



# Dunblane Community Council

Frederic Gilmour  
Secretary  
74 Menteith View  
Dunblane  
FK15 0PD

Tel:01786 825025

Terence O'Byrne  
Chairman  
3 Argyle Grove  
Dunblane  
FK15 9DT

Tel:01786 823604

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 2 March 2009, in the Burgh Chambers, Dunblane.**

**Present:** Terence O'Byrne (Chairman), Lawrie Dewar (Treasurer), Charles McHugh, Alan Booth, John Alexander, Craig French, Kevin Curtin, Sylvia Cairns, Sue Faulkner.

**In attendance:** Councillor David Goss, Councillor Colin Finlay, Councillor Graham Houston, Angela Edgar, Clare Clark, Mahdu Satasangi, Moira Stewart, Denise Kelly, Martin Little (*Allanwater News*), Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

**1. Apologies:** Apologies have been received from Kate Fawcett and PC Simon Fraser.

**2. Chairman's Remarks:** There was none.

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 2 February 2009**

These were approved, proposed by Craig French and seconded by Kevin Curtin.

### **4. Matters arising**

Speeding traffic in Ramoyle Councillor Goss apologised and will report at the next meeting on the Council's view on reducing the speed limit on Ramoyle. The community council expressed concern that the "access only" signs are not easily visible to passing traffic. Councillor Houston reported that the Council has reduced the height of the signs and lit them but that the enforcement of the "no access" restriction is a police matter. However, the Council will be undertaking a survey of traffic in Ramoyle to find out how many vehicles are driving through. Inhabitants of Ramoyle highlighted the fact that people are not aware of the "access only" restrictions and that even at 30 mph traffic is of danger to Ramoyle residents. Community councillors encouraged the *Allanwater News* to publicise this

problem, and Councillor Houston reiterated the need for a 20 mph restriction, and the publicising and enforcement of the “access only” restrictions. **Action:** Councillors Goss and Houston.

Traffic issues at the new M&S store The white lines have been painted on the approach to the dip but the Chairman agreed to have a look at them when Alan Booth reported that they were not understood by some drivers. The Council will redo the traffic survey after two months and, in the meantime, the Chairman asked the *Allanwater News* to educate the public about the new road markings. The Chairman is also going to check whether the dip for the U-turn was being gritted. **Action:** The Chairman.

Scouring burn bridge Councillor Goss reported that a substantial barrier has been erected to prevent people falling from the footpath – they have to divert to the road. Alan Booth reported that a meeting is to be held with representatives from SEPA, the Planning and Footpath Officer and Nicola Paterson from Stirling Council to discuss:

- a) the Cala development and why the footpath was not included;
- b) the scouring burn bridge and why the technical problems were not identified;
- c) the Laighills and its footpaths.

John Alexander is also interested in attending this meeting.

Bus timetable Charles McHugh reported that the library and the Burgh Chambers had copies of this but that the library has already run out. He also noted that the Aberdeen-Dundee-Glasgow bus was not included. Councillor Houston agreed to send a copy of the timetable to the Chairman for inclusion on the website. **Action:** Councillor Houston.

High School facilities Councillor Houston had looked into the charges for hiring the facilities and reported that charges have been equalised to make them more equitable, and depended on whether the changing facilities or janitorial services were required. This did mean, however, that Dunblane Soccer Club would have to pay £62 for 2 hours.

Laighills pitch The top Laighills pitch has been damaged by Council vehicles and cannot be used at present by Dunblane Soccer Club which usually leases the pavilion every year. It was reported that new turf is to be delivered shortly, and Councillor Goss agreed to ascertain whether the drainage is to be improved. Community councillors agreed that it was unfair that the Soccer Club has to bear increased costs for hiring a football pitch elsewhere because the Laighills pitch has been made unplayable. **Action:** Councillor Goss.

All-weather pitch Councillor Houston reported that as the all-weather pitch had been gifted by Cala to the Council it was transferred to the PPP along with other assets. However, Alan Booth forcefully argued that this pitch had been the only planning gain ever received by Dunblane and was not a Council asset. Originally it was to have been built on the Cala estate but it had been agreed that it should be built at the High School and was to be available for community use. He called on the Councillors to identify where the mistake had

been made and to prevent other community assets from being lost. Councillor Houston, in agreeing to explore the possibility of community assets on the Council books being transferred to community ownership, will collate a list of these assets in Dunblane. **Action:** Councillor Houston.

Access road to football pitches Councillor Goss reported that, outwith school hours the school is not responsible for the behaviour of people attending matches at the new pitch and bringing cars on to the access road and on to the sidelines. The gate on to the public road cannot be locked as emergency and maintenance vehicles need to be able to access the pitch. However, it was agreed that it is essential that any let agreement should include a prohibition on vehicles and Councillor Goss agreed to follow this up with Active Stirling. **Action:** Councillor Goss.

Footpath to Ashfield Councillor Goss reported that no work has yet been done.

Pavement to Kinbuck Councillor Goss reported that the pavement has been cleared up to Ashfield and further work is due to be done shortly. The owner of the field whose wall is falling on to the pavement has also been notified. **Action:** Councillor Goss will follow this up.

Deep-clean of Dunblane Councillor Houston noted that the Chairman wanted the High Street to be prioritised. **Action:** Councillor Houston. John Alexander agreed to follow up the need for the land near the Victoria Hall to be cleaned up. **Action:** John Alexander.

Christmas lights As the Christmas lights are still up in the High Street, it was agreed that the Treasurer will bring this to the notice of the Dunblane Development Trust. **Action:** The Treasurer.

Bogside Councillor Houston has looked into the status of the land and confirmed that part of the ground is zoned for use by children. Alan Booth reported that, as he understands it, the permission of the heirs of the estate is not required for houses to be built there. The Chairman has a copy of the relevant legal documents and agreed to Councillor Houston taking a copy of them. **Action:** Councillor Houston is to provide feedback from the Council's Legal Department which is looking into the issue.

Hogweed The Chairman will follow this up. **Action:** The Chairman.

U-turn on B8033 As there has been an objection to the erection of "no U-turn" signs, Councillor Houston reported that this will be discussed by the Council shortly. When Kevin Curtin noted that there is still a sign for the now closed Tourist Information Office the Chairman agreed to inform the Council. **Action:** The Chairman.

Laighills It was noted that, in clarification of the minutes of 2 February 2009, if the Laighills became a WIATS (Woodland In and Around Towns Scheme) then it would still be under Council ownership, but could be leased by another body in Dunblane.

Windfarm community grant Craig French confirmed that all unsuccessful applicants have been notified and referred to the website where there is a list of successful groups.

The order of the agenda was changed and the following considered next.

## 12. Councillors' Reports

Councillor Houston informed the meeting that Councillors have been busy agreeing a budget. As part of budget review, the budget for Area Planning Community Forums has been cut by £17,000. This led to a discussion over the possibility of Dunblane having its own APCF and what financial help it was missing out on by not being part of an APCF. Although dedicated administrative community support has been considered for Dunblane, Councillor Houston reported that it had been rejected. However, he suggested that if Dunblane were to create a body comprising different groups within the community, which would meet several times a year, then the Council will be prepared to give it administrative support. Reflecting that this body would be similar to the old Dunblane Forum, and would thus include traders, business people, schools, etc, Alan Booth pushed for this to be discussed and it was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting of the community council. In reply to a question from Alan Booth, Councillor Finlay reported that many APCFs are single-issue forums and in his opinion, Dunblane was not missing out by not participating in an APCF.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Finlay to the meeting and invited him to highlight any problems from Dunblane that he has been dealing with. He reported that he has been receiving complaints of anti-social behaviour on common stairwells and landings. He commented on the lack of housing stock in Dunblane and the need for social rented housing. However, Alan Booth pointed out that people are not aware of the allocation process which can mean that people in Dunblane are not necessarily prioritised for available social rented housing in Dunblane, and he encouraged the *Allanwater News* to publicise the process. In reply to a question from Clare Clark, Councillor Goss confirmed that at developments such as that proposed at Anchorscross, Stirling Council insisted on a mixture of housing types. **Action:** Councillor Finlay is to liaise with the *Allanwater News*.

In response to the Chairman's complaint that on bin collection day, the empty recycling boxes and lids were strewn across pavements and roads, Councillor Finlay agreed to follow this up. **Action:** Councillor Finlay.

The Chairman encouraged all Councillors to share issues between them and to share with the community council the issues relating to Dunblane that they were dealing with.

**5. Police Report:** See attached.

As there was no police attendance, the Chairman read out the written police report. With reference to the number of vehicles speeding past the 50 mph limit on the way into Dunblane from the Keir roundabout, Inspector Sharkey had replied that there was nowhere for the police to safely stop cars. The Chairman expressed the view that speed cameras should be used or cars stopped further on, at the 30 mph area.

Clare Clark raised the problem of under-age drinking and reported that the police had rebuffed her efforts a year ago to prevent alcohol being sold to under-21s at weekends. There is also the problem of older people buying alcohol on behalf of under-age drinkers. The Treasurer informed the meeting that retailers have the right to refuse to sell alcohol to anyone. Councillor Houston encouraged retailers to embark on a strategy of bottle-marking by which if an under-age drinker were found with alcohol, it could be traced back to the retailer and, by using CCTV, to the purchaser. It was agreed to discuss this issue in more detail at the next community council meeting.

**6. Correspondence:** See attached.

The Chairman has a copy of a letter sent by Moira Stewart to Brian Roberts, Roads Department, referring to the dispute between Network Rail and Stirling Council about the parking at the station opposite the Victoria Hall. No reply has yet been received but the Working Group on parking is due to meet in the next few weeks.

A reply has also been received to a letter from the Treasurer sent in June 2007 to the Traffic Management Officer, Stirling Council, about the problems of parking at the primary schools in Dunblane, some of which have been addressed. There is to be consultation on part-time 20 mph limits on Doune Road and Smithy Loan but the Chairman felt that Old Doune Road should also be included in this process and has written to the Council to ask them to consider this.

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

The Treasurer noted that an invoice for £1,000 was awaited for the Community Pride Funding. He also encouraged all community councillors to submit claims for expenses by 20 March.

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

Alan Booth asked the Chairman to check that the antenna to be erected at the fire station is not a phone mast, in view of the close proximity of the primary school.

With reference to the new Stirling Local Development Plan, Craig French informed the meeting that, in future, Development Plans are expected to be updated more frequently, and that developers now have a positive obligation to consult with communities.

**9. Community Plan Update**

Alan Booth distributed copies of the questionnaire which is due to be distributed to 1,000 households in Dunblane and discussion followed about it. Dunblane has grown considerably since the last Community Plan, which had not included Ashfield and Kinbuck. It was, therefore, felt that any issues in the two smaller villages would be dwarfed by Dunblane problems and they should make their own plans this time. In Kinbuck, consultation based on the questionnaire has already taken place by email and a representative sample of the residents of Ashfield will also be contacted. The results from the two villages are going to be kept separate and will form an addendum to the main Community Plan.

**10. Revision of Ward/Election System**

Four options with regards to changing the ward or election system for the community council were discussed. The problem under the present system is that councillors and co-opted councillors can represent only the ward in which they reside, which has resulted in more candidates than there are vacancies in some wards while there are vacancies in others. After much discussion, it was agreed to keep the present system but the three co-opted members would not have to reside in the ward which they represent. The Chairman will discuss this with Helen Geddes. **Action:** The Chairman.

**11. Report of Meetings:** There was none.

**13. AOCB**

In response to a query from John Alexander about the state of the back road from Albert Street to the Old Doune Road, Councillor Houston will check whether the road has been adopted by the Council. **Action:** Councillor Houston.

John Alexander also asked that copies of *Community View* be placed at the surgery.

Sue Faulkner reported that all applicants had passed the First Responders course.

Moira Stewart notified the Chairman about potholes at Clarendon Place and also reported that 16 – 25 year olds can now play football at the Dunblane Centre for a reduced rate on Wednesday evening.

The meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

This is a true representation of the meeting.

Terence O'Byrne .....	Date
.....Chairman	
Frederic Gilmour .....	Date
.....Secretary	

## CRIME FIGURES FOR DUNBLANE – FEBRUARY 2009

In February there have been a total of 18 crimes reported.

### DETECTED

There have been a total of 8 detected crimes reported, these include 2 assaults, a theft, a breach of the peace, 2 persons apprehended for being drunk and incapable, a person caught urinating in the street and a security guard who was working without the proper license.

### UNDETECTED

There have been a total of 10 undetected crimes reported, these include an assault, 6 theft and 3 vandalism. The theft are made up of 3 shoplifting, theft from a vehicle, theft of copper wire and the theft of beer.

As can be seen, a number of thefts have been reported and it is asked that any suspicious activity is reported to police and if any vehicles are seen the registration numbers noted. In other areas a number of diesel thefts have been reported and a number of copper (telephone wires) thefts have also been reported. In both these cases it would require a larger vehicle to transport what was stolen.

### PACT PRIORITIES

Attention has continued to be given to these with ongoing enquiries to a number of vandalisms. Parking has continued to be monitored with 5 fixed penalties issued for a variety of offences. Patrols have also been continued in relation to anti-social behaviour.

PC 96 Fraser

## **Dunblane Community Council**

Correspondence received: 2 February to 2 March, 2009.

- 1) On 5 Feb. from Stirling Council, Notice of Planning Panel meeting for 10 Feb at 1000 hrs. No Dunblane applications appear on the agenda.
- 2) On 16 Feb. from Stirling Council, notice of Stirling Council meeting on 19 February at 1830 hrs, includes agenda. No Dunblane-specific items on the agenda.
- 3) On 17 Feb. from the 'Events Team' of Planning Aid for Scotland, notice of and booking form for the UK Planning Aid Conference 2009, on 6 & 7 April at Pollock Halls, Edinburgh. Cost: £180 for both days if not staying in Pollock Halls; otherwise £250 for 2 nights' stay and both conference days or £205 for one night's stay and both conference days.
- 4) On 28 Feb. from Stirling Council, notice of Planning Pane meeting on 5 March at 1000 hrs. Dunblane-specific agenda item is extension to dwelling at 9 Wallace Road by the Retties.
- 5) On 28 Feb. from Planning Aid for Scotland, notice of an 'Information Event' on 17 March at Victoria Hall, Dunblane, 1800 hrs to 2000hrs. Reservations(!) to be lodged by 13 March. Booking form attached to the posting.

F J A Gilmour  
Honorary Secretary  
Dunblane Community Council

0 1786 825025

## Dunblane Community Council

### **Treasurers Report**

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009.

'Administration Account'	00347702
Expenditure since last report	£30.00
Interest	£0.31
Income	£nil
Account balance to date 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2009.	<u>£1603.16</u>

'Community Fund'	00347753
Expenditure since last report	Nil
Income since last report	Nil
Interest	£0.04
Account balance to date 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	<u>£200.73</u>

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Lawrie Dewar, Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009.

Lawrie Dewar  
Treasurer

## MONTHLY REPORT – March 2009.

### **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 1 Auchinlay holdings, 28A Ochloch Park, Pearl Cottage Old Doune Road, 30 Wallace Road, with decking at Dykedale Farm, with double garage at Netherercromlix. Conservatory and decking at 5 Chisholm Ave, Replacement Garage and shed at the Old Smiddy Smithy Loan, New Antenna at the Fire Station, Change of use to Hair Salon at 23A High St

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

No decisions on the 3 townhouses at the Stirling Arms, Conversion of the agricultural building at Little Hill, new house at Mid Cambushinne, 2 new houses at Park Cottage.

### **Other Planning Matters**

The new high school road is Maurice Wynd named after Bishop Maurice who was involved at the Cathedral from 1322-1347. He was Bruce's chaplain and had blessed the Scots army at Bannockburn in 1314.

The revised Housing in the Countryside policy has been adopted, the document has much more detail than the draft policy with clarification on Building Groups with an upper limit on 6 new houses. The presumption against Green Belt development has been retained and a contribution to a general affordable housing rural fund will be required for all developments exceeding 1 new house.

A meeting run by Planning Aid Scotland was held in February to discuss the new Stirling Local Development Plan. The Council have produced a Development Plan Scheme which details their consultation process and expected timetable. A Main Issues Report will be produced by Autumn this year with extensive consultation being promised. We should be able to feed in results from our new Community Plan into this process. They expect to produce the proposed plan by Spring 2010 with further consultation and produce a final plan by end of 2010 which then goes through an approval process with final adoption by 2012. The main feature of this new process is that the current dual process of Structure and the Local Plan will be combined which means we will be able to see exactly where developments are to take place at an early stage. They also claim that more consultation will take place

Terence O'Byrne