



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 18th August, 2020

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

Present: Mike Watson (MW) Chair; Joanne Chisholm (JC) Vice Chair; Leslie Harkness (LH) Secretary; Anna Doerer (AD) Treasurer; Bill Fortune (BF); Iain McCusker (IMcC); Lucy McCormick (Minute Secretary); Vicky McDowell (VMcD); Siobhan Hencher (SH); Sandra Davidson (SD)

Apologies: Michael Burt (MB); Alasdair Taylor (AT); Duncan McDougall (DMcD) (associate member); Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Janie Meikle Bland (JMB); Moira Randall (MR) (associate member); Alyn Smith MP; Andrew Davis (SC); PC Paul Gilliland; PC Dee Chalmers; Councillor Jeremy McDonald, Duncan Kes (DC), Councillor Alastair Majury

In attendance: Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Graham Houston; Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; MSP Alexander Stewart

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

B 1781 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest (JC)

JC chaired this meeting. JC opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed all those in attendance via Zoom; apologies were recorded as indicated above. Only conflicts raised were Councillor Graham Houston in relation to active planning applications and Councillor Douglas Dodds in relation to Park of Keir. The meeting attendees were informed that it was being recorded for the purposes of the minutes.

B 1782 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log (LH)

The minutes were approved of the 16th June 2020 CC meeting. Proposed by BF and seconded by IMc.

In relation to Item B 1775 and the Well House, Councillor Dodds confirmed that SC's planning officers were aware of the work being undertaken at the property, while Iain McCusker received confirmation that SC Planning Enforcement was investigating the matter. We subsequently learned from Councillor Dodds that the Enforcement Team had advised the owners to stop work and submit a planning and listed building application.

Regarding Item B 1773 and the telephone box, Councillor Tollemache contacted SC and the relevant officer confirmed that, while planning permission would be required were the box to be relocated, if the box were to remain in situ, depending on its proposed use, it is unlikely that planning permission would be required.

In relation to the Action Log for the June meeting, since MB cannot be with us tonight, the two action points he agreed to take forward, namely gathering comments relating to the 20 mph zone and also facilitating the establishment of a community group to oversee the telephone box refurbishment, have been deferred to the September meeting.

B 1783 Police Report (JC)

It should be noted that there was 17 recorded crimes within the Bridge of Allan area below are the pertinent ones to the local community.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The community policing team are aware of the ASB issues within the local beauty spots, wooded area and near to the rivers. We will continue to patrol these areas as and when we can and pay extra attention to them. Although we do encourage the public to call 101 with any concerns in relation to ASB within the local area.

DRUG MISUSE

On 12th July 2020 at Pendreich Road, the local CPT recovered a small amount of cannabis from a male. The male was charged in relation to this offence and given a recording police warning.

VIOLENT CRIME - Nothing to report.

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

On 10th July 2020 at Pendreich Road wood was stolen from an outdoor shed. It is believed this was by local youths, if you have any information in relation to this please contact 101 ref: PS-20200622-3825.

On 13th July 2020 at Queens Lane a male was found within one of the local properties breaking in, he was discovered hiding within by police and was arrested and appeared at Stirling Sheriff Court the next day.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME

On 17th June 2020 at Henderson Street a driver was reported to the fiscal in relation to exceeding the 30mph speed limit.

Over the past 2 months the community policing team have conducted speeds on Cornton Road and Henderson Street on 9 occasions. 18 drivers were warned in relation to their speed and 4 conditional offers of fixed penalties were issued.

MATTERS OF NOTE

We are aware of the issues within the local area in relation to anti-social behaviour and COVID related issues, especially at local beauty spots in the good weather. We will continue to monitor this and pay it extra attention as and when we can.

Since the last community council meeting there has been 148 calls to the Bridge of Allan beat code but please bear in mind this encompasses some of the Cornton area and the motorway. Of these calls 17 were in relation to public nuisance call, 1 were in relation to missing person, 3 were in relation to domestic incidents and 17 were in relation to road traffic matters.

Activity for forthcoming month:

1. Carry out patrols in areas in which road safety concerns have been identified and near to local primary schools.
2. Attend and patrol areas in which crimes of dishonesty have been reported.
3. Carry out patrols in area in which ASB concerns have been raised and identified.

B1784 Park of Keir (LH provided update)

The CC raised the concern about the lack of clear consultation and perceived refusal by SC to release terms of draft agreement in relation to the Park of Keir development. Similar concern raised by the chair of the Dunblane CC. The developers have confirmed they have no issue with transparency.

Councillor Alasdair Tollemache confirmed there is a freedom of information currently so communications have to be released by the 28th of August 2020. Councillor Alasdair Tollemache asked SC to put all the information in the public domain. Draft agreement has not been signed yet. Any paper would go to the planning committee meeting on 6th Oct 2020. This is now nearly 3 years which is long time and therefore it is likely that SC will probably need to go back to the Minister to ask for an extension unless signed in next few weeks.

B1785 Speeding Issues Update (Cllr Dodds)

There are monthly meetings now in place which include a resident, a CC representative and 4 elected members. There are plans to put down additional strips to assess volume of vehicles and speed. If this shows a clear indication, there may be an opportunity to change Blairforkie up to Keir Street roundabout to 20mph. SC are looking to produce a road map to reduce speed which will be presented to the elected members and CC with the aim of improving and reducing speed.

B 1786 Play Park Initiative/ Changes Places Project (SH)

In July 2020 the Council confirmed they had ordered swings and roundabouts. Delivery may take up to 10 weeks.

B 1787 A9 Restricted Parking (Councillor Dodds)

Councillor Dodds provided an update on the proposed work to re-line the A9 with what was previously there and reinforcing it with additional signage.

They are looking to promote parking restrictions within the cycle lanes of the A9 from Inverallan Road towards the 30/40 boundary near Lecropt Nursery. This has been requested to prevent vehicles from being parked in this area. The cycle lane is mandatory and no parking should occur as a rule. However it has been requested that parking restrictions are marked to ensure that there is no indiscriminate parking as has been seen on random occasions.

Email to be re-circulated to the CC and any feedback to be provided by end of week (by 21 Aug 2020).

B 1788 Tennis Courts (BF)

Summarised below is the outcome of the meeting with Stirling Council at the end of July 2020.

The council would not adopt an all-weather playing surface as they do not have the technical expertise in house to maintain and do not have the funding to outsource. The proposal from the Council is to replace the blaes surface with an asphalt/tarmac surface.

The surface would have an imperceptible camber running from the net line, to allow water drain off

and to avoid puddling.

Providing direct access to the tennis courts using the current access would likely require planning permission for a new path and be costly. Instead, it is proposed to use the existing path to the MUGA and provide access to the tennis courts by means of a sliding gate, wide enough to accommodate wheelchair users.

The Council will provide an estimate of the costs involved, which will be broken down into the cost of resurfacing, renewing the fencing to the same type as in use for the M.U.G.A., and the cost of installing new net posts and netting.

Some test pits of the sub surface is required by the Council, to establish the suitability and likely sustainability of any new surface laid. Stirling Council will organize this. This is also required so that the Council can establish what drainage options are available to them.

It is hoped that an outline of indicative costings will be available for the next CC meeting. Given the interest shown by the volunteer involvement and also the offer of SC support, It was agreed that the CC should proceed with the initiative and, after costings are available, contact Jean Cowie from Stirling Council to lead on the funding application.

B 1789 Telephone Box (CB)

Carried forward to next meeting. Some feedback from people near phone box so will consider that specific feedback.

B 1790 Planning Report (IMc)

Planning objection has been launched for the Royal Hotel. There has also been a number of other objections.

The is now signage on the Ivy on Henderson Street saying it is an unsafe building, this is to remind people it is a dis-used building and unsafe for children to play in.

IMc to review the communication regarding Public consultation on changes to the planning Act and confirm back to the CC.

B 1791 Chair's report (MW)

MW updated on the following points:

- The rebuilding of the bridge on the Darn walk will happen but not until April next year.
- Issues raised about fencing beyond cave on the Darn walk and new woodland development which has been put up by the owner. There is now a deer fence and another fence which is nearer to the river. The fence nearer to the river has created a number of pinch points.
- Concern previously raised about the state of the Provost park toilets. Gavid Drummond assessed them and confirmed they do need painted and perhaps a fan replacement. Gavin Drummond will contact council about the ramp due to water/ mud issues on it and potential slip hazard.

B 1792 Secretary's report

Councillor Dodds and Councillor Tollemache forwarded details of SC's proposed changes to the waste collection service, an issue which has generated a considerable level of negative comment on our media sites.

Councillor Dodds and Councillor Houston, plus SC itself, sent details of SC's arrangements to prepare key locations in Bridge of Allan and Stirling, as a whole. for the retail reopening on Monday, 29th June.

Councillor Houston, having received emails from constituents relating to verge cutting, to the use by SC of weed killer, to the grass cutting in playparks and to ongoing open space maintenance, has informed the CC that he has asked SC to consider the way forward in revisiting the present grass cutting processes, particularly given the impact of the pandemic on the normal maintenance schedule.

Councillor Dodds informed the CC that he has raised two issues with SC, namely the need to address the resultant road mess arising from SGN gas operations and also the encroaching vegetation on the mid wood path leading to Henderson Street. He also forwarded confirmation from SC that the temporary closure of New Street had been revoked.

Councillor Tollemache forwarded an email from the resident who, last year, raised the issue of providing additional bins for the Blairforkie Drive picnic areas and who has noted that the bins, at present. are often totally full, with additional waste stacked on top. The councillor has raised the matter with SC who have indicated that the appropriate solution would be to replace the single bins with double bins and that, while this can only happen when the single bins are failing, one option would be to replace bins failing in other areas of Bridge of Allan with those from Blairforkie which could, in turn, be replaced with double bins. The same resident has raised the issue of a group of minks currently present on the Allan water and often heading for the park and he wonders if pest control measures could be implemented by SC. Councillor Tollemache also forwarded a SC paper updating the Council's responses to the most frequently asked residents' questions relating to the revised waste collection arrangements.

In relation to the Park of Keir development, Councillor Tollemache forwarded a copy of his communication with SC requesting that the council review its decision not to release the terms of the draft agreement, particularly given the developers' previous statement to the effect that they had no issue with transparency. The CC also received , from the Chair of Dunblane Community Council, a detailed communication voicing his concerns about the planning process relating to the Park of Keir development.

Councillor McDonald indicated to the CC that Callander Community Council would be getting in touch with us to share their concerns about the SC Flood Scheme and about what they perceive as limited consultation on the issue.

Graham Russell, Chair of the Friends of Bridge of Allan wrote to inform the CC that, reluctantly, the Friends had formally informed ScotRail that since, despite the promise to cut the station grass every 4 - 6 weeks, only one cut had taken place with the grass again overgrown and unsightly, that since concerns about the general dilapidation of the station have not elicited a response, and that since there has been no positive outcome on the matter of replacing the two removed platform benches, the Friends would not be carrying out any further work at the station. Further to this, Councillor Dodds has since forwarded an email from ScotRail to indicate that, while their teams have been focused on Covid-19 related operations, the works required for the railway station will now form a stand-alone package and that ScotRail is now liaising with the contractor for a delivery date. The communication indicates that the recent grass cutting exercise at the station was hindered by significant dog fouling. A further development is that ScotRail have now informed Councillor Dodd that the disabled bays have now been resurfaced and re-lined.

SC has provided an update on its traffic management measures confirming that the present temporary emergency 20mph speed limit in Henderson Street between Inverallan Road and Melville Place will continue for a period of up to 18 months to ensure social distancing and safe pedestrian access to shops,

Callander Community Council contacted the CC and many other community councils to express its concern about the introduction of the new waste collection arrangements and the lack of appropriate consultation on such a crucial matter.

The CC received notification that the preliminary date for the Graham planning appeal had been set for today.

The Secretary of the Coneyhill Association shared with the CC a letter sent to the four elected members requesting an investigation into the demolition of a stone boundary wall in Kenilworth road.

The Drumdrills Farm Woodland Creation consultant has written to explain that the second fence which has been established on the Darn Walk path near the Ben Gunn cave marks the original field as registered with the Department of Agriculture and follows the line of the original fence removed some months ago as a temporary measure; the communication stresses there are no plans to remove the new fence.

A Dunblane resident copied in the CC to an email to one of our elected members maintaining that it is the responsibility of SC to demonstrate the management of its sites in accordance with biodiversity criteria.

A resident has forwarded a copy of the detailed objection to the Royal Hotel proposals which he has submitted to SC.

A resident has suggested that a piece of fenced waste land beside the river could be converted into a community pig farm and that this could be funded from the Common Good Fund.

Two residents, one of whom is a semi-regular correspondent, have written to suggest that, given their condition, the Keir Street tennis courts be sold, possibly for housing development, and the money used to establish a new tennis court at the primary school and to develop a 5 a side floodlit pitch at Haws Park. I have written back to explain that none of this is in the gift of the CC and that, should there prove to be tangible support for the proposal, it should be taken up, in the first instance, with the elected members.

A resident has raised the matter of the apparent untidiness arising from the 4 waste bins at the top of Allanvale Road on Henderson Street.

Only yesterday, Councillor Tollemache forwarded an email from a resident expressing concern about the ongoing dangers arising from the temporary parking outside Bridge of Allan Primary School at school run drop off and pick up times, something which is now undermining safe social distancing. The resident suggests SC should consider closing the relevant road section at those times and perhaps use Haws Park as an alternative parking option for families living further from the immediate school vicinity.

B 1793 Treasurer's Report

- No movement on playpark fund yet – awaiting quote from SC.
- Administration fund is £4830.
- Covid fund (for Larder and cook expenses). Currently at £424.
- Christmas lights funds is £109.

B 1794 AOCB

- Fountain restoration – Councillor Alasdair Tollemache and Gavin Drummond provided an update on previous discussions which have taken place in previous years. Historically there has been a number of issues raised which would need to be overcome with associated substantial costs. There however is an opportunity for a group to drive forward again if appetite exists.

- City Fibre – resident raised a concern which has come to light in the last 24 hours that residents have been excluded from this project. In particular, in Welsh Gardens and some surrounding streets due to streets having no pavements. Cllr Douglas Dodds will raise concerns with SC. CC and elected members fully supportive of concerns raised by resident.

B 1795 Date of AGM

There will be no AGM for the foreseeable future. An AGM can only happen once lockdown has lifted which is at the close of phase 4 and as we are currently in phase 3 there will be no AGM.

B 1796 Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 15th September 2020.