

# Dunblane Community Council

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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 3 April, 2006, at 7.30 p.m. in the Burgh Chambers.**

**Present:** Sandy Mackay (Secretary), Peter McCusker (Treasurer), Terence O'Byrne, Duncan Taylor, Craig French, Domenico Angeolini.

**In attendance:** PC Linzi Meek, Councillor Ann Dickson, Alan Booth, Mr Fraser (a resident of Station Road), Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies have been received from Tony Ford, Kirsten Strachan and John Alexander.

### **2. Chairman's Remarks**

In the absence of the chairman, the Secretary, Sandy Mackay, agreed to chair this meeting. Mr Raymond Boyle from RPS was unable to attend this meeting and it was agreed to invite him to the June meeting of the Community Council.

The Chairman suspended the order of the agenda in order to hear Mr Fraser, who was complaining about the congregation of youths in the bike shelters outside the station. Not only were the cycle shelters vandalised on a regular basis, but the youths who gathered there were a nuisance and verbally abused passers-by. Craig French remarked that Stirling Council has a requirement to encourage cycling, which was why they were erecting new cycle racks at the Tesco car park and at both ends of the High Street. However, it was the responsibility of the police to deal with any criminal behaviour. It was, therefore, essential that any anti-social behaviour was reported to the police so that more police resources were targeted on Dunblane. PC Meek reassured that there would be complete confidentiality given to those reporting offences.

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 6 March 2006**

These were approved, proposed by Terence O'Byrne, and seconded by Duncan Taylor.

### **4. Matters arising**

Barbush In relation to the blocking off the underpass, created during the construction of the by-pass to provide access to the sand quarry workings, Councillor Dickson is going to follow this up.

Bollard at The Haining The Secretary will write to the Council about the missing bollard; Councillor Dickson said that the residents of The Haining were anxious for it to be replaced.

**5. Correspondence:** See attached.

The consultation document from the Forestry Commission was passed to Duncan Taylor.

The Scottish Executive questionnaire about the ageing population of Scotland was passed to Peter McCusker.

With reference to Stirling Council's consultation about the new grass cutting arrangements, Craig French expressed his dissatisfaction that, despite noting the Community Council's complaints about the cutbacks, Stirling Council had not changed their proposals.

A quaich will be provided for the Dunblane High School Awards Ceremony.

With reference to the correspondence about Area Community Planning, a discussion arose about the powers and responsibilities of the Area Community Planning Forums and those of Community Councils. Stirling Council has invited community councillors to attend sessions arranged to discuss Standards for Community Engagement and the Community Council debated whether they should attend. Councillor Dickson knew of three Community Councils who were not taking part in the Area Community Planning Forums. Craig French pointed out that Community Planning Forums were meant for everyone to work together for common aims, but the way in which this was working out in Dunblane was that core statutory responsibilities of the Community Council were being subsumed by the Area Community Planning Forum. It was felt that clarification from Stirling Council should be sought about the remit of the Community Council and of the Area Community Planning Forum; the Secretary, with the help of Craig French, will write to the Council to this end.

Dunblane Community Council will acknowledge the letter from Blair Drummond and Thornhill Community Council about the proposed livestock market.

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

The Treasurer asked everyone to submit their expenses' claims as the end of the financial year was close. It was agreed that a photograph of the new railings at the community garden at the Faery Bridge should appear in *Community View*.

**7. Planning Report:** See attached.

With reference to Ardnablane and in view of the barriers which had been erected there and boards advertising it for sale, it was agreed that Terence O'Byrne will write to Stirling Council to ensure that no unauthorised work has taken place.

It was agreed that Terence O'Byrne will write to Stirling Council to confirm that all the conditions relevant to the temporary building at Arnhall Nursery have been met.

With reference to the proposed phone mast at Barbush, it was agreed that Terence O'Byrne will write to express concerns that it will be too visible on a sensitive site and that more details were required.

**8. Report of meetings**

Area Community Planning Forum meeting of 29 March Major disagreements between the Community Council and the Dunblane Development Trust had appeared at this meeting over the distribution of the money from Stirling Council. A further meeting between the Community Council and the Trust will take place on 12 April to try to reach agreement and all community councillors were urged to attend. Alan Booth, as a director of the Dunblane Development Trust, expressed his sadness at the rift but felt that the remit of the Area Community Planning Forum should be made more clear. The Community Council can not raise funds, and this was the main reason why the Development Trust was set up in the first place. However, it should be left to the Community Council, in accordance with the Community Development Plan, to steer how the money available to the Area Planning Forum was spent. He was dissatisfied with the way the Community Council was being sidelined and the community as a whole was not being properly represented at the Forum. As Councillor Dickson reminded the meeting, the skateboard project was given a large tranche of the money because its supporters had attended the first meeting of the Forum, and it was agreed that as there was no structure for membership of the Forum and representatives of any local group could attend, it was open to abuse.

### **9. Police report**

PC Linzi Meek reported that the main problems in the town related to vandalism, although there had been break-ins and attempted break-ins to houses at Montgomery Crescent, Anchorscross and Bruce Avenue, for which they had a suspect. She appealed for information about the latest gathering places for youths so that the police teams would know where to target. She was also looking at increased co-operation between the police and the transport police to help with problems near the station. She was also going to write an article for the next *Community View*, due out in the middle of May. She pointed out that the Drop-in Centre was a great help in keeping young people off the streets, at least until it closed at 9.30 p.m. on Saturday when there could then be a few problems as some waited for trains. However, due to lack of funds for staffing, it was not going to be open from now until October and the Secretary pointed out that this was a lost opportunity for spending the Anti-Social Behaviour Money allocated to the Area Community Planning Forum.

### **10. Councillor's Report**

Councillor Ann Dickson reported that the upgrading of the path from Barbush to Ramoyle was due to start soon. Bus passes are going to be withdrawn to children over the age of eight who live on the Barbush estate, who attend Dunblane Primary School.

### **11. AOCB**

In reply to a question from the Secretary about the lack of progress over reinstating the Memorial Bridge as Stirling Council were not taking any responsibility for it, Councillor Dickson reported that the Development Trust were trying to get lottery funding. She also reported that no-parking yellow lines at the station would be in place soon.

Alan Booth appealed for information about difficulties in delivering the *Community View*. The next edition will be out in mid-May, to tie in with the Doune and Dunblane Fling.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

## MONTHLY REPORT –APRIL 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 Langwell 4 Kinnoul Ave, 3 Montrose Way, 17 Argyle Way, 74 Newton Crescent, 24 Strathmore Ave, 12 Leighton Ave, Allanridge The Haining, 85 Ochiltree. Demolish and erect new house at Romanview Ramoyle.

The planning sub committee met during March to consider the following two applications: Convert Ault Wharrie into 4 flats/dwellings and demolish an old extension, the committee decided to support this application on the basis that the proposals would preserve the existing listed building with minimal external changes. Erect a new dwelling house at Stonehill Farm, the committee decided to support this application with the proviso that a suitable restricted occupation condition be imposed.

Terence O'Byrne was contacted by a neighbour at Arnhall Nursery where a temporary building had been erected in advance of planning permission being granted, given that the area is designated as an 'Area of Great Landscape Value Countryside' it was considered appropriate that Stirling Council be informed of the advance works and an officer visit be requested. This visit did take place and the response from the officer was that all was in order, that a temporary building could be erected without permission for a one month period in any 12 months. It has come to light that a condition of planning consent was that samples of the building fabric and roof were to be submitted for approval before commencement of works which was not possible in this case. Does the community council wish to take this matter up with Stirling Council?

Advance notice of an application for a new mobile phone mast at Barbush to replace the existing unit at the High School has been received, the community council must decide tonight on its response. Details are available.

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

The application for 4 houses at Provan was recommended for refusal at the planning committee meeting in March, however, the applicant has now lodged an appeal against the Council because of the delay in processing the application within deadlines

An appeal has been lodged against the refusal of permission for converting Ault Wharrie into 10 flats (which the Community Council supported with conditions last year). It is not clear yet why an appeal has been lodged given the recent application for conversion to 4 flats mentioned above.

Still no decisions yet from the Planners regarding the applications at Glen Road, Randolph Hill, Braeport and Ardnablane .

### **Other Planning Matters**

The planning sub committee will meet with Mick Stewart, Head of Planning at Stirling Council on April 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Councils proposals for involvement of the community in advance planning matters which results for the recent legislation changes.

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.