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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 4 April 2005, at 7.30 p.m. in the Burgh Chambers.

Present: Mike Seal (Chairman), Sandy Mackay (Secretary), Tony Ford (Treasurer), Terence O'Byrne, Duncan Taylor, Kirsten Strachan, Craig French.

In attendance: Councillor Ann Dickson, Jean and Alec Nairn, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Stuart Hepburn and John Alexander.

2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the Annual General Meeting of the Community Council to be held at 7 o'clock on 9 May before the ordinary meeting. The main agenda item will be the election of officebearers. Due to his move to Bridge of Allan, the present Chairman would be standing down both as chairman and as a community councillor. The Treasurer has indicated his willingness to stand for the post, but this would leave the Treasurer's post vacant. The present Secretary is willing to carry on. The Chairman thanked everyone for their support at meetings.

The Chairman now suspended the running order of the agenda and asked Mr and Mrs Nairn to inform the meeting of the issue they wished raised. They complained about the faded state of the "No Entry" sign at the Post Office, which meant that motorists were frequently confused about the right of way there. It was agreed that this needed pursuing, and that another "No Entry" sign on the other side of the road would also be of help. The absence of the lifebelt near the road bridge over the river was also noted. The Chairman thanked them for bringing this to their attention.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 7 March 2005

These were approved, proposed by Tony Ford and seconded by Terence O'Byrne.

4. Matters arising

Community View: The Chairman urged all community councillors to return maps and distribution lists to either Alan Booth or Sue Faulkner.

Noticeboard: The map is now in place.

Victoria Hall site: The Secretary has contacted SEPA and sent them photographs of the site, but, in the meantime, the site has been scraped clean. It was agreed that a watching brief should be kept on the state of this site.

Community Governance meetings: The Chairman has received a copy of the minutes of a previous meeting, but has received nothing from Tom Smith about the more recent meeting.

Abbotsford: The Secretary is to arrange a suitable date for a visit inside the building and both Kirsten Strachan and Terence O'Byrne indicated their willingness to attend.

Website: Terence O'Byrne had looked into the "Local Channel Web Site" and found it to be overtly commercial. In view of the fact that Dunblane has its own website, it was felt this was not worth pursuing.

Skatepark: The Secretary is to write a letter of general support for this project.

ITN Factual: In accordance with the Community Council's wishes, as detailed at the last meeting, the Chairman has written to ITN Factual stating that the Community Council does not wish to support the making of their programme.

5. Correspondence: See attached list.

Letters have been received from Scotrail and Mr Brown, the Transport Co-ordinator from Stirling and Clackmannanshire Transport Co-ordination Centre, in response to Mr Catt's letter about public transport in Dunblane. It is hoped to have more to report for the June meeting. Scotrail has also indicated their willingness to be more involved with communities and to tidy up the station by painting it and removing bins. A meeting is to be held at the Hydro on 5 April for Scotrail customers from Dunblane.

The Secretary pointed out various "public eyesores" in Dunblane, in particular the bent railings on the B8033 and the dilapidated state of BT junction boxes.

It was agreed the Tenants Participation Guide from Stirling Council should be left in the Burgh Chambers.

It was agreed to keep under review the parking problems in Dunblane, especially when the Friday market was running. It has been suggested that there should be parking restrictions at the Victoria Hall of 2-hours' maximum, with longer-stay parking being encouraged to use the dual carriageway. This is in accordance with recent decisions made by the Community Council to support restricted parking around the Town Centre, with an increase in parking spaces at Mill Row and on the dual carriageway. Councillor Dickson expressed unhappiness at bringing in restrictions to ease parking difficulties for an occasional event, and it was agreed to keep this under review.

The Treasurer is to contact the High School to enquire if a quaich were required from the Community Council for the awards ceremony on 27 April.

The Chairman has written to Forth Valley Primary Health Care outlining the additional housing planned for Dunblane for 2005 - 2017.

The Chairman has received a copy of a letter to parents and carers updating them of progress on the PPP project at the High School.

The Chairman has received a copy of a letter from Ken MacDonald, a resident of Argyle Way, to solicitors Smiths Grove, about the land adjacent to the main road at Duckburn which has been reseeded but has since been left untended.

The Chairman has received leaflets from Butterfly Conservation Scotland, which he distributed.

The Chairman has received a letter from Stirling Health and Wellbeing Alliance and questionnaires about the health needs of men, which he distributed.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

The Treasurer reported that the £400 grant from the council had been received and £200 was to be transferred for signage. The accounts were soon to be audited, after which next year's grant would be received. Mandate signatories would have to be changed after the AGM.

7. Planning Report

The Community Council ratified the draft letters of objection to the nursing home at Randolph Hill and to the housing development at the High School.

8. Report of Meetings

The Chairman and Secretary have attended a Project Team meeting about the new Health Centre. They have been assured that this is now a major priority but there is a bureaucratic process to be completed first. At the next meeting, they hoped that the options would be detailed of either an extension to the present centre or potential sites for a new centre. Once a preferred option were chosen, a financial appraisal would be carried out. However, they were assured that the project would be completed by 2007. There were implications for the doctors at the health centre of the funding of this development as it would be leased back from a third party developer, and this was being investigated by the doctors' solicitors.

The Secretary had attended a STV presentation at the Tolbooth about the explosion in the number of companies involved in digital television broadcasting.

9. Police Report: See attached.

The Secretary, in the absence to PC Love, read out the police report. He felt that the police response to vandalism in the High Street and in the Haining had not been swift enough, and that not enough was being done to clamp down on public drinking. It was

agreed that he would write to the police, thanking them for their efforts but exhorting them to keep up the good work.

10. Councillor's Report

Councillor Dickson was able to report that the light on the footbridge over the railway has now been mended and, in future, the Council will pay the electricity bill for it. She was pleased to learn that the allotment group had sorted out any planning difficulties.

11. AOCB

The Treasurer wanted the Community Council to look into the idea of Dunblane being twinned with a town in Malawi, in view of the Cathedral's charity efforts there. However, Councillor Dickson reminded the meeting that twinning was done through Stirling Council, especially if schools were involved, and she queried the practicalities of being twinned with some place so far away. The Chairman thought it would be difficult to get a consensus of opinion from the Dunblane community as many people would have allegiances with different parts of the world, and that usually places were twinned with similar communities.

Craig French has been collecting the opinions of Kilbryde Crescent residents about whether traffic calming measures should be introduced there. With the new development, traffic will increase and it was agreed that an assessment should be made once the building work was complete.

Councillor Dickson informed the meeting that, after a report of the lack of gritting on the Barbush estate, traffic was monitored and it was found that over 800 car journeys per day were made in and out of the estate.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

MONTHLY PLANNING REPORT – APRIL 2005

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 to 26 Coldstream Ave, 22 Buchan Drive, The Cottage, Ramoyle, 63 Montgomery Crescent, Green Yetts, Doune Road, Conservatory at 49 Bewton Crescent, 41 Old Doune Road

We have an application for the development of the Nursing Home at Randolph Hill. This involves the addition of a three storey extension at the rear of the building with 6 flats, the conversion of the existing building to 6 flats with a further 3 residential units in a mews building in the garden with associated garages. The planning committee met to consider the application and is recommending refusal. A letter has been drafted (see attached). This proposal will be discussed in full at this meeting.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

A revised application for the housing development at the High School was received. There was a reduction of one in the number of houses and the separate flat pavilions have been combined into one large pavilion with the same number of flats. The building line on Highfields has been improved with the removal of the house at the entrance. The number of parking places has been increased from 55 to 63. Some boundary details are now on the site plan. No other changes have been made of any significance. The planning committee met and have sent a revised letter of objection which omits the objections to the building line on Highfields, inadequate parking provision. All other objections were reiterated in the revised letter.

Terence O'Byrne met with the Headteacher from the High School and Drew Leslie from the PPP team to discuss the plans for the bridge over the A9. The Scottish Executive will not allow the bridge to be covered. The PPP team will be discussing raising the parapets to at least 1.4m high and filling in the gap between the parapets and the bridge floor. No decision has been taken at this point in time.

Stirling Council have approved the application to build the 60 bed nursing home at Ledcameroch.

Still no decisions yet from the Planners regarding the possible development at Kippendavie Woods and at Ault Wharrie where we have objected to all except the application for converting Ault Wharrie to 10 flats, which we have conditionally supported.

Other Planning Matters

Terence O'Byrne attended the Telecoms seminar in Viewforth on March 16th. This was attended by the main mobile phone providers and representatives from some Community Councils. The next major development in the industry will be the upgrading of the masts to allow for the 3G phones. In general the existing masts will be used, the coverage is reduced for 3G antennae so some infill may be needed, this will depend on usage as increased usage causes the coverage area to reduce. The Community Council will be consulted on all new masts and changes to masts at least 3 weeks prior to the planning application being made. Objections cannot be made on the basis of Health & Safety; masts can be re-sited within a limited range of up to 100m.

Still no further news on the modified proposal for the upgraded 400,000 volt power line.

The next meeting of the Planning sub-committee is scheduled for Monday 18th April at 7.30 in the Burgh Chambers.

Terence O'Byrne.