

Dunblane Community Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 4 September, 2006, at 7.30 p.m. in the Burgh Chambers.

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

In attendance: PC Meikle, Moira Stewart, Sue Faulkner, William Booth, Ian Howie (reporter from *Stirling Observer*), John Burn (prospective community councillor), Michael MacLeod (reporter from *The Allanwater News*), Alan Booth, Moira Campbell, Councillor Ann Dickson, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from John Alexander.

2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman praised the *Dunblane in Bloom* team from the Development Trust for the floral displays throughout the town. The final judging will be later this month.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 7 August 2006

These were approved, proposed by Terence O'Byrne and seconded by Stuart Hepburn.

4. Matters arising

Community council elections The October meeting will be the last meeting of the community council before elections in November, the date for which is not known. The Secretary is to contact Helen Geddes to find out the date so that this could be included in a short article about the elections in the forthcoming *Community View*.

Grass cutting The Secretary has listed places in Dunblane where cutting is required in a letter to the Council.

Bollard at The Haining Despite the start of the skatepark construction shortly, it is necessary to reinstate this without delay; the Secretary is still awaiting a reply to his letter.

Area Community Planning Forum The Chairman is going to attend the next meeting on 13 September, in the Victoria Hall, where many issues on the agenda, such as grass cutting, signage and litter, were of interest to the community council.

Braeport An agreement still has to be reached between the developer and Stirling Council over access. Parking spaces have been lost as part of a boundary wall is unsafe and has been fenced off. The boundary wall with Holmehill is also in need of repair and this, by a previous agreement, should be repaired by the owner of Holmehill, a meeting with whom has been arranged.

Polling stations In a reply to the Chairman, Stirling Council has restated their belief that the Primary School is the only suitable venue for the polling station.

Laighills pavilion Stirling Council is considering the option of leasing it to the Stirling Rangers, a youth football team. However, the Chairman reiterated that this is a community facility and should be available to all.

Parking Moira Stewart and Sue Faulkner thanked Sylvia Jackson MSP for getting Network Rail to acknowledge that they owned only 8 parking spaces at Dunblane and to prevent further advertising on their part of parking at Dunblane station. The Chairman reminded the meeting of the feasibility study conducted by Atkins a few years ago, after which parking was extended on to the dual carriageway. However, residents in Dunblane were still finding it difficult to access the Victoria Hall and other facilities in Dunblane because of the lack of available parking spaces.

The Chairman summarised what was required as follows: (a) the enforcement of parking restrictions already in place; and (b) the re-opening of Blackford station which would relieve the pressure from commuters parking in Dunblane.

Councillor Ann Dickson reported to the meeting that a Council-wide parking strategy was in the process of being drawn up and its publication was imminent. Dunblane could not be seen in isolation. It was agreed, therefore, to discuss this issue again once this strategy was available.

Weed-spraying The Secretary has written to the Council about the unacceptable drift of weed sprays on to private gardens.

CCTV The Secretary is to write to Chief Inspector Findlater's replacement, inviting him to attend the next meeting of the community council to discuss this issue.

5. Correspondence: See attached list.

In addition to letters from the Secretary to the Council about grass cutting and the bollard at The Haining, he has also written about the raised manhole at Atholl Place, the state of the car park at the pharmacy, Well Place, and the erosion of the river walkway.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his efforts.

7. Planning Report: See attached.

Mr Booth, who has applied for permission to build a house near the substation at the river, stated that he felt another house there would make the area more secure, as vandalism was a problem. The Chairman stressed that all acts of vandalism should be reported to the police.

Terence O'Byrne proposed that the Community Council should request from Stirling Council a copy of their official enforcement policy, especially with regards to developers notifying the Council of their start date and this was agreed. Craig French informed the meeting that, under the proposed Planning Bill, developers will be forced to give a start date.

It is hoped that the new skateboard park will be completed by November 2006.

A Public Enquiry into the Beaulay to Denny powerline has been called.

With reference to the development of 100 holiday homes near Braco which has been given outline permission by Perth Council, it was agreed that Terence will write to Stirling Council asking for their policy on developments which border on different local authorities, and how such developments are monitored. Alan Booth proposed contacting the Local Authority Ombudsman if the community council were not satisfied with the reply.

The Chairman has looked into the garden extension at Montgomery Crescent and was satisfied.

Councillor Dickson reported that an enforcement order has been made on the site on the Old Doune Road, where a house has been demolished, in order that the site be kept tidy and the fence repaired.

The Community Council agreed that it will ask for the performance figures of the planning enforcement officers at Stirling Council.

8. Report of meetings

Stuart Hepburn has met with parents of children from Ashfield who have been informed by the Council that, in line with Scottish Executive guidelines, they were not deemed as requiring free transport to school. From this year, they would either have to pay for the bus, be driven to school or walk along a road which is said to be unsafe because the first part is along an unlit, single-track road with no pavement and then along the B8033, where there are broken down walls and fences. Although accepting that Ashfield, according to the guidelines, is within the 2-mile distance, Stuart stressed that there is not a safe route for children to walk to Newton Primary School. Councillor Dickson said that this had been a budget decision made by Stirling Council earlier this year and she is going to email Colin McMenemy to confirm that the path from Ashfield to Newton Primary has been walked and has been passed as suitable for young children.

9. Police Report

PC Meikle reported to the meeting on the crimes committed in Dunblane over the summer. There had been various acts of vandalism, and in particular the damage to the play area at Dunblane Primary School, associated with youths being out later in the better weather. Moira Campbell complained that she had phoned the police three times in the space of an hour as she was concerned about youths congregating at the back of "The Tappit Hen" but no police had arrived either to investigate or to interview her. It was agreed that there should be a follow-up report on this at the next community council meeting.

The Treasurer reported on cars speeding on the Old Doune Road and on youths drinking and lighting fires in woods near Baxter's Loan. PC Meikle said that such information would be useful for the ASBO teams who visit Dunblane.

The Secretary highlighted the problem of the high turnover on chief inspectors in Dunblane, which means there is little continuity and residents do not get to know the officer in charge.

10. Councillor's Report

Councillor Ann Dickson reported on a meeting with residents of the Wallace Road area about the issue of grass cutting. It was agreed that grass cutting would be reinstated there, but, in return, another area would have to be identified where the grass would not be cut in order to save money. Although pushing for a total reinstatement of grass cutting at Braemar playpark, this is still unresolved.

The contractor has not started the Barbush path yet.

Councillor Dickson is to find out the date of the community council elections in time for the deadline of *Community View*.

11. AOCB

Alan Booth reminded the community councillors that the next edition of *Community View* should be out in the second to third week in September.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

MONTHLY REPORT –SEPTEMBER 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 6 Ochloch Park and 6 Mackenzie Court

Outline application for a house at Glen Falachtie near the Sub Station by the river has been received. This is in a Conservation area, the planning subcommittee wrote a letter of objection on the grounds that it would be in a Conservation area, this decision is in line with all other applications in the Conservation area.

The last Community Council meeting raised the issue of the new house that is being built near the Faery Bridge. A full investigation was done, in summary, permission was granted in 1993, part of the conditions were that a short stretch of footpath (which does not actually adjoin this site) be laid and adopted, this was done on 1995 therefore the development was deemed to have been started which means that the developer can 'complete' at any time after that without any time constraints. The property will be a 4 bedroom bungalow with separate garage. The plans show a 'slated' roof, Stirling Council have confirmed this can be either artificial or quarried slate.

One condition was that samples of some materials and window design were to be submitted, this had not been done and Stirling Council have asked for all samples. This raises the issue of enforcement in general as many planning applications impose a condition on sample submission. The onus is on the developer to send in a Start Notice, if this does not happen then there is no other mechanism in place to enforce other than site visits by planning staff. We should formally write to Stirling Council to request a copy of their official enforcement policy regarding this issue as in this case samples were only requested after we have raised the matter with the planning department.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

The application for 13 flats at Randolph Hill has been approved, permission was given for on one dwelling house rather than the original three houses.

The Planning Panel approved the Skatepark application at the Laighills, the other 2 sites were refused. It is hoped to commence work on the skatepark in the very near future.

The Planning Panel also approved the erection of 9 houses on the former Ardnablane site, this was a reduction of one from the original application, the Community Council had objected to the density of housing. (no confirmation yet in the weekly schedule)

Permission has been granted for the conversion of Ault Wharrie to 4 flats (no confirmation yet in the weekly schedule)

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

Other Planning Matters

Perth Council have approved an outline application for 100 holiday homes at Feddal near Braco on the B8033. The residents of Kinbuck on got to hear about this a couple of days before the decision was made on August 30th and expressed concerns about the impact of increased traffic through Kinbuck, also on the B8033. Stirling Council had not been aware of this development and were not consulted by Perth Council. The Planning Manager was asked to investigate, he reported back that Perth did not consider there to be any traffic impact in Braco yet alone Kinbuck and had therefore not consulted. He also stated that there was nothing Stirling Council could do at this stage which was 1 day before the decision was taken and furthermore, they had no basis to object when the application for full planning permission is lodged with Perth Council. We should be concerned why Stirling Council had not picked up on this development so close to our border many months ago, we should consider raising this issue with Stirling Council.

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