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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 4 October 2004 at 7.30 p.m. in the Burgh Chambers.

Present: Mike Seal (Chairman), Sandy Mackay (Secretary), Tony Ford (Treasurer), Terence O'Byrne, John Alexander, Duncan Taylor, Craig French, Sandy Hall, Susan Roger, Stuart Hepburn.

In attendance: Councillor Ann Dickson, Moira Stewart, Eleanor Brailsford, Beverley Stirling, Fran Chalmers, Mark Beelby, Ken Manners, John Scales, Bill Mackle, Robert Coleman, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Gordon Boyd, Peter McCusker and PC Love.

2. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman urged everyone to make a big effort to ensure all vacancies in the upcoming elections for the Community Council were filled.

3. Minutes of the last meeting of 6 September 2004

These were approved, proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by John Alexander.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Pavilion John Alexander reported that lights had been left on in the pavilion for weeks, and the Secretary is still trying to arrange a further inspection.

Allotments The Chairman reported that the Development Trust was moving this forward.

PPP This will be covered under Item 8 of the agenda.

Bins The Secretary reported that a representative from Stirling Council had visited Dunblane to see the problems and, although the situation had improved around the "Tappit Hen", there was still a lot of bins in Kirk Street and Sinclair Street. As in Ramoyle, a solution to the waste collection problem would have to be found property by

property. Every individual should make their complaints about bin collection known to the Council.

Payphone This will be covered under "Correspondence".

Talkback The Secretary had leaflets about Talkback, the procedure of complaints to the Council, and these will be left in the Burgh Chambers and displayed on the noticeboard.

5 Correspondence: See attached list.

The Secretary has replied to the letter from Dr P McCalister and stressed the importance of notifying the police of every occurrence of speeding.

With reference to Community Council elections in December, it was hoped to fill the vacancies in the North, Town Centre and Royals wards. The co-opted members, Susan Roger and Stuart Hepburn, will stand for election then, leaving the co-opted places vacant. It was agreed that the Chairman will draft a leaflet to be distributed in those wards where vacancies existed.

Bruce Crawford MSP had written in support of the Community Council's objection to the removal of the public payphone at the police station.

It was agreed that the Secretary, in response to *Active Stirling Strategy* will write to the Council asking for the pavilion and the top football pitch at the Laighills to be upgraded.

In response to a complaint from a resident regarding the poor surface of the footbridge at Bridgend, the Secretary wrote to Network Rail to be advised that they hope to carry out resurfacing work next year.

There is to be a meeting on 4 November in the Victoria Hall on Governance Strategy Consultation, about local "clusters".

In response to the British Legion's request, it was decided that the PA system for the Remembrance Sunday next month would be the same as used in the past. However, it was agreed that the Treasurer will look into buying a better-quality, waterproof system, which could then be hired out to other community groups.

It was agreed that the poster asking for more WRVS volunteers will be displayed on the noticeboard.

The Chairman has received a letter from Sylvia Jackson MSP thanking him for the copy of the Community Council's response to Stirling Council's consultation on closing the Burgh Chambers.

The Chairman has written to John Skinner in the Planning and Environment Department about the lack of progress in improving the paths through Ledcameroch since their meeting in April.

The Chairman has written to the Countryside Rangers about the attempts at the new housing development to prevent people from using the footpath from Sheriffmuir Road to Dumyat via Waltersmuir Reservoir.

The Chairman has contacted many people in the community to gauge the response to the Beslan tragedy. He informed the meeting that a Book of Condolence had been opened in the Cathedral, where there was also an opportunity to make a donation.

The Chairman has received a letter from the Stirling Archives Users' Group giving notice of a meeting in the Cowane Centre on 18 October at 7.30 p.m. at which the speaker would be Susan Beckley, the new archivist at Stirling.

There was correspondence between the Chairman and David MacKenzie, Headteacher at the High School, about setting up a Dunblane Community Council Youth Group. He was pleased to report that three pupils now formed this group and would receive minutes of Community Council meetings. They could give their comments and opinions by e-mail or in writing, or could attend meetings. Alternatively, a Community Councillor could go to speak to them.

The Chairman has received a letter from the Manager of Planning and Policy about the Local Plan Public Inquiry. No changes affecting Dunblane had been approved. However, he brought the meeting's attention to three points:

- a) Owners of land designated for business development can now ask for a redesignation of use if, after 12 months, they are unsuccessful in attracting business occupiers..
- b) Developers could be asked to pay for infrastructure improvements made necessary by new development.
- c) On smaller sites and curtilages, the Council will seek to ensure that any proposed house would maintain frontages, etc, with existing buildings, would enjoy similar privacy and that existing trees would be maintained.

The Chairman has received a copy of a letter from Eleanor Brailsford to Keith Yates, Chief Executive of Stirling Council about the traffic calming measures at the top of Old Doune Road, in particular the roundabout at the bottom of Braemar Avenue. He explained that, after months of consultation, the Community Council had asked Atkins Consulting to put in a mini-roundabout at Braemar Avenue, and to improve visibility by widening and add a mini-island at the top of Wallace Road (to prevent vehicles from cutting the corner). Craig French suggested that, through Stirling Council, Atkins should be asked if they have completed the traffic calming measures, highlighting the non-existence of the mini-island at Wallace Road. It was agreed that the Secretary will write

to Stirling Council about this and that the Youth Group at the High School be asked about any problems pupils have with traffic. When all the measures are complete, then traffic would be monitored to ensure that the measures are effective.

The Chairman has written to Atkins asking for the proposed cycle shelter at the station to be on the platform and thus covered by CCTV cameras.

The Chairman has received a copy of a letter from Longbank Farm sent to all Community Councils, complaining about the proposed Braes of Doune Wind Farm and the proposed new route of the Beaully-Denny power line. As the Community Council had previously discussed the wind farm proposals and had supported them, it was felt unnecessary to re-open the debate. It was agreed that the Secretary will reply that the decision on wind farm developments now rests with the Scottish Executive and that the Beaully-Denny power line is still the subject of ongoing consultation.

A letter from *Parentline* has been received, recommending that police should refer parents of troublesome children to the organisation.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

The Treasurer has applied for a grant of £450 for the Christmas lighting from Stirling Council.

The Treasurer will write to the Order of Lyon, who had sold the Community Council the Dunblane Coat of Arms and Crest, asking what exactly the Council will receive.

The Treasurer has received a copy of the Code of Practice of the Freedom of Information Act, Scotland, with information on charges.

7. Planning Report: See attached.

The Community Council ratified the decisions of the Planning Sub-committee.

The Chairman took the opportunity to inform the meeting that Sandy Hall has now moved away from Dunblane and must leave the Community Council. On behalf of the Community Council, he thanked him for his work and wished him well.

8. Report of meetings

The Chairman briefly reported on the meeting held on 21 September in the Victoria Hall about the High School PPP proposals. Initially, the proposals had been for refurbishing the school but alternative proposals had been received for rebuilding it, with 60 new houses to be built on the existing site. He urged everyone to respond to the questionnaire about the project as individuals but wanted to know if Community Councillors felt they should respond as a community group. The discussion was then opened up to comments from the floor, where residents adjoining the High School made the following points.

Neighbours were not consulted until the meeting.

The new school would be very close to existing houses.

There were worries about the infrastructure of Dunblane.

Was pedestrian access to Montgomery Crescent necessary.

There were concerns about the impact to Baxter's Loan during and after construction.

The presentation at the Victoria Hall was not felt to be fair or balanced. People were being asked to form a judgement on the evidence of only one set of proposals for a rebuild.

Councillor Dickson said that at the beginning proposals for refurbishment only were to be considered by the Council, and the plans for rebuilding schools were made known only about three months' previously. No decision had yet been taken and the option of refurbishment had not yet been put in front of the Council.

The Chairman felt that the Community Council should consider the project on three levels: local impact (on the area round the High School), area impact (traffic on the Old Doune Road and the proposed development of football pitches across the motorway), and impact on the infrastructure (primary schools, health centre). In view of the interest shown by the community in this, it was agreed that a special Community Council meeting will be arranged to discuss the many concerns and questions being raised on the PPP proposals and that members of the PPP project team will be asked to attend. This meeting will be well advertised and will take place in the Victorial Hall.

9. Police report: See attached.

10. Councillors' Report

Councillor Dickson was pleased to report that the Burgh Chambers was now to remain open, and Children's Services and the Social Work department were going to take it over.

When she tried to find out about the lack of progress in repairing the Memorial Bridge, Councillor Dickson had found out that, because of a cable running under the bridge, Scottish and Southern Energy was also involved.

In reply to a query from the Chairman about the withdrawal of the Citylink 909 service from Dunblane to Edinburgh, Councillor Dickson was unable to confirm whether the Council had withdrawn its subsidy or not. Bruce Crawford MSP has set up a petition to ask Citylink to reconsider.

11. AOCB

John Alexander agreed to arrange a visit by those Community Councillors who were interested to the new Youth Centre.

Stuart Hepburn has agreed to represent the Community Council on the Community View Group with particular emphasis on improving distribution organisation.

The meeting ended at 10.10 p.m.

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 75 Newton Crescent, 40 Argyle Terrace, 24 Hillside Ave. and the house at Greenyards Farm; extension and internal alterations St Blane's Church Hall; Conservatory 39 Albert Street.

We also have an application for a non-surfaced road across Braes of Doune for cabling. We have supported the concept of a wind farm at Braes of Doune and this proposed roadway will have no impact on our community. We know that environmental issues associated with this type of work is required to be addressed and we should have no need to involve ourselves in this. It is recommended that we make no submission.

There were two other applications lodged since the last Community Council meeting and the recommendation of the Planning Committee is as follows:

S/04/00792/DET and 00793/DET. These applications are each for two 2-storey office pavilions for class 4 use on the Barbush Business Park. The proposed designs, landscaping, car parking, access roads etc. all look to be satisfactory. It is recommended that we support these applications.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

Still no decisions yet from the Planners regarding the application for 4 new houses behind Provan, the possible developments at Ault Wharrie or the application to demolish a house in Ochloch Park and build 4 new ones. We have objected to all of these except the application for converting Ault Wharrie to 10 flats, which we have conditionally supported. In all cases, the Planning Officer has said that applicants have been asked for more details or for re-consideration of their proposals.

No news yet on the appeal relating to the nursing home on Perth Road or on the application for the nursing home at Barbush.

Other Planning Matters

Despite chasing, I still do not have a date for the promised meeting with Forth Valley Health Board regarding the capital project for a bigger and modernised Health Centre.

We have been told that another proposal for consultation will be issued shortly for the upgraded 400,000 volt power line.

The next meeting of the Planning sub-committee is on Monday 18th October, 7.30 p.m., Burgh Chambers.