



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 21st April, 2020

Due to Covid-19 this meeting was held remotely via Zoom

Present : Joanne Chisholm (JC) Vice Chair; Michael Burt (MB); Anna Doeser (AD) Treasurer; Bill Fortune (BF); Leslie Harkness (LH) Secretary; Alasdair Taylor (AT); Iain McCusker (IMcC); Lucy McCormick (Minute Secretary)

Apologies: Duncan McDougall (DMcD) (associate member); Siobhan Hencher (SH); Vicky McDowell (VMcD); Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Janie Meikle Bland (JMB) Sandra Davidson (SD); Vicky McDowell (VMcD); Moira Randall (MR) (associate member); Mike Watson (MW) Chair; Alyn Smith MP; Andrew Davis (SC); PC Paul Gilliland; PC Dee Chalmers; Councillor Jeremy McDonald

In attendance: Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Graham Houston; Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Councillor Alastair Majury

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

B 1736 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest (JC)

JC, acting as chair in the absence of MW. opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed all those in attendance via Zoom; apologies were recorded as indicated above and no conflicts of interest was noted. The meeting were informed that it was being recorded for the purposes of the minutes.

B 1737 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log (JC/LH)

The minutes of the previous meeting of 18th February, 2020 were approved (Proposed: MB, Seconded: AD). For information there was no CC meeting in March due to Covid-19.

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

There were three corrections to the minutes:

Firstly, from Graham Russell of the Friends of Bridge of Allan, under **Item B 1730** on the Station Benches, the CC contacted ScotRail **not Network Rail** and also under Item **B 1731** on the Peace Garden the group involved is the Memorial Park Steering Group and **not the Friends Steering Group**.

In addition, Alasdair Taylor has requested an amendment relating to **Item B 1725** on the Common Good Fund. The third and fourth sentences in the opening paragraph should now read as follows:

“ 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 lowered spend in subsequent years. The overall long-term aim would be to ensure that the capital sum is not eroded over time."

In relation to **Item B 1733** and the discussion about motorists parking on the Tesco loading bay area, Councillor Dodds has now raised this with SC.

In terms of **Item B 1731** and the Peace garden, we received an email from our Chair, MW, stressing that his view is clear and unequivocal, namely that the Peace Garden should be maintained and should continue to play an important part in the community

Regarding **Item B 1729** and the Changing Places project, Councillor Majury informed us that the Stirling Area Access Panel is interested in the project, given its emphasis on widening access in the Allan Centre; however due to their other commitments, they are unable at present to give a presentation at a CC meeting. The Panel is happy to welcome any residents and any community council members to attend their operational meetings in the Riverbank Resource Centre in Stirling; their next meeting is at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 5th May.

In relation to **Item B 1724**, the Police Report and a resident's concern about the level of mobile phone use by drivers in Henderson Street, I did contact our two duty police officers and PC Chalmers confirmed that they have had a number of calls about this recently. She proposed to ask the RPU (Road Policing Unit) if they could do extra patrols with unmarked cars to reinforce the work of herself and PC Gilliland.

In terms of **Item B 1731** and the dog fouling issue raised by Councillor Dodds, the Safer Communities team have written to the councillor to note that 15 dog fouling patrols were undertaken in Bridge of Allan in January and these will increase in coming months; in addition the enforcement officers will target play parks in this area.

In relation to **Item B 1731** and the "Walk, Cycle, Live Stirling" concept design proposals for the two routes the CC has been informed that these have been uploaded on the project's website.

B 1738 Covid-19 (JC)

JC introduced Jo Cookson who then provided an update on the work that has been taking place in relation to supporting the community during Covid-19 through the support group called Bridge of Allan Cares.

There are over 200 volunteers as part of Bridge of Allan Cares who provide support to vulnerable and isolated individuals which can include shopping, prescription pick-ups, going to the post office etc. There is a helpline number which diverts to Jo Cookson, Jo then takes the call to understand the requests and then it is actioned via facebook messenger. There are approx. 12 groups of 20 people who provide the support. Everything is done as distance and the preference is online payments where possible. Jo has dealt with over 150 requests to date and if additional requests are included this comes to 324. Recognition was given to the great community spirit that this support group has generated.

JC asked if there was anything that the CC could assist with and Jo Cookson advised that she would like to see some form of food hub established, similar to The Kitchen @ 44. JC took the action to investigate this option together with assistance from Cllr Tollemache.

B 1739 Police Report (JC)

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

The report encompasses all relevant crime and other matters which have occurred between the dates 17th

March to 19th April 2020.

It should be noted that there were 9 recorded crimes within the Bridge of Allan area below are the pertinent ones to the local community.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Between 26th and 28th March at Inverallan Court a vehicle was damaged. If you have any information in relation to this please contact 101 ref: PS-20200328-0965.

On 18th April at Avenue Park a male was acting in a threatening and abusive manner, he was dealt with by police and a report will be sent to the PF in relation to this.

DRUG MISUSE

On 7th April at Sheriffmuir Road a male was found to be in possession of cannabis by police. The male was issued with a recording police warning in relation to this.

On 14th April at Henderson Street a male was found to be in possession of cannabis by police. The male has been reported to the PF office in relation to this.

VIOLENT CRIME - nothing to report

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

Between the end of February and 16th April 2020 an insecure garage within Churchill Drive was entered and high value electrical items were stolen. If you have any information regarding this please contact 101 ref: PS-20200417-2681.

On 20th March 2020 an elderly female received a phone call from her local bank asking her to transfer a large sum of money therefore defrauding her. Enquiries are ongoing in relation to this but we would urge all the local community to be aware of these type scams and not to part with any money.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME - nothing to report.

MATTERS OF NOTE

Between the 17th March and 19th April 2020 there has been 84 calls to the Bridge of Allan beat code, please bear in mind this also covers some of the Cornton and motorway. 1 of these relate to a missing person, 3 of these relate to concern for persons type calls and 4 of these relate to domestic type incident.

Across the UK we have seen evidence that fraudsters are increasingly targeting the public and organisations by telephone, email, text and what's app messages in relation to COVID19 offering cures etc. Fake websites are being set up in relation to testing kits and "cures" and other websites asking for donations. We ask the public to be vigilant in relations to this and not fall scam to any of these.

We have had recent complaints in relation to persons not adhering to the guidelines in the local beauty spots within the area, officers are patrolling these areas as and when we can and engaging with the public.

Community engagement and reassurance:

Due to COVID19 CPT are unable to be as active in the community due to social distancing guidelines and

other matters at present. We would like to encourage the local community to continue to adhere to these guidelines set by the government.

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 of dishonesty have been reported.

B 1740 Common Good Fund (AT)

A developmental meeting took place last Wednesday 15th April 2020 at which there was a lot of good discussion. In response to that meeting, there were 3 actions to progress in terms of materials which have subsequently been circulated for review with supporting comments. The CC agreed that these will now go on the CC website which MB agreed to do.

There were 2 actions from the February CC meeting. One was a risk scoring scheme which has been forwarded last night to the CC. The CC agreed that all members will complete the form and the score and send their output to AD who will then take an average of the scores. The other action was to write to the Finance Director of SC which AT will do this week.

Item to be carried forward to the next CC meeting.

B 1741 Station Benches (JC)

JC reported that she has yet had a response from ScotRail since the response on 6 March 2020 regarding the benches and if they would be replaced. **Action:** Councillor Alasdair Tollemache to chase Scot Rail for an update and item to be carried forward to the next CC meeting.

B 1742 Tennis Courts (BF)

BF reported that Covid-19 has delayed a meeting that was due to take place with Ruth Davidson from Active Stirling and Andy Davis (SC) to progress the initiative following the results of the community consultation survey. 2 trends from the survey is the physical state of tennis courts and the provision of casual social tennis. Item to be carried forward to the next CC meeting.

B 1743 Play Park Initiative/ Changing Places Project (SH)

SH provided an update via email. Awaiting update on the PlayPark. In relation to the changing places toilet there is a meeting organised with SC for Tuesday 5th May with Tracey Mills and Jim Bell. If this meeting does go ahead, there will be discussions on the possibilities of a changing places toilet and options to make the Allan Centre more accessible.

Awaiting response from Stirling council about the progress of the purchase of the equipment and the start date of the installation and path works give the pandemic situation. Some of the funding is time limited and delays could cause us to spend outside the grant conditions. Given that this is a Stirling council grant we hope they will be accommodating.

B 1744 Telephone Box (CB)

Item to be carried forward to the next CC meeting however it was agreed that if there is going to be an issue moving it, it is proposed that once out of lockdown, a small group from the CC should carry out an assessment in its current position and whether it can be utilised e.g. for a book exchange. CC in agreement to this.

B 1745 Flooding (LH)

Email sent to Leslie Harkness today regarding meeting on 2 March 2020. A lot of the issues because of the current situation have not been addressed so propose item carried forward to the next meeting when hopefully more of an update.

B 1746 Planning (IMc)

SC still sending out a planning schedules however no new planning applications have been submitted in last 2 weeks. In relation to the work that has been carried out at the Old Well House next to Vecchia Bologna restaurant, it is a B listed building in a conservation area and therefore there is a requirement for planning consent and listed building consent. SC has been contacted in relation to this and awaiting response. Graham Houston advised there are 22 applications in the pipeline which will be loaded onto the portal. Alastair Tolmarche confirmed the Park of Keir Section 75 negotiations have been extended to end of June 2020.

B 1747 Secretary's Report (LH)

LH reported on the following matters.

Councillor Majury reminded the CC again of the disquieting SC statistics about the level of air pollution in Henderson Street and, in relation to the Co-op development, he informed the CC that the Co-op has been in touch with the residents of the building which shares a boundary with the current Co-op premises. He also wrote to inform us that the repairs to the wall belonging to the properties in Allanvale Road, where part of the footway has had to be closed, were imminent, weather permitting. In addition, he has informed us that the Vehicle Activated Signs for Airthrey road to remind drivers that it is a 30 mph speed limit were due to be installed and commissioned on March 5th.

Councillor Dodds forwarded initial details of the City of Edinburgh's request to the Scottish Government to make 2024 the Year of the Burgh. He also informed us that he has raised with SC the fact that the Patterson clock has once again stopped working. The councillor recently informed the CC that he had requested a police speed check after standing for 30 minutes on Airthrey Road by the zebra crossing at Wallace High School and noting 27 vehicles from a total of 52 activated the speed sign. He also has just provided details of SC's restricted priority-based grass cutting schedule.

Councillor Tollemache wrote to inform the CC that he had contacted SC to ask if it had taken any action to reassure the residents in the area of Cornton Road alarmed by the rising flood water. SC confirmed that throughout the day the Communications team had kept social media up to date on when roads were closed and reopened and it indicated that no properties had actually been flooded. He also sent us something that could not be more timely, a copy of SC's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

SC sent us details of its Climate Emergency Conversation public drop-in event for businesses and community groups in the Albert Halls. The council also confirmed that the deadline for submitting nomination forms for the Provost's Awards is Friday 27th May. The Scottish Land Commission sent the CC details of its public meeting held on March 10th to discuss how communities can benefit from land reform. SC reminded us that consultation on Police Scotland's refreshed joint strategy "Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland" closed on March 2nd.

Courtesy of the Friends of Bridge of Allan, the CC learned that as part of a commitment to help the environment, United Closures and Plastics intend to plant trees in the former football field next to their

staff car park and have asked if the Friends could assist in any way; in response, the Friends are circulating their volunteers.

Our Connected Neighbourhoods sent a copy of their March newsletter.

The CC has received material on the document produced by a group of community councillors who attended a workshop on Local Place Plans entitled Local Place Plans: A Scottish Community Position. Local energy (Scotland) sent us details of their newly produced Community Benefits toolkit.

The Glen Road volunteers provided the CC with details of an online survey designed to secure information for the project's funders on the current level of use of the road.

Ian McLaren of the Dr Welsh trust sent the CCI an email about the Well House which is apparently being restored by the new purchaser'

A resident has contacted the CC about the unsanitary nature of the door into the Health Centre as there are two handles to be touched and he also suggests that the CC be given sufficient resources to provide local services such as street cleaning, parks maintenance etc, with the Chair serving as Councillor for the town.

B 1748 Treasurer's Report (AD)

Bridge of Allan Community Council				
Treasurer's report				
April				
Restricted Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
1. Playparks Fund	29396.06			29396.06
2. Administration Fur	5052.38			
Web hosting -April			6	5046.38
3. Teas Company	306.43			
Hall Rental -March			44	
Training courses -Food hygien and first aid			262.43	0
4. Christmas lights 2i	109			109
Total Available Funds				34551.44
Add unrepresented cheques/payments *:				
Christmas Craft expenses	cheque not sent yet			94.22
Stationary	cheque not sent yet			20
Tea's Company Hall rental -feb	cheque not sent yet			88
Donation to start up stirling	sent, possibly not able to go to bank			165
Tea's Company Hall rental -march	cheque not sent yet			44
Tea's company training	transaction not confirmed			262.43
Less outstanding receipts				
Lights sponsor	cheque not collected			150
Bank balance at 20th April				35075.09

Anna Doerer
Treasurer
April 20th 2020

* a few more pending cheques do to covid 19 movement restrictions

B 1749 Residents' Voice - no points raised

B 1750 AOCB - no other business raised

B 1751 Date of Next Meeting

JC closed the meeting at 8.44 pm. The date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 19th May, 2020 at 7.30pm.**