



## **Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council**

**Held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

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

**Present:** Mike Watson (MW) Chair; Leslie Harkness (LH) Secretary; Anna Doeser (AD) Treasurer; Bill Fortune (BF); Iain McCusker (IMcC); Alasdair Taylor (AT)

**Apologies:** Joanne Chisholm (JC) Vice Chair; Janie Meikle Bland (JMB); Michael Burt (MB); Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Sandra Davidson (SD); Siobhan Hencher (SH); Vicky McDowell (VMcD); Duncan McDougall (DMcD) (associate member); Moira Randall (MR) (associate member); Lucy McCormick (Minute Secretary); Alyn Smith MP; Andrew Davis (SC); PC Paul Gilliland; PC Dee Chalmers; Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; Councillor Jeremy McDonald;

**In attendance:** Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Graham Houston; Councillor Alastair Majury; MSP Alexander Stewart; Graham Russell ( Chair of Friends of Bridge of Allan); Douglas Neilson ( Vice Chair of Friends of Bridge of Allan )

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

### **B 1814 Welcome, Apologies and Conflict of Interest (MW)**

MW chaired this meeting. MW opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed all those in attendance via Zoom; apologies were recorded as indicated above. In relation to any potential conflict of interest, IMcC stated that as a CC member and also as Planning Lead for the CC, he had to record a conflict of interest in respect of a personal application for planning permission for the erection of a dwelling house in Bridge of Allan, and he indicated his intention to leave the meeting before the regular planning update to allow proper discussion to take place and to ensure that that he would have no involvement in any decision by the CC on the application. Councillor Douglas Dodds also declared a potential conflict of interest by virtue of his position on SC's Planning Committee. The meeting attendees were informed that it was being recorded for the purposes of the minutes.

### **B 1815 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log (LH)**

The minutes were approved of the August 2020 CC meeting. Proposed by LH and seconded by IMcC.

In relation to item B 1792 and CityFibre, as promised, Iain McCusker forwarded copies of the maps originally provided at the start of the project. In addition, Councillor Tollemache forwarded his communications with CityFibre. He has asked them to confirm their commitment to provide access to all streets in Bridge of Allan, to ask when this will be delivered and how the intention to do so will be communicated to those residents requiring clarity on delivery. CityFibre have responded by emphasising that they wish to deliver connectivity to everyone and that their specialist small works team will look at varying delivery methods other than more traditional construction to get fibre to residents; the team will

begin surveying those streets and homes which were not part of the main build early in October. All affected residents will receive letters. The councillor has also provided CityFibre with the views of those residents who participated in a Zoom meeting convened by Councillors Tollemache and Dodds; CityFibre has responded as before although they have made the additional point that there are some homes that cannot be connected, for example, homes on roads not adopted by the local authority, homes where there are warranties on the roads or pavements, and homes on private roads which require the express permission of all the residents. In relation to item B 1803 and the tennis courts, Councillor Dodds wrote to the CC to confirm that he had asked SC if they were prepared to undertake financial responsibility for the upgrade of the tennis courts.

### **B 1816 Police Report (MW)**

Between 14th September and 19th October 2020 a total of 12 crimes occurred within the Bridge of Allan beat code (which includes Cronon and Causewayhead). The crimes detailed below are those that are of relevance to the local community.

#### **ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

On 7th October at Lyon Crescent a window was smashed, police have identified the person responsible and the youth will be dealt with in due course.

On 12th October at Upper Glen Road a tyre on a vehicle was damaged. Enquiries are ongoing in relation to this and if you have any information please contact 101 ref: PS-20201012-1153.

#### **DRUG MISUSE**

On 17th September 2020 at Hermitage Road a male was found in possession of cannabis. The male was cautioned at this time and issues a recorded police warning in relation to this.

On 21st September 2020 at Hermitage Road a female was found in possession of cannabis. The female was cautioned in relation to this and issues a recorded police warning.

**VIOLENT CRIME** - nothing to report.

**HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY** - nothing to report.

#### **ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME**

On 27th September at Well Road a motor vehicle was stolen, the vehicle was traced a short time later by police and the driver was found to be under the influence of alcohol and not have the proper documentation to drive the vehicle. He was arrested and will appear at court at a later date.

On 2nd October at Hermitage Road, 3 vehicles were traced by police after a call in relation to anti-social behaviour. The drivers of these vehicles were all found to be under the influence of alcohol and other road traffic offences. All 3 males were arrested and will appear at court at a later date in relation to these offences.

On 17th October at Henderson Street a female was found to be driving with no insurance, the motor vehicle was seized, and the female was offered a conditional offer of fixed penalty in relation to this.

#### **MATTERS OF NOTE**

Between the 18th of August and 13th September there has been a total of 102 calls to the Bridge of Allan area. Please note this also covers parts of the Cornton, Causewayhead A breakdown of some of these calls

is as follows, 5 were concern for person type calls, 8 related to disturbance type calls, 11 were road traffic calls and 9 were assist member of the public type calls.

**Community engagement and reassurance:**

From the last community council meeting the community team have carried out speed checks on 4 different occasion at Henderson Street and Cornton Road, 4 drivers were warned in relation to their speed during these check.

The community team have also been conducting school patrols at Bridge of Allan PS, 3 drivers were warned in relation to their parking.

**Activities forthcoming period**

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.

**B1817 Speeding Issues Update (AT)**

Further meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. There was a presentation of revised plans and discussion on the communication and consultation process. There will be a press release to the Stirling Observer at the beginning of November which will point to plans on the SC website which contains the 4 charts previously shared and will provide an opportunity for public comment; the plan is then for SC to have a follow up meeting to discuss the feedback. The timescales are pretty tight with mid November being the to target to get everything finished. Next steps for meetings being discussed.

**B 1818 Tennis Courts (BF)**

The two meeting planned this month didn't take place. Currently have 3 quotes around the same size. BF & MW to reschedule meeting with SC regarding the estimate in the contractual bid. DD advised there is a full council meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> October at which a question has been raised about the maintenance and improvement of tennis courts on Keir Street.

**B 1819 Dog Fouling (Councillor Dodds)**

A resident contacted Councillor Dodds and asked what was being done about dog fouling in Bridge of Allan. Particular reference in relation to Memorial Park. As referenced it is not a CC or SC issue but a nationwide issue and reliance is on dog owners being responsible and picking up. DD to ask SC whether SC has any appetite to do a further campaign such as bag it and bin it. Councillor Majury to follow up on the poster campaign being done by schools.

**B1820 Planning Report (MW)**

The report was delivered by MW as IMcC left the meeting at this point by virtue of a conflict of interest. 1 It was noted that a significant residential development in Blairforkie Drive was in the pipeline but was not yet on the planning schedule schedule.

Royal Hotel – new set of plans put up.

**B1821 Chair's Report (MW)**

- Remembrance Day – traditional service at Memorial park will not be held in traditional format due to Covid-19.
- The death of Malcolm Allan is a sad loss to the community.
- Welcome to the new French Épicerie on Henderson Street.
- Costas will be closing.

### **B 1822 Secretary's report**

Duncan McDougall emailed us in relation to the Airthrey Kerse appeal to note that the website of the Scottish Government's Planning and Environmental Appeals Division has been updated to indicate that the appeal will be redetermined, meaning that the case, having been referred back to the Scottish government, will be reconsidered by ministers in the light of any shortcomings revealed by the appeals process. He has subsequently confirmed that the Court of Session appeal related solely to the Reporter's calculations on the housing land supply and not to the other grounds for refusal such as green belt concerns. In addition, Councillor Dodds informed the CC that he has sought clarification of this from SC planners. Councillor Dodds sent us a copy of an email he has sent to SC officers to request that the roads team inspect the two Cornton Road pedestrian crossings in view of the fading markings at both crossings. Councillor Tollemache, in relation to Park of Keir, wrote to inform the CC that he had asked SC about the current extension. SC confirmed that the extension would end on September 25th and that, at time of writing, no notification of any request for a further extension had been received. Subsequently, Councillor Majury forwarded an update from SC to the effect that the appellant has asked SC to support its request to the Scottish Government for a further extension. Also in relation to the Park of Keir development, Councillor Houston forwarded a copy of a letter from MSP, Keith Brown to Keith Stewart, Minister for Local Government, emphasizing that the Scottish Government's expectation was that the matter should have been concluded by February 2018; he also raises the potential impact of the National Tennis Academy at Stirling University on the significance of the Park of Keir tennis facilities and stresses that, should the admission charges for the tennis facilities be identical to that of similar local facilities, this appears to run contrary to the original commitment. In his concluding remarks, the MSP proposes that the approval for the project be withdrawn.

The CC has also received from Kathy Pidgeon of RAGE copies of letters sent to local councillors, the relevant Scottish Government minister, MPs and MSPs, the Lawn Tennis Association and the press with the hope that, given that the developer has been given more than sufficient time to reach an agreement, the Scottish Government should refuse permission for any further extension. We learned yesterday from Councillors Majury and Tollemache that the Scottish government has granted a further extension of 3 months until December 30th, 2020, Councillor Tollemache informed us today that there will be no further negotiations during the extension period.

Councillor Tollemache also confirmed that he had asked SC if there were any plans to initiate improvements for the Bridge of Allan/ Keir Roundabout footway and he reported that the Roads Improvement Programme recently presented to the Environment and Housing Committee includes details of relevant improvement work on the footway to commence on January 5th, 2021 and estimated to run for four weeks; Councillor Tollemache also forwarded a copy of the E & H committee meeting report. Councillor Tollemache forwarded a link to SC's consultation on the Sustrans/Scottish Government "spaces for People" initiative to help local authorities to introduce temporary infrastructure improvements to promote active travel during the pandemic; he has also informed the CC that the local businesses will have received a communication to avoid what happened earlier in the pandemic. On the same matter, Councillor Majury sent us a copy of a detailed email he has sent to SC to voice a number of reservations he has about the purpose of the consultation; in particular, he feels the specific suggestions are too generic in nature and

also that the process of asking people to agree or disagree to objectives without any specific proposals did not go down well previously in Bridge of Allan. He has asked that the consultation be postponed until there are some more specific proposals for businesses to agree or disagree with. In addition, Councillor Majury has forwarded a link which shows Covid figures per neighbourhood and he has also forwarded a copy of the Sustrans guidance related to the Spaces for People initiative.

SC has written to all community councils to remain thank them for their efforts to functioning during a difficult time. SC's 'temporary amendments' allowing community amendments, councils to continue to operate will remain in force for some time and while community councils are still not permitted to hold AGMs, the council is exploring options to allow AGMs to take place.

A resident has written to the cc to express concern about the degree of queuing congestion evident outside two local restaurants, making it difficult for pedestrians to maintain appropriate two meters social distancing.

Another resident has written to express concern about the noise generated by a private fireworks event rate (10.45 pm) on a Saturday evening in September.

Our vice chair, Joanne Chisholm who used to be a member of Forth Valley Health Board wrote to Graham Foster, Forth Valley's Director of public Health, to seek some reassurances about the current flu vaccination, given that some local concerns have been raised. Mr Foster has replied to Joanne at some length in his communication, he underlines the scale of the challenge involved in vaccinating approximately 120,000 people in the first instance over the months of October and November with many others to be potentially vaccinated right through to the end of the programme in March 2021. He points out that there is plenty of time to get large numbers vaccinated before significant numbers of flu cases begin to rise in December/January when they normally do. All those to be vaccinated in phase 1 have been identified as the priority group which includes the over 65s or those under 64 with a medical condition which puts them at risk; they will be vaccinated in a timely manner. Mr Foster also stresses that there is adequate vaccine for the full target population of over 55s as a priority group is a UK decision introduced for the first time this year and this will ultimately be dependent on international vaccine availability. Scotland has deliberately phased its programme to ensure at risk younger people are not disadvantaged by the UK decision and the health board does not envisage any difficulties in sourcing vaccine for everyone in the high priority groups and is optimistic it will also be able to vaccinate all lower risk over 55s who wish to be vaccinated.

### **B 1823 Treasurer's Report**

- This month's outgoings: admin fund of £6 for web posting; £40 for minutes; £14.39 for zoom subscription.
- Since last meeting the CC has received SC admin grant of £521.70.
- At last month's meeting the CC approved additional funding for larder of £300 so that has been moved over into that account.
- The CC was successful in receiving a £2000 grant from Stirling Voluntary Enterprises for continuous funding of the larder project.
- Administration fund currently £4931.

### **B1824 Residents voice**

- GD raised point in relation to 'Spaces for People'. MW encouraged members to review and comment if required.

**B 1825 AOCB**

- Question raised on position of AGM. To be put on agenda next meeting.
- Agreement for MW to purchase a wreath.

**B 1826 Date of Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via Zoom.