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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 1 November 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the Burgh Chambers.

Present: Mike Seal (Chairman), Sandy Mackay (Secretary), Tony Ford (Treasurer), Terence O'Byrne, Peter McCusker, John Alexander, Stuart Hepburn, Craig French.

In attendance: Councillor Ann Dickson, Sue Faulkner, PC Love, Mary Macpherson, Mrs Muir (7 Buccleuch Court), Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Duncan Taylor.

2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman intimated that Gordon Boyd, and Ken Geddes had stepped down from the Community Council and Susan Roger had decided not to stand at the coming election.

3. Minutes of the last meeting of 4 October 2004

These were approved, proposed by Stuart Hepburn and seconded by John Alexander.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

Pavilion A further inspection has not yet taken place but, in the meantime, John Alexander reported that the pitch was in a bad state.

Allotments The Treasurer reported that the ground is being cleared by the Allotments Group.

Vacancies The Chairman had organised a leaflet drop in the Town Centre ward to encourage prospective community councillors to put themselves forward at the election. It is looking hopeful that candidates have been found for the other vacancies.

PA system The Treasurer is awaiting quotes for a new system.

Burgh Chambers It was confirmed that Children's Services and Social Services will be using part of the building, with the local office remaining in situ. By Christmas it should be clear what changes, if any, are going to be made.

Ledcameroch footpaths John Skinner has written to the new owners asking them to ensure that the paths are brought up to standard.

Footpath from Sheriffmuir Road to Dumyat via Waltersmuir Reservoir The Chairman has received a letter from the Countryside Rangers to inform him that a route for a new public footpath has been identified very close to the road, but, in the meantime, the old path can be used. In reply to a query from Stuart Hepburn about the blocking of a path by a new deer fence, the Chairman urged him to write to Richard Baron, Access Officer at Stirling Council.

Dunblane Coat of Arms The Treasure has not yet received a reply from the Order of Lyon.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman suspended standing orders and invited Sue Faulkner to address the councillors about the distribution procedures for Community View. She handed round new distribution lists and maps of the different wards, inviting any amendments to be returned to her by the following week. The next Community View will be available on 26 November, with distribution to be completed before 1 December, for the benefit of traders in the run-up to Christmas.

Correspondence: See attached list.

It was agreed that the Community Council will not renew its registration to run small lotteries, thus saving £17.50 annually.

It was agreed that the Secretary will look at the map of Dunblane and make any amendments known to Stirling Council.

It was noted that this was the last edition of Going Forth.

The Chairman has received e-mails from Joan Le Grone who has made a historical study of the Battle of Sheriffmuir and, following a book signing in Perth, will be in Dunblane library on 14 or 15 November to publicise her book. This will tie in well with the commemoration of the Battle of Sheriffmuir on 13 November, when there will be a torch-lit march at the Sheriffmuir Inn.

The Chairman has also received news from Jo Bicheno about the progress of the skatepark in the Laighills. The proposed costs of the skatepark are escalating, including the cost of strengthening a small bridge in order to get materials in place. The skatepark committee, the Council and the designers are in close consultation over this in an attempt to get a resolution, and the Community Council as such did not need to be involved.

The Chairman has been notified by Linda Robb from the Community Grant Scheme that a grant might be available to replace the broken glass in the community notice board in the High Street. The Secretary is to obtain quotes for replacing the glass.

The Chairman had looked through Stirling Council Corporate Plan, 2003-2008, and Active Stirling Strategy, 2004-2008, and found nothing in them of concern for the Community Council. However, they are documents which it is useful to be able to quote.

The Chairman has received a letter from Dunblane Museum about the Development Appeal. As part of their lottery application, they have to be supported by the local community and it was agreed that the Secretary will reply to Janice Ainslie informing her of the full backing of the Community Council.

The Chairman has been informed by Stirling Council that, in response to a request by the Community Council, an increase in the frequency of grass-cutting in Dunblane to twenty times a year, with the grass being lifted and not just left, would be considered as part of the draft budget proposals.

The Chairman has been informed that the Braes of Doune Wind Farm proposals have been approved by the Scottish Executive.

The Chairman invited Mrs Muir to address the meeting. She is a user of an electric buggy and has difficulty accessing areas in the town centre because of inadequate provision of ramps at crossing points. It was agreed that the Secretary will write to Stirling Council, as being responsible for disabled access, pointing out the problem.

Stuart Hepburn reported that eight members of the Rural Post Office Group are going to help to clear brambles in Ashfield on 11 November.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

7. Planning Report: See attached.

The Community Council agreed with the planning sub-committee that the objections they had raised in 2003 to an extension at Ryland Lodge were still pertinent.

8. Report of meetings

The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Newton Primary School Board and had been impressed by their discussion of a Travel Plan to formulate safe routes to school.

Stuart Hepburn had attended an editorial meeting of Community View and had been impressed by their professionalism. Advertising raised £2,000 per issue, which was used to cover the costs of production. The Chairman emphasised the need to build up a network of distributors.

The Chairman had attended a meeting of the Dunblane Development Trust on 6 October at which it was agreed to set up a Marketing and Publicity Group. The Trust had also agreed in principle that it would be willing to take over the running of the Braeport Centre and this would be put before the AGM of the Braeport Committee on 17 November. Stirling Council is supporting the change.

9. Police report: See attached.

PC Love reported that a close watch was being kept on the increase in youth disturbance in the Newton Park area. He was also pleased to inform the meeting that, as from 8 November, he will have an assistant.

The Community Council has been asked for an update on the Community Action Plan for the police, and the Chairman told the meeting of an e-mail he had received from a resident complaining about the behaviour of drug addicts in Dunblane. He passed this to PC Love and Councillor Dickson.

10. Councillors' Report

Councillor Dickson reported on the PPP and that the Community Governance meeting would be held in the Victoria Hall on 4 November. She also reported that the Victoria Halls would be closed over Christmas and the New Year.

11. AOCB

PPP The Chairman distributed copies of a draft agenda for the PPP meeting in the Victoria Hall on 9 November and asked for comments. Posters to advertise this will be produced and distributed, and the Headteacher of the High School will be contacted to ensure parents are notified. Local residents round the school had had a constructive meeting with the Treasurer and it had been agreed that the new school could be moved further away from the boundary. The Chairman has also received a letter from Richard Stirling-Aird on behalf of Kippendavie Development Company, suggesting an alternative site for a new school.

Community Governance Consultation Meeting The Chairman produced notes for this meeting, due to take place on 4 November in the Victoria Hall. Councillors were anxious that resources would be stretched if an extra layer of local governance were introduced. It was agreed that there should be a contact person within the Community Council, but that meetings should be limited to one a year and, on this basis, the Chairman and the Secretary will fill in the supplied questionnaire.

The Chairman announced to the meeting that he is expecting to move to Bridge of Allan in March 2005 at which time, regrettably, he will have to resign from the Community Council.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

MONTHLY PLANNING REPORT – 1ST NOVEMBER 2004.

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 34 Coldstream Ave, 8 Montgomery Crescent, 1, Highfields; garage extension 10 Gibson Grove; house on site of old shelter 17 Caledonian Place.

We have an application for a single storey extension to Ryland Lodge which is a listed building in the countryside. Our response to a similar application in 2003, which on that occasion included a conservatory, we submitted the following:

“Dunblane Community Council objects to this application. As you know, we did not want the Lodge converted to three flats and one of the reasons for objecting was that we considered that this Listed Building, within our countryside should have its character protected. Regrettably, approval was given.

In our opinion, having gone as far as converting the internals and changing to some extent the outside, any further changes that take it further still away from its original design and appearance must not be allowed.”

The Community Council needs to decide if there is any reason to take a different view this time, or give the same form of response to this application.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

Still no decisions yet from the Planners regarding the application for 4 new houses behind Provan, the possible developments at Ault Wharrie or the application to demolish a house in Ochloch Park and build 4 new ones. We have objected to all of these except the application for converting Ault Wharrie to 10 flats, which we have conditionally supported. In all cases, the Planning Officer has said that applicants have been asked for more details or for re-consideration of their proposals.

No decision yet on the application for the nursing home at Barbush, which we have supported.

The Reporter considering the appeal relating to the nursing home on Perth Road considered that the proposal did not impact significantly on the Hydro, which was a key element in SC Planning rejecting the application. However, he did consider that the proposed building lacked visual quality in terms of design and materials. He supported the requirement for additional nursing home provision in Dunblane and considered the

site to be an attractive and well located option. We understand that Jay Dawson is in discussions with the applicants regarding possible improvements to the design details.

Other Planning Matters

Despite chasing, I still do not have a date for the promised meeting with Forth Valley Health Board regarding the capital project for a bigger and modernised Health Centre. A recent discussion with Doctor Swan indicated that the delay is due to ongoing discussions between Forth Valley Health Board and the practice partnership.

We have not yet received the modified proposal for the upgraded 400,000 volt power line.

The High School PPP project will only become a matter for the attention of the Planning sub-committee if or when Planning Applications appear on the Weekly Schedule. In the meantime, public consultation continues.

A new Councillors Code for meetings and site inspections relating to planning applications has been published and is on file.

The next meeting of the Planning sub-committee is scheduled for Monday 15th November, 7.30 p.m., Burgh Chambers.

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