooring Studio had not been fixed. In relation to the car park entrance, Councillor Dodds confirmed that SC have promised to dig up the relevant section of the tarmac and carry out a permanent repair.

Councillor Tollemache reported that the Inverallan Drive lights were defective again and that the problem of dog fouling was once more apparent in the town.

B 1720 AOCB

MB reported on the very successful Christmas Lights event. The planning committee had held a review meeting and had brainstormed ideas for future Christmas events; a summary of these would be available soon. MB indicated that the primary school PTA had expressed an interest in incorporating their Christmas Fayre in the main programme. As indicated earlier in the meeting, the committee intends to begin planning for next at a much earlier point in the year. JC expressed warm thanks to all involved in making this year's event such a success.

Further to the issue of dog fouling, AT expressed his concern about the degree of continued dog fouling on the path between Inverallan Drive and Station Road, all along Station road, and also on Henderson street on the right hand side coming down from the station: he had also observed fouling further along Henderson Street, for instance, opposite the Allan Water Café. Councillor Majury reminded the CC that parking infringements and instances of dog fouling were the province of the same enforcement officers.

AD reported on a number of 'active travel' matters. She indicated that Stirling Active Travel Hub will soon be applying for funding and she commended the value of Walk, Cycle Live Stirling's website as a helpful online platform.

SH reported that Pauline Roberts of SC has raised the possibility of initiating a survey on local community provision to establish what activities members of the local community would wish to have available in the Allan Centre. JC pointed out the risks of duplication, given that the Tennis Court survey had already been initiated. The fact that the Tennis Court survey had the advantage of being both focussed and succinct was noted. MB wondered if there was merit in contemplating conflating a number of consultative exercises under one broad umbrella; it was also suggested that interested parties could meet with SH to see if their specific consultative questions could be incorporated in the 'community' survey.

B 1721 Date of Next Meeting

JC declared the meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday, 18th February, 2020** at 7.30pm.

(LH : January, 2020)