



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

**Held on Tuesday 18th February, 2020
in the Allan Centre**

Present : Joanne Chisholm (JC) Vice Chair; Michael Burt (MB); Anna Doeser (AD) Treasurer; Bill Fortune (BF); Leslie Harkness (LH) Secretary; Siobhan Hencher (SH); Vicky McDowell (VMcD); Duncan McDougall (DMcD) (associate member); Alasdair Taylor (AT)

Apologies : Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Janie Meikle Bland (JMB) Sandra Davidson (SD); Iain McCusker (IMcC); Vicky McDowell (VMcD); Moira Randall (MR) (associate member); Mike Watson (MW) Chair; Alyn Smith MP; Councillor Alastair Majury; Andrew Davis (SC); Lucy McCormick (Minute Secretary); PC Paul Gilliland; PC Dee Chalmers

In attendance: Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Graham Houston; Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Councillor Jeremy McDonald

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

B 1722 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 1723 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log (JC/LH)

The minutes of the previous meeting of 21st January, 2020 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 1719** and the issue of dog fouling, particularly in Cornton Road, Henderson Street and the area around Inverallan Court, Councillor Tollemache contacted SC to propose that the Safer Communities Team meet with elected members and with the Community Council to discuss the situation. Regarding the poor condition of the footway at the entrance to the Health Centre car park, Councillor Tollemache contacted SC to raise similar concerns to those raised by Councillor Dodds, especially given that he had witnessed a lady with a buggy having some difficulty in negotiating the entrance; he has since informed the CC that SC has confirmed that the footway at the entrance would be permanently repaired in a matter of weeks, either during the evening or at the weekend.

Regarding **Item B 1717** and Councillor Tollemache's concerns about the Cornton Road level crossing, SC has written to the councillor to confirm that it will work with Network Rail and the Transport Development team to ensure that the new crossing will be appropriately signed for both cyclists and pedestrians. In addition, in relation to the Inverallan Road lights, Councillor Majury has informed the CC that SC has reported that the lights are currently working and has also explained that, since the power to the street lights in this area is directly connected to the Scottish Power network, work being undertaken by Scottish Power may cause issues; SC has also indicated that, while it was their intention to replace the Inverallan Road lights next year, this will now be delayed due to upcoming work involving PMK and Scottish Gas.

With regard to **Item B 1715** on the proposed Co-op development, Councillor Majury very helpfully forwarded an email he had received from the Co-op Regional Planning Manager, Chris Beebe, which provides some clarification on the rationale for their approach to consulting with the community on the proposed development. Chris Beebe stressed that the development is intended to provide the best possible shopping and working environment and that it is also intended to consult with the entire community, including the CC and the Parish Council; it is emphasised that there is no intention to present the community with a "done deal" and that its input is welcome. Mr Beebe maintained that the first point of contact has to be with SC planners, partly because, in the view of the Co-op, it is essential to observe the proper order of the process and, secondly, because it would be pointless to consult the community on proposals the planners might reject. Finally, he confirmed that consultation "events" for the whole community, including the CC and the Parish Council, will be organised once the discussions with planners are completed.

LH indicated that any matters arising from the Action Log would be covered in the relevant agenda items.

B 1724 Police Report (JC)

In the absence of the duty police officers, JC provided a concise summary of the report

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & VIOLENT CRIME

There were no incidents recorded

DRUG MISUSE

There were no incidents recorded

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

On January 27, two males entered retail premises on Henderson Street and stole a quantity of high value alcohol; both were charged and held in police custody, with one now remanded.

On February 7 (am), retail premises on Henderson were broken into and property stolen. A nearby retail property was also entered and a low monetary value item was removed. These incidents are currently being investigated.

February 9/10, a vehicle parked at Hume Court was broken into and property removed; this is still being investigated

February 9 (overnight), at Ogilvie Place, an insecure door was entered and items stolen. Enquiries are

ongoing and anyone with relevant information should contact 101 (ref : PS-202002 11-3204).

In relation to all these incidents, the community are asked to remain vigilant, report all suspicious matters to the police and bear in mind previous police security advice.

SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME

There were no incidents recorded

MATTERS OF NOTE

Between January 21st and and February 14th, the police received 70 calls to the Bridge of Allan beat code; 4 were concern for person calls, 7 were drug related calls, and 13 were road traffic related calls.

Community engagement and reassurance

Community officers recently carried out Bogus Workman patrols in Dunblane and Bridge of Allan. This included a leaflet drop, vehicle and persons checks and positive engagement with residents in both communities.

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.

Resident's Concern

A local resident employed in premises on Henderson Street expressed his concern about the large number of motorists he witnessed driving along Henderson Street while using their mobile phones; he estimated that this was occurring every 10/15 minutes. He also reported that he had witnessed a near miss as a resident was crossing the road

JC advised the resident of the next Community Police drop-in surgery which Councillor McDonald confirmed would take place in Bridge of Allan Library on March 14th while LH indicated that he would contact the two duty officers.

Action : LH will contact the community police officers

B 1725 Common Good Fund (AT)

AT reported that the CC subcommittee looking at the Common Good Fund had held a further meeting at which it had approved the drafts of four key documents, three of which had already been circulated to CC colleagues : BOA CGF Application Form; BOA CGF Application Form (Guidance sheet); Revised BOA Scoring Sheet; BOA CGF Application Process. AT indicated that the subcommittee had recommended that, after taking a full month for consideration, the CC should vote on the documents at the March meeting; he also explained that the immediate priority for the present meeting was for the CC to respond to the subcommittee's proposals for an appropriate expenditure and investment strategy for the CGF. In his short summary of these, AT reiterated that, since there was no wish to erode the capital of the CGF in annual

expenditure, any such expenditure, in a unique year where “special circumstances” required the CC to meet the financial demands of a major project, would have to be recovered within a reasonable period of time through ‘self- replenishment’ of the CGF by means of a higher interest rate. In addition, he noted that the alternative investment options provided for the CC by SC were essentially similar to the current investment strategy; the view of the subcommittee was that any effective strategy designed to generate additional income must of necessity involve carefully balancing risk and opportunity with security. AT reiterated that the subcommittee was not recommending going all out for equity investments and he stressed that it was happy to regard its proposal as an initial starting point and to have it challenged.

AT’s summary stimulated a broad discussion on the implications of the proposal. JC felt uneasy about designing a specific funding strategy to present to SC, particularly given the lack of experience of CC members in this area, and she proposed that the CC explore with SC its ability to generate specific options which would meet the broad criterion of securing a careful balance of risk and security as recommended by the subcommittee; she stressed that the CC wished to be regarded as an informed consultee. AT reminded the CC that final decisions on changes in the spread of investments would remain with SC as they are both legally and financially responsible for any such changes. LH stressed that he found it reassuring that our own responsibility for risk was limited and that there remained a dual protection for the CC, were an investment to fail, in that the risks remained with the Civic Panel and with SC, although he pointed that there could be a degree of reputational damage for the CC in those circumstances, AD underlined the significance of making investments with an ethical dimension. DMcD wanted to know hthe last occasion when there had been expenditure involving the capital of the CGF and it was confirmed by Gavin Drummond that there had to date been no instance of this happening.

LH maintained that there was some value in providing SC with specific strategies to highlight for the finance officers the CC’s own aspirations for the management of the fund, thus giving them a ‘nudge’ towards where the CC would wish to be. JC felt that the CC should certainly stipulate its goals, particularly in terms of underlining the fact that the CC was not averse to securing a more profitable investment strategy. MB suggested that the CC could request that SC delineate a strategy plan which could secure a specific interest rate eg 3%. Gavin Drummond noted that equity funds go up and down and it is only a matter of concern when an investment has to be realised and he also reminded the CC of the uniqueness of the Bridge of Allan CGF in respect of its assets being in the form of cash, rather than land and buildings. Councillor Houston emphasised that the CC was breaking new ground and he suggested that the CC complete a risk assessment form as a basis for a collective conversation with SC, while Councillor McDonald indicated that the professional officer to contact would be Jim Boyle, Chief Finance Officer. In the context of the CGF, Councillor Dodds raised the fact that the Highland Games Committee had indicated it would welcome an indication in principle from the CC that, in future years, the CC would contemplate allocating an element of funding for the cost of coning the streets, while Councillor Tollemache noted that the Car Rally event might require similar funding; in response, JC stated that every organisation would in future have to submit a formal application.

Those present agreed that the CC should not present SC with a specific investment strategy but should instead encourage the relevant SC officers to draw up a strategy to reflect the CGF objectives of the CC. JC emphasised the need to take account of the views of those colleagues who were absent from the meeting. The option of exploring the issues further at a development meeting to allow the CC to move towards a collective response to the proposal was also raised.

Action: The subcommittee will complete a risk assessment form.

Action: The subcommittee will contact Jim Boyle to arrange a preliminary meeting.

B 1726 CPMP (JC)

JC provided a short progress update on SC's CPMP initiative for Bridge of Allan

200 respondents completed the parking consultation survey, 40 very engaged residents attended the consultation event and 10 business representatives attended the business workshop. Taken along with the information generated by the Bridge of Allan CC survey, as well as SC's preliminary survey on the duration, occupancy and turnover in relation to specific car parks and streets, SC is confident that it is assembling a very helpful and accurate picture of the parking situation in the town.

Councillor Dodds indicated that the key messages coming through were that there was no significant requirement for major changes and that it would be helpful to have the support of Stirling University in terms of alleviating the problem of student parking in the town. AD felt it was encouraging that a University representative had attended the last steering group meeting and that he had indicated that the parking facility on the campus itself might improve to some degree.

B 1727 Tennis Courts (BF)

BF reported that the community consultation survey had closed on the previous Friday. He provided a short report on a number of the findings of the survey which had generated 188 responses, 40% of whom indicated that they played tennis. The spread of respondents between the ages of 30 to 60 was good but less good for the younger age group. The survey revealed that, in the past year, of those who used the courts, 6 respondents used the courts weekly, 13 monthly and the remainder less often. BF also reported that he had met with the resident who works at Fairview International School and who had contacted the CC; the resident had confirmed that the school wished to see its pupils engaging with the community and he raised the possibility, subject to the approval of the school management, that the pupils could be involved in weekly maintenance of the courts.

B 1728 Play Park Initiative (SH)

SH confirmed that there was nothing at present to report as the project group was waiting for the relevant starting dates. AD confirmed that the lottery application had been made.

B 1729 Changing Places Project(SH)

SH reported that that a meeting of the project committee was imminent.

B 1730 Station Benches (JC)

JC reported that it was still unclear if the benches would be replaced; she has written to Network Rail but has not, as yet, had a response. She stressed the significant benefits of the benches and the CC were in full agreement with her view.

B 1731 Secretary's Report (LH)

LH reported on the following matters.

Councillor Majury had informed the CC that Network Rail intends to resurface and reline the disabled parking bays in March. The councillor has also just informed the CC that a public meeting with ScotRail for both Bridge of Allan and Dunblane residents has been arranged for Monday 23rd March at 7.30 pm in the Allan Centre

Councillor Majury had also written to the CC about the fact that, while at the request of a former community council, Bridge of Allan is already a No Cold calling Zone, the community council of the time did not wish to have relevant signs erected to indicate that the town is such a zone; in his view, the current CC should consider asking Trading Standards to have signs in place. *The matter was then the subject of a short discussion. SH drew attention to a recent scam involving a local resident. BF raised the issue of the maintenance of any signs and Councillor Dodds confirmed that he was in possession of a supply of the yellow signs were these to be required. Gavin Drummond suggested such a zone was essentially not enforceable. At the close of the discussion, it was decided to take no further action on the matter at the present time, although LH indicated that Councillor Majury might wish to raise the matter at the next meeting.*

Councillor Dodds had written to inform the CC that, in relation to the Open Gardens Scheme, he requested that the allotment grass be cut before the event. He also sent the copies of his correspondence with the police about an incident in the Co-op car park, an incident not reported to the police by the apparent victim. In relation to parking issues, he has raised again with SC the issue of vehicles parking at the Inverallan Road/Station Road junction and SC has confirmed that enforcement officers will target this junction. In addition, he has raised with SC the issue of dogs allowed by their owners to run freely in the Fountain Road play park.

SC has sent the CC details of the arrangements for VE Day 75 on May 8th.

SC has also provided Bridge of Allan and Dunblane community councils with a brief update on the Park of Keir development Section 75 agreement negotiations, indicating that these are nearing completion and that a time extension from Scottish ministers will now be sought to allow the negotiations to reach their conclusion; SC is appreciative of the patience displayed by both CCs during the protracted negotiations. SC has just advised CCs on confirming with their insurers that they have sufficient cover for potentially 'hazardous' activities such as litter picks. *JC noted that the CC has not been involved in any litter picks this year and AD assured the CC that its insurer is briefed prior to its involvement in any event.*

Our Connected Neighbourhoods has informed the CC of its next Conversation Café in the Iris Murdoch room in Stirling University between 10.30 and 12.45 on Thursday, February 27th and the CC was sent a copy of the organisation's report on last year's Conversation Café. The Social enterprise Academy in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is hosting an event on Growing Enterprise Communities on March 12th and is running a programme of modules on 'Enterprising Leadership for the Third Sector' in three 2-day slots in March, April and May.

The CC has received notification of the 'Walk, Cycle, Live Stirling' Concept Design Public Drop-in Event on Wednesday, 26th February at the Cowane Centre, Stirling between 1.30 and 6.30 pm.

In relation to the CC's consultation on the Tennis Courts, a resident has written to suggest that the courts should be sold and the funds put towards supplementing the facilities in the town by assisting in having an all-weather, fenced and floodlit 5 a side football pitch located in Haws Park in front of the car park. Graham Russell of the Friends of Bridge of Allan has written to outline proposed work by SC on the Peace Garden in the Memorial Park. The garden is apparently in a poor condition and has been under review for some time; not only does it suffer from wet ground conditions but, in addition, the various memorial plaques are badly

weathered and, in some cases, damaged or non-existent. SC proposes to remove the existing trees, shrubs and bedding areas, leaving the memorial stone and the existing plaques. The intention is to restore the area back to grass in the meantime and to look at the viability of introducing some drainage to see if this improves matters; new planting will be considered at a future stage. Graham Russell had indicated that the Friends of Bridge of Allan Steering Group would be grateful to receive any comments on what is proposed. *In the brief discussion which followed, BF explained that the garden was a memorial to the victims of Hiroshima. It was pointed out that the drainage made the maintenance of the garden a significant challenge. A resident reminded the CC that the establishment of the garden had been highly contentious at the time and the resident also suggested that the disappearance of the garden would not provoke any great degree of opposition. Councillor Tollemache felt it was important to make the group which visited the garden on a yearly basis aware of this development.*

B 1732 Treasurer's Report (AD)

In her report, AD indicated that there had been no movement in relation to the Play Park account. She also reported that, in terms of the Christmas Lights, the account for Goodman Electrical had now been paid, and a donation had been made to Start Up Stirling. It was suggested that the CC should publicise the "Outlander" money it received.

On behalf of Tea's Company, and given that it was now fully independent with its own bank account, Councillor Dodds expressed his gratitude to the CC for its initial support.

B 1733 Residents' Voice

A resident raised the fact that motorists were consistently parking in the Tesco loading bay, despite the availability of alternative parking, and he suggested that nothing would be lost by removing the bay.

Another resident voiced his hope that the imminent repair of the footway at the entrance to the Health Centre car park would be undertaken effectively to ensure an appropriate degree of permanence.

B 1734 AOCB

There was no other business

B 1735 Date of Next Meeting

JC declared the meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday, 17 March, 2020** at 7.30pm.

(LH : February, 2020)