



Minutes of Meeting of Bridge of Allan Community Council

Held on Tuesday 15th June 2021.

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

Present: Mike Watson (MW) Chair; Janie Meikle Bland (JMB) Interim Vice Chair; Alasdair Taylor (AT) Treasurer; Leslie Harkness (LH) Secretary; Anna Doeser (AD) Communications Officer Iain McCusker (IMcC) Planning Officer; Bill Fortune (BF); Neil Harman (NH); Alastair Heron (AH); Vicky McDowell

Apologies: Andrew Drummond Baxter (ADB); Sandra Davidson (SD); Siobhan Hencher (SH); Alastair Heron (AH); Duncan McDougall (Associate Member) (DMcD); Moira Randall (Associate Member) (MR); Lucy McCormick (LM) Minute Secretary; Stephen Bly (SB), Stirling Council; Alyn Smith MP; Councillor Graham Houston; Councillor Alasdair Tollemache; PC Paul Gilliland; PC Dee Chalmers;

In attendance: Councillor Douglas Dodds; Councillor Alastair Majury; Councillor Jeremy McDonald; Alexander Stewart MSP; Crawford Bell (CB) Community Development Manager, SC; Graham Russell (Chair of Friends of BOA); Douglas Neilson (Vice Chair, Friends of Bridge of Allan); Gavin Drummond (GD);

Abbreviations – Bridge of Allan (BOA), Community Council (CC), Common Good Fund (CGF), Stirling Council (SC), Annual General Meeting (AGM), Wallace Monument Stakeholder Advisory Group (WMSAG)

B 1928 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 noted above and no conflicts of interest identified.

B 1929 Approval of Minutes, Matters Arising and Action Log (MW)

The minutes of the May 2021 CC meeting were approved: proposed by AD seconded by LH.

In relation to **Item B 1916** and the Park of Keir, the Chair of the Dunblane Community Council forwarded a copy of a letter he has sent to the new Scottish Government Planning Minister requesting that no further extensions be granted. He also suggested that the CC might wish to send a supportive letter to the Minister and the Chair has now done so. The CC received a copy of a similar letter to the Planning Minister from RAGE (Residents Against Greenbelt Erosion).

Councillor Dodds indicated that SC are meeting with planners to discuss the section 75 and any changes ahead of planning meeting on 22nd August. MW queried whether there was any factual basis to the recent news that the applicant is seeking public funding via Sports Scotland; AS confirmed that this has been intimated.

B 1930 Changes to CC support (CB)

MW handed over to Crawford Bell, Community Development Manager for SC to provide further details

regarding the rationale and changes to how Community Councils are supported.

CB explained that part of his recent appointment to the role was to review the strategic direction of the Community Engagement team in line with the Stirling Plan and re-align the focus towards supporting the priority areas identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. SC has the largest socio-economic gap of any local authority in Scotland and seeks to close that as a priority. The individuals who previously supported Community Councils have been reassigned to deliver this strategic objective and operationally, changes to the support provided to the CC's is designed to be more efficient and provide access to a wider range of expertise. Individuals within the Community Development team will remain available for informal discussions; however, Stephen Bly's new post is that of Community Council Enquiries Officer and he will be the primary point of contact for all CC's with responsibility for engaging the most appropriate services within SC and responding within the specified timelines. Under the new Community Engagement Strategy, every SC service has a responsibility to support local CC's as appropriate and delivery on these will be monitored.

MW queried the role of the elected members under this new model given that the CC depends heavily on their input at present; CB confirmed that their informal involvement remains unchanged and they are expected to continue to provide support where appropriate. MW confirmed that the CC welcomes any improvement to how specific services are accessed providing that the existing communication channels remain in place. CB requested that any difficulties are notified directly to him so that the impact of the changes can be understood by SC.

AD asked if the timelines mentioned are documented anywhere for the CC to view – CB agreed to share the relevant documents and took an action to ensure that all CC's get access as a refresher. AD and JMB also highlighted that peer support for the priority areas and information sharing between CC's would be beneficial and asked if there were any plans for SC to facilitate this kind of approach – CB indicated that discussions are ongoing regarding the re-introduction of community forums or similar and consultation will be sought from the CC soon. Development of Stephen Bly's role is also under review to determine how he can best support the standard/effectiveness of the CC's generally as some are more successful than others – possibilities for sharing resources is being considered.

LH queried the process which seemed to indicate that a formal enquiry could not be submitted until it had been formally discussed at a CC meeting; CB confirmed that ratification can happen at a subsequent meeting and there is no intention to undermine the principle that if any member of the community highlights a concern with specific implications to a service provided by SC; a member of the CC should notify this to an elected member of SC.

MW thanked CB for his helpful input and CB left the meeting.

B 1931 Police Report

Between 18th May and 13th June 2021 a total of 9 crimes occurred within the Bridge of Allan beat code (which also covers some of Causewayhead and University of Stirling). The crimes detailed below are those that are of relevance to the local community.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

None to report.

DRUG MISUSE

None to report.

VIOLENT CRIME

On 5th June within Lyon Crescent, Dunblane a minor assault took place. This is currently under investigation with a positive line of enquiry to be followed up.

On 12th June police were called to an incident at Carsaig Court, Bridge of Allan whereby two persons were subject of unprovoked assaults. At the time of submission, a male known to one of the victims is in police custody for various offences including Assault to Injury with Aggravations, Police Assault and Section 38(1) Criminal Justice & Licensing Scotland Act 2010 offences.

HOUSEBREAKINGS/CRIMES OF DISHONESTY

On the 27th of May a Taxi Fraud occurred at Allanvale Road, after a male exited a taxi and refused to return and pay the outstanding fare. This is an ongoing enquiry at the time of update.

ROAD SAFETY AND ROAD TRAFFIC RELATED CRIME

None to report.

MATTERS OF NOTE

Between 18th May and 13th June 2021 (inclusive) there was a total of 77 calls to the Bridge of Allan area. Please note this also covers parts of the Cornton, Causewayhead and Stirling University.

A breakdown of some of these calls is as follows: 5 were concern for person type calls, 4 were public nuisance calls, 1 call was drugs/substance related, 2 calls related to neighbour disputes, 4 calls were noise related, 3 calls were domestic related, 1 was a disturbance type call, 11 were road related traffic calls.

Mobile patrols in and around Bridge of Allan Primary carried out on 2 dates, 1 cyclist warned regarding inappropriate carriage of a passenger.

Pop up Police officer deployed in Henderson Street and activities for the coming month will be:

- Monitor and patrol areas where youth related antisocial behaviour has been identified.
- Carry out static speed checks in the Bridge of Allan area.
- Carry out a police surgery, date, time and venue to be determined.

B 1932 Wallace Monument Stakeholder Group Update

JMB provided a brief update on the activities of the Wallace Monument Stakeholder Advisory Group as follows:

- The WMSAG was setup in readiness for re-opening with representation from various bodies & community groups; the CC's interest was to explore the tourist / economic value to BOA.
- The group has met monthly to date but now the monument has re-opened, will not be meeting again until September
- Local BOA Ideas group has formed as an offshoot to continue to explore a local plan for tourism & economic development

- The membership of the Ideas Group are proceeding with an initiative to promote BOA as a 'food and drink' destination given the variety and strength of offerings locally in this space
- Broadly the plan is to establish a CIC as a social enterprise working and current actions are focused on engaging support from the other local businesses and Stirling university as well as seeking external advice from relevant bodies such as Social Enterprise Scotland and understanding key concerns such as accessibility, heritage / culture.

Members expressed positive feedback and interest to learn more as the ideas are formulated.

B 1933 Tennis Courts (BF)

Chris McKenna had a meeting with Sports Scotland. The feedback was that they were very keen to see a collective application from Boas rather than just the CC. It would be a stronger position if an application was put in with the Sports Club who are also seeking funding. In addition, it would prevent 2 competitive bids for funding.

Meeting hopefully to take in next couple of weeks with the Sports Club Manager.

B 1934 Play Park Initiative and Bridge of Allan Trail (SH) – carried forward to next meeting.

B 1935 Street Audit (Councillor Majury)

Following accessibility improvements (e.g. dropped curb for mobility scooters), mainly in Dunblane, Councillor Majury asked if BoA would like representation to be involved in a future audit which would help the Council prioritise future improvements. **Action:** Councillor Majury to confirm future involvement commitment and JMB to liaise with Jennifer for potential future involvement – also opportunity to canvass opinions from the Community.

B 1936 Christmas Lights (AD)

AD has set up a mini working group on this and work has started. Will check on current condition of lights and establish cost of any repairs and then will understand light sponsorship amount required. Have existing contacts from last year so when time is right, contact will be made. Hopefully (subject to Covid) will have a switch on event.

B 1937 Chair's Report (MW)

- Concerns have been raised about grass cutting regime which Councillor Dodds is looking into.
- Airthrey Kerse planning application requires a response from the CC. There is a lack of a defined response from Sepa and Duncan McDougall is preparing a response on the CC's behalf.

B 1938 Secretary's Report (LH)

Residents' Communications

An anonymous resident wrote to express a degree of personal annoyance over the distracting sound of pipers practicing in the village, particularly on Sundays.

A resident from Blairforkie Drive has raised the perennial problem of the rubbish in the picnic areas. I copied

in the elected members and, in my reply to the resident, I pointed out that the Council had indicated that they might increase the emptying frequency on public holidays and that it had been stressed that, for cost reasons, the black bins could only be replaced when they are no longer serviceable. Councillor Tollemache took up the issue with SC and the relevant officer has now visited the site and has agreed that further waste bin provision is required and that, hopefully, a double bin can be installed in the next four to six weeks.

One resident has asked about the collapsed wooden railings on the Mid Wood path near the Allanwater Café, while another has asked if the rotted wooden steps in the three steep sections of Mine Wood, alongside the golf course, will be replaced.

Councillors' Communications

Councillor Dodds forwarded a response from SC to a resident's concerns about the new railway crossing barrier. The Council is confident that the operating system is safe and that the associated signing, monitoring and enforcement will ensure its effective operation.

Councillor Dodds also informed the CC that, due to a decline in numbers, The Larder would cease to operate in the Parish Church on Friday, 25th June, although it would continue in Cornton.

Councillor Dodds forwarded a copy of a communication he had sent to SC voicing his concern about the inadequate grass cutting in recent weeks, particularly in relation to the Memorial Park, something confirmed by Gavin Drummond and also by Graham Russell, Chair of the Friends of Bridge of Allan in email responses to Councillor Dodds. The uncut grass at the Fountain Road roundabout was also noted. Graham has subsequently reported that, while both areas have now been cut, the quality of the work was less than adequate with clumps of grass cuttings left lying and with five of the Memorial Park plaques damaged. A resident who writes regularly has also expressed his dissatisfaction with the poor quality of the grass cutting in Fountain Road. Councillor Dodds has also this week contacted SC about the state of the grass at the seating area adjacent to Lloyds pharmacy.

Councillor Tollemache sent the Cc copies of his communications with SC about complaints from Bridge of Allan and Dunblane residents that the kerbs for the disabled parking bays are a hazard.

Stirling Council Communications

SC sent a reply to a letter I had sent to seek clarification of the wording in its briefing note on changes to Community Council Support, wording which appeared to imply that the CC could not raise an enquiry during the period between meetings until formal agreement to do so had been made at a regular meeting of the CC. The response to my letter confirms that our established procedure is secure.

SC's Community Development Team sent the CC an information note on Local Place Plans

General Communications

Our own associate member, D McD, forwarded a copy of SEPA's submission to the Reporter in relation to the Airthrey Kerse appeal. In their submission they still maintain that there are solutions to the problems associated with the development.

A senior project officer from Sustrans contacted a number of CCs for an interview with a CC member on ways in which SC could assist areas to develop active and sustainable transport. AD agreed to take this

forward.

A representative from Baird Lumsden contacted the CC to offer space on their notice board at The Mill for any announcements we might wish to publicise in the community. The representative also asked if there was anything further the firm could do to benefit the community; AD had wondered if the firm might wish to sponsor a Christmas light and this suggestion was passed on to them.

B 1939 Treasurer's Report (AT)

Bridge of Allan Community Council				
Treasurer's report June 14th 2021				
Restricted Funds	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance
<u>1. Playparks Fund</u>	<u>£543.26</u>			<u>£543.26</u>
<u>2. SC Administration Fund</u>	<u>£8.76</u>			
Minutes - May			£40.00	
Web hosting - June			£6.00	
Dog Fouling Posters			£8.00	
				<u>-£45.24</u>
<u>3. Unrestricted Fund</u>	<u>£2,727.81</u>			<u>£2,727.81</u>
<u>4. Covid Fund</u>	<u>£2,098.21</u>			
Larder Supplies - LIDL			£88.14	
				<u>£2,010.07</u>
<u>4. Christmas lights 2021</u>	<u>£24.00</u>			<u>£24.00</u>
				<u>£5,259.90</u>
Total Available Funds				£5,259.90
Add unrepresented cheques/payments:				
Tea's company training		Transaction pending		£262.43
Minutes - April				£40.00
Less outstanding receipts				
	NIL			
Cash in Hand (larder)				£40.00
Bank balance at 14th June				£5,522.33
Alasdair Taylor Treasurer June 14th 2021				

B 1940 Resident's Voice – nothing raised

B 1941 Planning Report (IMc)

(Councillor Dodds left the meeting ahead of this discussion)

- Graham's dairy – proposal to demolish current workshop and build another in a different location. Concern raised that given the building appears to be double the size of existing building and therefore a subsequent knock on impact on the volume of traffic entering and exiting the premises. IMc to raise concern and ask about their traffic management plan.
- Application for a house on Pendreich Road. IMc to share details with CC.
- Co-op development going to Planning Panel on 22 June 2021

B 1942 AOCB

- BoA Beavers and Cubs. They are looking to introduce a Squirrel's Group for 4-6 year olds.
- Data Protection – AD raised point that on the SC guidance that Community Councils can register with the Information Commissioner. The CC do obtain personal information from people e.g. residents emailing the CC etc. AD to pull together a proposal document and set up a meeting to discuss further.
- Scottish Voluntary Organisations – can register for free and get access to funding information and training.
- AT following up on Insurance position.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 17th August.