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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 2 February 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the Burgh Chambers.

Present: Mike Seal (Chairman), Sandy Mackay (Secretary), Tony Ford (Treasurer), Gordon Boyd, Duncan Taylor, Peter McCusker, Craig French.

In attendance: Councillor Ann Dickson, PC Graham Love, Alan Booth, Terence O'Byrne, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary) and the following residents from Ochiltree and Newton Crescent: Roddy Morrison, Bill Devlin, Richard Ross, Alistair Douglas, Ron Stewart, Peter Withington, Audrey Melrose, Mandy Shaw.

1. Apologies: None had been received.

2. Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially local residents. He gave advance notice of forthcoming elections to the Community Council in March and appealed for the 7 vacancies plus 2 youth member vacancies to be filled. The Treasurer agreed to co-ordinate the distribution around the town of posters and fliers publicising the election, and Alan Booth confirmed that there would be an article in Community View, out in the first week of March. In trying to fill the youth member vacancies, the Chairman had had the help of David MacKenzie, Headteacher at the High School, in publicising these to pupils.

The deadline for Community View is 12 February and copies will be delivered to Community Councillors on Thursday 27 February for distribution. The Chairman urged the Councillors to use all volunteer helpers.

3. Minutes of last meeting

These were approved, proposed by Tony Ford and seconded by Peter McCusker.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Winter gritting Maps of Dunblane detailing the winter gritting programme had not yet been received and the Secretary will follow this up.

Recycling As there was an increase in home recycling, so there was a commensurate drop in the use of the recycling centres at Braeport and Tesco. Mr Wriggle from Stirling Council would like to run a Waste Awareness event in the Braeport during National

Composting Week in May. This would comprise displays, demonstrations and videos, co-ordinated with links to the schools and an article in the local paper. It was agreed that the Treasurer will liaise over the use of the Braeport and with the advertising.

BT Ground The Secretary reported that the place had been cleaned up.

Parking at Drumcastle Court The residents had been asked if they preferred bollards or a railed fence along the grass verge, and work will be in hand soon.

Salt bins These had been refilled.

Christmas lights Now that the lights had been taken down, the responsibility for them will be transferred to the Dunblane Development Trust. Once all bills are settled, the Treasurer will arrange this.

Abbotsford The Chairman had written to Mr Tom Bayne Allan as minuted at the previous meeting of the Community Council, and had received a long reply in return. It was agreed that Mr Tom Bayne Allan will be invited to attend a specially convened meeting of the Community Council.

5. Correspondence: See attached list.

The Chairman had also received:

A letter from Mr Tom Bayne Allan (see above),

A letter and notification from the Scottish Executive Enquiry Reporters Unit about Park of Keir. A pre-Enquiry meeting is to be held at the Dunblane Hilton on 10 February at 7 p.m. and it was agreed that the Secretary and the Treasurer will attend this.

A letter from David MacKenzie, Headteacher at the High School, who offered his support and help with the youth behaviour problem at Newton Playpark.

A letter from the Lyon Keeper of Records about the Coat of Arms.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

It was noted that a Supplementary Grant from the Council of £500 had been received.

The Treasurer confirmed that the £200 grant towards the cost of the Christmas lights will be transferred to the Christmas Lights Fund.

7. Planning Report: See attached list.

The Community Council agreed with the Chairman to object to the application for a new house at Woodend.

With regards to parking, there would be ongoing discussions about the possible use of meters or time limits, neither of which Ann Dickson felt would be acceptable.

While the Health Centre is being rebuilt, a temporary Health Centre would have to be located within Dunblane. The Chairman and Tom Smith from the Development Trust had identified two possible sites for this: (a) the top end of the field at Dunblane Primary School, with access off Murdoch Terrace, and (b) at Anchorscross.

8. Report of Meetings

The Chairman asked Terence O'Byrne to comment on the recent PPP meeting about the future of the High School. He commented that, hopefully, two contractors would bid for the work at the High School but emphasised that the full involvement of the community and the Community Council is encouraged.

9. Police Report: See attached list.

The Chairman welcomed Dunblane's new Community Policeman, PC Graham Love. He reported that, following the on-going problems with youth disturbance at Newton Playpark, it had now been officially designated a "hot spot" and there will be various police operations there in February and March.

In reply to a questionnaire received by the Chairman about community policing, in which the Community Council had been asked to designate the top four items to be investigated by local police, the following were agreed by the Community Council:

- (1) Youth gatherings and disturbances at Newton Playpark;
- (2) Anti-social behaviour around the station and Stirling Road;
- (3) The need for increased visibility of police patrols round the town centre, schools, playparks, etc, in the evenings;
- (4) An investigation to check on the availability of illegal drugs in the community.

PC Love agreed to brief people in shops about selling alcohol to under-age children, although it was admitted that it was often bought by an older teenager on their behalf. As part of the Community Schools event in the Victoria Hall in May, there would be display about drug, solvent and alcohol abuse.

The Chairman then opened up the discussion to the floor. Residents from Ochiltree and Newton Crescent emphasised the problems they were having with over 100 teenagers congregating at Newton Playpark of an evening, causing problems of vandalism, noise and intimidation. The problems were escalating, as youths challenged householders to react and everyone is aware of the necessity of resolving this before it ends in tragedy.

PC Love, while pointing out that the teenagers were breaking no law by congregating in large numbers, accepted that there was not enough manpower to deal with them when their behaviour became unacceptable. Both he and Councillor Ann Dickson urged residents to write to the Chief Constable to explain the problems they were having and to underline the sense of urgency. While promising that he would try to get a high visibility police presence in the area, PC Love felt that parents should be more responsible for the behaviour of their children. He emphasised that no-one should try to deal with youth disturbances by themselves, but should always phone the police.

The Chairman apologised that letters from the Community Council had not been sent out to parents of children found misbehaving, along with letters from the police, and agreed to put this in hand. These will have to be inserted by the police, to maintain the

anonymity of the young offenders. Following the meeting on 29 January (see planning list), the Chairman was awaiting a response from the Community Safety Police to the ideas and suggestions put forward then. This is a police matter but he will push for a concerted action plan for a long-term solution to this problem. More parents could be made aware of the problem, perhaps by leafleting through doors. It was felt that the opening of the new Youth Centre later in the year would have little effect.

10. Councillor's Report

Councillor Dickson gave notice that the hearing on the building of flats at Kilbryde Crescent will be on 26 February. The Chairman will co-ordinate objections from the Community Council and the spokesman of the objectors.

She supported the rejection of the application for a new nursing home on Perth Road (see planning list) but stressed that planners will have to identify sites in Dunblane which were suitable for nursing homes.

Councillor Dickson promised to find out how the raising of funds for the repair of the Memorial Bridge was progressing.

11. AOCB: There was none.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

PLANNING REPORT – 2nd February 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 Karnach, Main Street, Kinbuck; 14 Ledcameroch Gardens; 7 Leighton Court: Garage at 3 The Steading, Ashfield: Formation of corridor 20 Buchan Drive.

We have an application for a new house to be built in the garden ground of Woodend, Smithy Loan. I believe that this can be considered to be a “back yard” development which halves the curtilage of Woodend and creates a curtilage for the new house that is also considerably smaller than the surrounding properties, with the exception of the unique property called The Old Smiddy. Some mature trees on the roadside would be lost and it could be argued that the general character of this area would be damaged by the insertion of a new house into this site. I recommend that we object.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

At a meeting that I had on 21st January in Viewforth with Mick Stewart and John Skinner, John promised that he would look at the revised Section 75 for Ledcameroch and check comparisons with the previous agreement. He would then invite me in to look through the details. No news yet.

I did not receive the promised letter from John Skinner concerning the alterations to the Perth Road wall near the entrance to Ledcameroch House and I have chased him for this. However, the work has now started ahead of us receiving this information, so it is yet another fait accompli. John also told me before Christmas that he would check the status the potential rebuild of the wall section near the entrance to Ledcameroch Gardens but I still do not have any statement on this.

The Planning Panel inspected the site of the proposed 15 dwellings in two blocks in Kilbryde Crescent and I attended with one of the residents. However, it was an unproductive attendance because I was not permitted to ask any questions or make any comments. I will get a chance to speak at the Planning Panel in February, when the application is again considered.

The Planning Panel rejected the application for a new nursing home on Perth Road, which we had supported with conditions. There is however widespread recognition that

an acceptable site for a new nursing home development is going to have to be found in Dunblane soon and we must play our part in trying to help identify this.

We have objected to the proposal to build 9 new houses around Provan.

We have objected to proposals for extending the Sheriffmuir Inn and building a Managers house.

The application for an extension and conservatory on Ryland Lodge was rejected.

Other Planning Matters

We have been told that resident consultations are now proceeding on the proposed traffic calming measures in Old Doune Road and the design options around the junctions with Braemar Avenue and with Wallace Road are being investigated.

Parking on the dual carriageway is being marked out now. The next step will be for us to open up widespread consultation on how we are going to extend parking restrictions around the Station area to force all-day parkers to use the dual carriageway. The options time-limits and parking charges need to be assessed and the needs of residents and business employees need to be accommodated. In parallel with this, the Planning & Strategy Group of the Dunblane Development Trust are proceeding with identifying the best plan for extending the Mill Row car park.

Regarding the Stirling Council Local Plan Inquiry held before Christmas, the Reporter is expected to report in March.

On 13th January, I attended a meeting of RAGE in Bridge of Allan to explain the position of Dunblane Community Council regarding the Park of Keir application. I asked, for the second time, that we are sent a copy of what Bridge of Allan have submitted, but so far, I have received nothing. The pre-Inquiry meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10th February at 7.00 p.m. in the Hydro when we will learn about how we will have to go about preparing for our submissions to the inquiry.

Duncan Taylor and I attended a Telecommunications seminar at Viewforth on 14th January. Again we have been promised that pre-application consultations and ideas that we have for appropriate sites will be seriously considered and that where possible, site sharing will feature. In particular, we asked that all providers potentially interested in installations on top of the Hydro must get together so that any proposed building modification covers all the needs and not just the needs of one provider.

We have made good progress with discussions on Primary Health Care provisions for Dunblane. On 26th January, I attended a meeting with Dunblane Doctors, the Dunblane Practice Manager, Directors from NHS Forth Valley Primary Care Trust, and Tom Smith representing the Dunblane Development Trust. It was stated that Dunblane is now top of the list for capital investment in Forth Valley and that by the end of March there should

be drawings, an identified build contractor and a fully costed proposal. Tom and I have since assisted with identifying options for appropriate sites for a temporary Portacabin Health Centre which would need to be set-up to cover the build period and our proposed options are now being assessed in more detail.

On 29th January I attended a meeting at Newton Play Park with a special Community Police Constable from Stirling, our new Community Policeman, PC Graham Love, two youth specialists from Stirling Council and a few local residents. We discussed the issues of frequent anti-social behaviour at the park and exchanged ideas. We now await conclusions from these consultations. It was agreed that it was not good enough just to shift the problem elsewhere and it was also agreed that the parents in this community are going to have to play their part in assisting with routing out the trouble-makers. This is not really a Planning matter, but Planning issues such as possible changes to the play park may come out of it.