

# Dunblane Community Council

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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 1 October 2007, in the Burgh Chambers, Dunblane.**

**Present:** Terence O'Byrne (Chairman), Kirsten Strachan (Secretary), Peter McCusker (Treasurer), Lawrie Dewar, Mike Dewar, Frederic Gilmour, Sandy MacKay, Dominico Angiolini, Stella Reid, Kate Fawcett.

**In attendance:** Councillor David Goss, PC Simon Fraser, Nicola Paul and Lawrie Morgan-Klein (sixth-year pupils from the High School), Alec Kerr, Sue Faulkner, Moira Stewart, Kerstin Deuling, Lyndsey Flynn (*Allanwater News*), Ian Howie (*Stirling Observer*), Angela Edgar, Owen MacKenzie, Kenna Troup and Sergeant Malcolm Strachan from Forth Valley CCTV, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

**1. Apologies** Apologies have been received from John Alexander and Craig French.

### **2. Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman made it absolutely clear that, despite reports in the local press after the last meeting, the community council is not targeting the youth of Dunblane as being solely to blame for the anti-social behaviour problems in the town.

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 3 September 2007**

Under AOCB, Charles McHugh is investigating the street lighting in the High Street, not at the High School.

Under the Planning Report, Kate Fawcett wished to stress her view that the protesters against the erection of the mobile phone masts are hypocritical in that they and their children own mobile phones themselves.

With these two amendments, the minutes were approved, proposed by Sandy Mackay and seconded by Frederic Gilmour.

#### **4. Matters arising**

Bollard at The Haining This has reappeared but Sandy MacKay will notify Stirling Council that it needs repositioning to prevent it scraping the underside of cars. **Action:** Sandy MacKay.

Zebra crossing Councillor Goss was unaware that this has been an ongoing issue for at least two years and will follow this up. **Action:** Councillor Goss.

Stirling Arms Kate Fawcett has had no reply to her letter to Scottish and Newcastle and will write again. **Action:** Kate Fawcett.

Junction of Smithy Loan and High Street There has been no response yet from Angela MacGibbon at Stirling Council.

Betting shop Permission for this has been granted.

Tappit Hen window Kate Fawcett reported that the clear glass replacement window is intended to be a temporary measure, but an individually etched window will be expensive.

Street lighting in the High Street In a reply to Charles McHugh, Stirling Council has stated that the lighting in the High Street conforms to British Standards and it cannot, therefore, justify the expense of upgrading it.

#### **5. Police Report**

The Chairman welcomed the two sixth year pupils whom PC Fraser had brought along to the meeting. PC Fraser reported that extra foot patrols have been present in Dunblane over the previous weekends, visiting the Laighills as well as all the licensed premises in town, with the result that the number of complaints of anti-social behaviour was down. The Chairman informed the meeting that a leaflet will shortly be distributed within the town to encourage people to report on incidents of anti-social behaviour, but he also highlighted the lack of police resources.

The Chairman then invited Kenna Troup and Sergeant Strachan from Forth Valley CCTV to address the meeting about the possibility and problems of installing cameras in Dunblane. Forth Valley CCTV is a partnership between Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannan Councils and Forth Valley Police. For Dunblane to move forward with the installation of cameras, the community council will firstly have to convince Stirling Council which would then approach Forth Valley CCTV. However, Kenna Troup emphasised that, at present, there is an embargo on any new cameras as the centre and monitoring capacity is fully stretched. To add any new cameras, significant equipment would have to be purchased. Did the crime rate in Dunblane justify the purchase of new cameras at a cost per camera of £10,000 for the first year and £4,200 - £5,000 per year thereafter? Cameras by themselves cannot react to

what is seen and police or Council resources would be needed to respond to crime. The number of cameras necessary would depend on whether the main aim is to detect, prevent or prosecute crime. There are no unmonitored cameras in the Forth Valley area.

The Chairman felt that the first step will be to conduct a survey of where cameras could be installed and then to approach the Council. Sergeant Strachan promised his total support and help if Stirling Council agreed that the plans were viable. With reference to installing them in the High Street, Sergeant Strachan felt that this, as a predominantly business environment, well-lit, would be suitable, but that the cameras would probably have little effect as a deterrent to drunken behaviour.

The Chairman thanked them for their input and it was agreed that he will discuss the matter with Peter Broadfoot of Stirling Council and get the support of the local Councillors before approaching Forth Valley CCTV again.

Lawrie Morgan-Klein proposed that pupils at the High School are addressed on the problem of anti-social behaviour and PC Fraser confirmed that he will be doing this after the move to the new school. They were in agreement that the main trouble-makers are few in number and the Chairman placed the blame partly on lack of supervision by parents. The Chairman agreed that, after the opening of the new school, he will open up a discussion with the Headteacher, PC Fraser and parents and pupils about youth problems in the community. Moira Stewart felt that too often the young people became the easy target of blame while any good deeds by them attracted little publicity.

**6. Correspondence:** See attached list.

It was agreed that, in future, the correspondence will be available at 7 p.m. for inspection by community councillors before meetings. Councillors will be expected to attend at 7 p.m. to inspect the mail.

It was agreed that the Chairman will follow up Stirling Council's letter about street lighting in which it was stated that, because of lack of funding, its upgrading is not being considered.

**Action:** The Chairman, with the help of the Councillors.

The Chairman has received correspondence about a field at Hillside Farm which had been fenced with new stiles erected to preserve the right of way. Unfortunately, many found the stiles impassable and, with the support of the Countryside Rangers, the stiles have been demolished and gates installed.

The Chairman has received a letter about LEADER funding, a European initiative which is being extended to cover rural communities. The Community Council will work together with the Trust on project assessment.

The Chairman has received a letter from the British Legion about the £70 a year required for the PA system on Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed that the community council will ask Stirling Council to fund this annual expense.

The Chairman informed the meeting that a party is to be held at the Bowling Club on 9 October for the soldiers who have been erecting the new bridge at the War Memorial and Sandy MacKay, Charles McHugh, Peter McCusker and Mike Dewar agreed to attend.

**7. Treasurer's Report:** See attached.

This was Peter McCusker's last report as Treasurer and he was handing over to the new Treasurer, Mike Dewar. He reported that, following the receipt of minutes of the AGM and audited accounts, the Council would be releasing the 2007-08 grant shortly.

**8. Planning Report:** See attached.

The Chairman brought to the meeting a map of the proposed development at Anchorscross. He expressed disappointment that the affordable houses will be for rent only and will not be available for purchase on a co-ownership basis in conjunction with the housing association. Councillor Goss and the Chairman will meet to discuss approaching Stirling Council with a view to allocating a proportion of the rented houses to local people. The following were the main points of objection:

Traffic Concerns were expressed over the traffic implications of the development as there is to be only one access road, off Old Doune Road, and it was agreed that an additional access to Anchorscross should be considered. With the demolition of the old High School and the subsequent construction of houses on that site, as well as the development of this site, restrictions on construction traffic would be necessary.

Density The total number of units has risen from 50 to 54, with one house in particular being squeezed into a site very close to a house at Mackenzie Court. Instead of the previously proposed 50/50 split between social and private housing, the split was now 48/52. The Council will be asked to reduce the number of houses. In addition, the open space in this development is very small.

Local Plan Under the Local Plan there is a requirement for developers to contribute to a local play park. There is also no mention in the Local Plan of three-storey houses and yet in this development there would be three semi-detached units of three storeys.

Suds point A suds pond for drainage is planned at the bottom of the site, but no mention is made of maintenance or landscaping.

The Chairman invited Angela Edgar to address the meeting. She reported that Perth and Kinross Council has recently given outline planning permission for six houses to be built up the Kinbuck road on the boundary between Stirling Council and Perth Council. It is

understood that the site is now up for sale. As well as concerns about construction traffic on the Kinbuck bridge, there was also the question of where any children would go to school. She was worried that this would set a precedent of more developments being allowed just outwith the boundary with implications for neighbouring Council areas. It was agreed that the Chairman will ask Stirling Council for their policy with regards to the planning implications of boundary developments. **Action:** the Chairman.

### **9. Report of Meetings**

Lawrie Dewar reported that, although the Council has done some repair work on speed bumps at Newton Primary School and painted some parking restriction lines, more needed to be done. It was agreed the Secretary will follow this up. **Action:** the Secretary.

The Chairman reported on a meeting of the Community Health Partnership meeting held on 26 September at which dental services in the Forth Valley area was discussed. He felt that the available statistics were unsatisfactory as there is no information on private dental healthcare.

The Chairman has visited the police centre in Stirling which deals with the whole of the Forth Valley area. He highlighted the lack of police officers.

### **10. Councillor's Report**

Councillor Goss brought to the notice of the meeting the latest proposals of Stirling Before Pylons and SNH to bury the Beauldy-Denny powerline to the west of Stirling, appearing above ground between Dunblane and Doune. Responses are required before 9 October and the Chairman will look at the website before replying. **Action:** the Chairman.

### **11. Community Council Boundaries**

This was deferred to a future meeting.

### **12. Community Council Future Activities**

This was deferred to a future meeting.

### **13. AOCB**

In a letter John Alexander highlighted the poor condition of the railway bridge at the Laighills. **Action:** The Secretary will write to Railtrack. On his information, it was also agreed to ask for an update from the Housing Department about a house in Albert Street which was being used as a kennel for dogs.

On the agenda for the next meeting will be the Dunblane Health Centre. The Chairman will invite Eddie Macdonald from the Community Health Partnership to address the next community council meeting on the Dunblane Health Centre. In response to a concern raised by Angela Edgar about the lack of socially funded places in nursing homes in Dunblane it was agreed to raise this with Eddie Macdonald and the Chairman asked community councillors to let him know of any other issues they wished raised.

Sandy MacKay reported that he has written to the Council about the necessity for tidying up Abbotsford. It was also agreed that he will write about the lack of hard standing at the skatepark to allow council vehicles to turn around.

In view of the fact that the Burgh Chamber can no longer take bookings for halls, it was agreed that the Community Council will try to safeguard the future of the Burgh Chambers.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

**Mail received since last meeting\_\_\_\_\_4<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Subject</b>
31.08.07	Stirling Council	Planning Panel meeting 11 Sep
05.09.07	Stirling Council	Lighting between Springfield Tce/George St
05.09.07	Stirling Council	Roads Consultation chance to respond again, minutes of Sep 3 meeting
13.09.07	Stirling Council	Council meeting on 13 Sep
17.09.07	Stirling Council	Health & Safety panel meeting on Sep 17
07.09.07	PPF Stirling	Dental Services meeting 26 <sup>th</sup> Sep
18.09.07	Stirling Council	Meeting schedule 2008 (to be completed)
25.00.07	Stirling Council	Public liability insurance for festive lighting
28.09.07	NHS Forth Valley	Annual review of services Oct 22nd
29.09.07	Stirling Council	Full Council meeting Oct 4

# Dunblane Community Council

## **Treasurers Report**

1st Oct 2007

'Administration Account'	00347702
Expenditure since last report	£97.52
Income since last report	nil
Interest	£0.00
Account balance to date 1st Oct 2007	<u>£29.31</u>

'Community Fund'	00347753
Expenditure since last report	Nil
Income since last report	Nil
Interest	£0.19
Account balance to date 1st Oct 2007	<u>£198.79</u>

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Peter McCusker  
Treasurer

1st Oct 2007

## MONTHLY REPORT –OCTOBER 2007 .

### **New Planning Applications received since last meeting**

It is considered that the following applications have no implications for Dunblane as a whole and it is recommended that we leave it to the neighbour notification system to identify any local objections that there may be: Extensions at 35 Argyle Way, 36 Newton Crescent, 55 Old Doune Road, 33 Grant Drive, Decking at 37 Albert Street, Front Porch and Dormer at 3 Murdoch Crescent.

Detailed application was received for the development at Anchorscross by Keir Homes and Forth Housing, details to be discussed at this meeting.

### **Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.**

The applications at 1 Drumcastle Court and 25 Old Doune Road were approved as was the application to convert 8 High Street to a betting shop.

The Chinese restaurant at 86 High Street has been painted on the upper storey mainly, a grant award of £1969.30 was made to help with window refurbishment, this remains in place for 5 years, no uptake yet.

Façade painting in is progress, have not been able to confirm the precise position with regard to the amenity notice conditions and timescale, will report at next meeting.

The retrospective application at Ardnablane for a gabion wall and tree removal has been approved.

A meeting was held with Peter Thompson from Kilmartins (K.W. Properties) who own the Dicksons site, they intend to submit another retail planning application in the next few months. They were asked to remove all litter and rubbish from within the site boundary which has been security fenced. Job to be completed within the next week.

No decisions on the new house at Ash cottage in Ashfield, new house at Nether Cromlix 6 flats at Millrow, Conversion of the agricultural building at Little Hill.

### **Other Planning Matters**

We are trying to set up a meeting with Mick Stewart, Head of planning about the Council position with regard to the positioning of phone masts and consultation processes following the recent attempts by Orange to re-site the mast on the high school, date still to be agreed.

The next meeting of the Planning sub-committee will be called on an as required basis, no firm date has been set.

Terence O'Byrne