

Dunblane Community Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 2 October, 2006, in the Burgh Chambers, Dunblane.

Present: Tony Ford (Chairman), Sandy Mackay (Secretary), Peter McCusker (Treasurer), Terence O'Byrne, Kirsten Strachan, Stuart Hepburn, Craig French.

In attendance: PC Linzi Meek, Alan Booth, Sue Faulkner, Moira Stewart, Councillor Pat Greenhill, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Duncan Taylor and John Alexander.

2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman, in the light of the approaching community council elections, thanked the councillors for all their support and the work done in representing the community. In particular, the meeting at the Dunblane Centre which many residents had attended to discuss the siting of the skateboard park, he felt, had won the community council much respect.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 4 September 2006

These were approved, proposed by Peter McCusker and seconded by Stuart Hepburn.

4. Matters arising

Grass cutting Mr Goodfellow from Stirling Council has stated that he is aware of the problem and is taking steps to improve the situation. He plans to meet community councils to discuss next year's programme.

Bollard at The Haining The Chairman was hopeful that this was going to be replaced, perhaps by a barrier.

Area Community Planning Forum Terence O'Byrne reported on the most recent meeting of the Forum at which most of the discussion had centred on the lack of grass cutting. At the meeting, the Council had conceded that the arrangements would be kept under review and, if resources were available, there would be a cut of the areas of long grass by the end of October.

Braeport The Dunblane Development Trust is looking into this.

Laighills pavilion Nothing further has been heard from the Council.

CCTV When the Secretary reported on the need to supply crime figures to justify their application for cameras in Dunblane, PC Meek promised to follow this up.

Ashfield buses As a result of reports on radio and television, David Cameron, Head of Children's Services, had gone to Ashfield and conceded that the decision not to provide free buses to schoolchildren will have to be reviewed. Stuart Hepburn also discovered that the distance measured from Ashfield was only up to the pelican crossing and not all the way to Newton Primary School. The Council has not adopted the road to Ashfield, as it is substandard.

Parents of primary school children from Montgomery Crescent had invited Colin McMenemy to inspect their route to school and he had to concede that it was unsafe at the corner with the Old Doune Road. The possibility of providing a manned pelican crossing is being considered.

5. Correspondence: See attached list.

The erosion of the wall at the river walk is being looked at by the Council.

Notice of Community Council elections will be given on 13 and 18 October, with nominations to be in by 3 November. Ballot papers, in the event of an election, will have to be returned by 8 December. This means that present councillors stand down as from 2 November.

The Barbush to Ramoyle path is being upgraded and lit.

Holmehill Community Buyout Group had requested to attend this Community Council meeting, but the Secretary felt it was better to postpone this until the next meeting. It was agreed that the Community Council should be seen as unbiased and should not express any opinion of proposed developments until the planning applications were submitted.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

7. Planning Report: See attached.

In reply to Terence O'Byrne's request to the Council for details of their policy on monitoring planning applications in neighbouring authorities, he has been informed that there is no process for consultation. In the case near Braco, the building of 100 holiday homes will have an impact on residents of Kinbuck, but it has to be accepted that the Community Council has no influence on Perth Council: Stuart Hepburn has had not reply to letters to Perth Council; and Terence reported that no traffic impact study was considered necessary. Given the difficulties that lorries have at the bridge at Kinbuck, the Chairman asked Terence to write to Stirling Council to enquire if they could approach Perth Council about ensuring speed and weight restrictions on the road were well signed. In response to Alan Booth, the Chairman urged local residents to contact the Local Authority Ombudsman about their dissatisfaction with the way the system of notification between authorities was operating.

In reply to a request from Terence O'Byrne Stirling Council has sent a leaflet about enforcement policy and procedures. The question was raised of when developments, for example Barbush, were actually complete.

The Treasurer brought to the attention of the meeting plans which he has received, under the neighbour notification scheme, to demolish 35 Old Doune Road and replace it with two houses. The Community Council agreed to object to this, when it appeared on the schedule, as it is a backyard development and there would be problems with access.

8. Report of meetings

The Chairman has had a meeting with a resident of Edward Street, enquiring where the new zebra crossing at Springfield Crescent is going to be sited. The Community Council agreed that the most sensible site was at the bottom of the path from George Street, where there is a break in the fence and there are dropped kerbs, even although it meant the loss of parking spaces. The Secretary will follow this up. Councillor Greenhill reported that there has been a delay in the Council's parking strategy because of a review of safe routes to school. She agreed to look into this.

Terence O'Byrne reported on a meeting of residents neighbouring the High School about the progress of the PPP build. Complaints about mud on the roads were being addressed. Notice will be given when the footbridge over the motorway will be closed for up to eight weeks in order to extend the height of the parapets. This will also entail one lane of the motorway being closed. The two pitches over the motorway have already been seeded. Residents made it clear that they did not want the football pitch near the school, when it is ready, to be available for community use.

The Secretary has been at a meeting of COBRA (Campaign to Open Blackford Railway station Again) which is lobbying for the re-opening of Blackford station and associated car parks. This would relieve pressure on parking in Dunblane and COBRA is organising a petition which the Chairman urged people to support.

Stuart Hepburn reported on a meeting of Stirling Before Pylons at Fallin at which the timescale for the Public Inquiry was discussed. A pre-inquiry meeting will be held in the Albert Halls, Stirling, on 31 October. Stuart said that new technology is now available which would allow the Beauly to Denny powerline to be put underground at less expense and with less damage than was previously thought. A QC will have to be appointed by Stirling Before Pylons. The feeling at the meeting was that Stirling Council was less prepared than other councils and had not yet allocated a budget for the Inquiry, although they can reclaim any costs. However, Councillor Greenhill reassured the Community Council that Stirling Council will spend whatever is required. Stuart Hepburn is going to another meeting in Kinbuck.

9. Police Report

PC Meek reported that the crime figures for Dunblane for the past month were low. She was going to look into making zigzag lines enforceable at primary schools. The Chairman thanked her for her efforts. She reported that PC Meikle had followed up on the complaint by Moira Campbell last month and the latter had been satisfied by the explanation that there had been a serious incident at Bridge of Allan at the same time as she had phoned the police.

10. Councillor's Report

Councillor Greenhill reported that she was pursuing vigorously the possibility of a cut of the long grass at Wallace Road and Anchorscross.

11. AOCB

It was reported that to construct the skateboard park, the bridge into the Laighills has been strengthened.

Provisionally, the next meeting of the Community Council will be on 6 November 2006.

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

MONTHLY REPORT –OCTOBER 2006.

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 9 Bruce Ave, Firtrees 2 Atholl Place, 29 Atholl Place and 35 Wedderburn Road. Wind Turbine at Moon Cottage.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

No progress on the phone mast at Barbush or the Perth Road.

The public enquiry to be held for the Provan development has a new Reporter, Mr Michael Thomson

Other Planning Matters

A letter was sent to Peter Morgan, Planning Manager on September 6th requesting details on how the Council monitors planning applications in neighbouring counties (after the 100 holiday homes in Braco outline approval. The reply stated that there is no policy in place, they rely on neighbouring authorities to notify them of any significant developments and they consider this to be satisfactory?

A second letter was sent to Peter Morgan requesting details of the Enforcement Policy and performance data for the last 2 to 3 years. A reply was received from Lynne Currie (Planning Enforcement Officer). A voluntary start notice scheme has been in operation since October 1999, there is no statutory requirement for developers to notify the planners. Sheer volumes of development mean that enforcement officers cannot monitor all sites, a risk assessment is done to identify critical sites. Performance data only indicated the number of new cases and cases closed each year.

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