

Dunblane Community Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 5 November 2007, in the Burgh Chambers, Dunblane.

Present: Terence O'Byrne (Chairman), Lawrie Dewar, Frederic Gilmour, Domenico Angiolini, Stella Reid, Kate Fawcett, John Alexander, Alan Booth, Charles McHugh.

In attendance: Councillors David Goss and Graham Houston, Nicola Paul and Lawrie Morgan-Klein from the High School, PC Simon Fraser, Sue Faulkner, Moira Stewart, Eddie MacDonald (Community Health Partnership), Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Craig French and Sandy MacKay.

2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman intimated that Peter McCusker, Mike Dewar and Kirsten Strachan have resigned from the community council and it was agreed that Lawrie Dewar will act as Treasurer and Frederic Gilmour as Secretary until elections are held in February 2008.

With reference to the setting up of a committee to administer the community grant accruing to Dunblane from the Braes of Doune windfarm, the Chairman reported that the Dunblane Development Trust has refused to agree to this. Meetings have been held with representatives from Airtricity who have agreed to encourage the Trust to set up the committee and it is hoped that further progress on this can be expected by the next meeting of the community council.

The Chairman welcomed the two representatives from the High School.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 1 October 2007

With the addition of Charles McHugh being present at this meeting, the minutes were approved, proposed by Lawrie Dewar and seconded by Frederic Gilmour.

4. Matters arising

Zebra crossing The Chairman has organised a site meeting at Springfield Terrace with Alan Ogilvie from Stirling Council on Friday, 9 November. Both John Alexander and Councillor Goss wish to be present.

Stirling Arms Kate Fawcett has had no reply as yet from Scottish and Newcastle and will contact them again. **Action:** Kate Fawcett.

Allanside House Kate Fawcett reported that, as a goodwill gesture, Stirling Council has mended the culvert and carried out repointing work. Test bores are to be drilled to ascertain the level of the water table, which may be a cause of the flooding.

CCTV The Chairman reported that, having spoken to MSP Bruce Crawford, the latter is prepared to contact the Chief Constable to support Dunblane's need for CCTV cameras. It is hoped that a reply from the Chief Constable will be received before the next meeting. The Chairman will then, with the support of the four councillors, meet with the police and Stirling Council to further Dunblane's case.

PA system It is hoped that Stirling Council will reimburse the annual fee for hiring a PA system for Remembrance Sunday. **Action:** the Chairman.

Railway bridge It was agreed that Railtrack should be contacted about the poor condition of the railway bridge at the Laighills. **Action:** the Secretary.

5. Police Report

i) School Report The two representatives from the High School reported on the various charitable activities which have taken place at the school since the beginning of term, and were pleased to announce that over £2,000 has been raised so far. They also informed the meeting that MSP Bruce Crawford has spoken to Modern Studies classes and that a Geography field trip has taken place in the Lake District. The move into the new school will take place later this month.

ii) Police Report PC Fraser gave a run-down on the crime statistics relating to Dunblane over the last month. He was pleased to report a reduction in the number of calls to the police and reported that teams were in Dunblane nearly every weekend and licensed

premises were being visited. The leaflet mentioned at the last meeting has not yet been finalised but will be ready shortly.

It was agreed that the School Report will appear on the agenda as a separate item, to reflect the input to the meetings of the High School pupils, and that the new Headteacher will be invited to a meeting of the community council in the New Year.

PC Fraser made his apologies for not being able to attend the next meeting, and the Chairman is to meet with him to discuss ways in which the police report can be improved. **Action:** the Chairman.

8. NHS Forth Valley – Dunblane Health Centre

The Chairman suspended the order of the agenda and invited Eddie MacDonald from the Community Health Partnership to address the meeting on the question of the Dunblane Health Centre and whether it was suitable for the needs of an expanding Dunblane. In response, the practice was trying to use space wisely within the building and was looking to reduce the practice area, so that it might not accept new patients from Bridge of Allan in future.

Mr MacDonald made a detailed presentation to the meeting and distributed sheets detailing the main points afterwards. He pointed out that he is held accountable for the spending of public money and, by all criteria, Dunblane was in the upper third of surgeries in the region. In terms of Quality and Outcomes, Dunblane had achieved the maximum points. He had photos of other surgeries in drastic need of improvements both in terms of access and space.

He confirmed that the Health Centre is NHS owned and that other NHS surgeries in the Forth Valley area are in greater need of public money than Dunblane. Kate Fawcett proposed that a satellite Health Centre be built near the Queen Victoria school to service that area of town, as it is difficult for older people without cars to access the present centre, and as it is proposed that a nursing home be built at Barbush. However, Mr MacDonald pointed out that he has not known of a new health centre being set up by Forth Valley NHS. The population of Dunblane has increased but the doctor/population ratio of 1 /2,000 was good. He emphasised that where there are new developments, for example the planned eastern village, there was no planning gain for the NHS. Public money had to go where there was the greatest need and the Dunblane Health Centre achieved maximum points for quality and outcomes.

There was concern over the difficulty of getting through to the surgery by phone and it was suggested that an extra phone line might improve matters. It was agreed that the Chairman will invite the practice manager to speak to the community council to discuss the issues raised. **Action:** the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked Eddie MacDonald for his presentation

6. Correspondence: See attached list.

With reference to community council elections due in February 2008, the Chairman intimated that there were four vacancies. The co-opted members on the community council may also have to stand for election and the Secretary will check this with Helen Geddes.

Action: The Secretary.

7. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

Lawrie Dewar gave his first report, indicating that the £400 community grant from Stirling Council has been received.

8. NHS Forth Valley – Dunblane Health Centre: See above.

9. Planning Report: See attached.

It was agreed not to object to the planning application for The Square, Auchinlay Road.

With reference to the planning application for Cloisters Croft, it was agreed to object on the grounds of a three-storey building being inappropriate in a conservation area.

With reference to the planning application for the Dicksons garage site, it was agreed to object because it did not conform to the Local Plan. However, concerns were expressed by Alan Booth and Kate Fawcett that Dunblane was losing its only petrol station. Councillor Goss agreed to check whether the application could be refused on the grounds of it being a change of use. In view of the demolition of the old petrol station being undertaken shortly, the Chairman agreed to check whether planning permission was required for this. **Action:** Councillor Goss and the Chairman.

With reference to the proposed development at Anchorscross, it was agreed that the Chairman will write again to confirm the community council's objection to a single access to the site from Old Doune Road. **Action:** the Chairman.

10. Report of meetings

Alan Booth reported that he and the Chairman, together with the Dunblane Development Trust, were looking at ways of updating the Community Plan. He was hoping that money from Stirling Council might be available to help progress this. One idea proposed was that, with the pressure on Dunblane for housing, developers could get more community support by providing money for facilities. It would be worthwhile to consider the expansion of Dunblane so that it is done rationally, rather than fight any proposed development.

The Chairman reported that, following a meeting about parking, a discussion document with relevant maps will be available from Stirling Council within the next two weeks.

Before the next meeting, the Chairman will distribute this to community councillors, so that it can be discussed. **Action:** the Chairman.

It was agreed that Charles McHugh will write to the community council of Auchterarder about developers there advertising the convenience of parking at Dunblane railway station.

11. Councillors' Report

The Chairman, while welcoming the two councillors, enquired why the four councillors were not attending community council meetings in rotation as previously agreed. It was agreed that the Chairman will call on the other two councillors, stressing the importance the community council placed on their attendance. Alan Booth, as editor of *Community View*, wished to advertise the surgeries councillors held in Dunblane. **Action:** the Chairman and Alan Booth.

Councillor Houston reported that the system to track communications with Stirling Council was not yet in place. Very few people turn up to surgeries, with more preferring to write, phone or email.

Councillor Goss stressed that budgets were going to be squeezed this year. The next meeting of the Council is on 14 November at which Dunblane's withdrawal from Area Planning Forums will be considered. The Chairman emphasised that Dunblane did not want to withdraw from this process, but wanted to be a Forum by itself, with the same access to Council support as other Area Planning Forums.

12. Community Council Boundaries

Alan Booth and the Chairman will meet to discuss this. **Action:** the Chairman and Alan Booth.

13. Community Council Future Activities

This is deferred to a future meeting.

14. AOCB

John Alexander supported the enquiry from Andrew Walker, whose application for a taxi licence allowing him to stand at Dunblane station has been refused by Stirling Council. Mr Walker has put in a new application and John Alexander will ask Councillor Houston to support it.

Lawrie Dewar reported that Brian Roberts from the Roads Department is recommending that some work be done at Newton Primary School next summer, if budgets allow.

John Alexander reported that the dogs kept in a house are not neglected and that it will be almost impossible to move the tenant. Kate Fawcett is to meet with John Alexander about progress on this. **Action:** Kate Fawcett and John Alexander.

In response to a request for help by Alan Booth with the preparation of articles and administration of *Community View*, Kate Fawcett agreed to give a hand.

When Charles McHugh reported that the inscriptions on the War Memorial were quite faded, John Alexander informed the meeting that Stirling Council is going to look into this. However, Councillor Houston cautioned that, although the stonework is to be cleaned and replanting to be completed by 11 November, it would take approximately £40,000 to redo the inscriptions.

In reply to an enquiry from Moira Stewart about the owner of the BT ground at Drumcastle Court, Councillor Houston agreed to follow this up. Councillors Goss and Houston agreed to look into the danger of wet leaves for elderly residents there.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Chairman Date
.....
Terence O'Byrne

Secretary Date
.....
Frederic Gilmour

Mail received since last meeting_____ **1st Oct 2007**

| Date | From | Subject |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 02.10.07 | NHS FV | Community newsletter |
| 02.10.07 | Forth Naturalist & Hist | Symposium Flyer |
| 04.10.07 | Town Break | Notice of AGM 31 Oct 07 |
| 04.10.07 | Stirling Council | Community Council Elections |
| 08.10.07 | Mike Dewar | Letter of resignation |
| 08.10.07 | Stirling Council | Draft Core Paths Plan Consultation |
| 09.10.07 | Stirling Council | Parking spaces for disabled persons |
| 10.10.07 | Stirling Council | Roads consultation |
| 10.10.07 | Stirling Council | Review of Poling Districts |
| 11.10.07 | Stirling Council | Notification of Public Procession |
| 19.10.07 | Stirling Council | Agenda for Planning Panel 25 Oct 07 |
| 22.10.07 | Stirling Council | Public Art Audit |
| 24.10.07 | Stirling Council | Licensing Draft Policy |

MONTHLY REPORT –NOVEMBER 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 15 Strathmore Ave, 6 Allanbank Road, 1 Newton Crescent, Conservatory extension at 4 Barbush, Window replacement at 4 Stirling Road, Extension and new garage at Glenacres, The Crescent, Internal changes at Glenacres, The Crescent.

Application for change of use at The Square, Auchinlay Road, Cromlix. Demolish existing house the Cloisters Crofts, The Crescent and build a 3 storey house on the site. Revised application for retails development at Dickson Garage site. These applications will be considered at this meeting.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

No decision yet on the Anchorscross proposals other than a verbal update that the Roads Dept are happy with the proposed exit onto Old Doune Road. It is recommended that we write to the Council to reiterate our serious concerns over this issue.

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

A meeting took place with Mick Stewart (Head of Planning) to discuss the situation with regard to strategic planning of new phone masts in Dunblane and the situation with Orange and the replacement mast for the one to be removed from the High School. There is no new information on the Orange mast situation. The Council does not seem to have a strategic policy regarding future new masts in Dunblane. There is an annual event with the phone operators at which they present new ideas etc, this has proved to be of little use to us. The point was made that the operators DO NOT consult with the community as per their own guidelines and do not respond to letters and emails. Terence O'Byrne met with Bruce Crawford (MSP) subsequently to make him aware of the above, Bruce Crawford will write to Mick Stewart expressing his own and our concerns. The matter is less than satisfactory

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