

Dunblane Community Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 6 February 2006, at 7.30 p.m. in the Burgh Chambers.

Present: Sandy Mackay (Secretary), John Alexander, Peter McCusker (Treasurer), Kirsten Strachan, Domenico Angeolini, Stuart Hepburn.

In attendance: Sue Faulkner, Moira Stewart, Alan Booth, Councillor Ann Dickson, PC Linzi Meek (Area Constable for Doune and Dunblane), Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Terence O'Byrne, Duncan Taylor and Tony Ford.

2. Chairman's Remarks

In the absence of Tony Ford, Sandy Mackay chaired the meeting. He reminded everyone that elections for the Community Council were due to be held this month and urged them to find prospective candidates.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 5 December 2005

With the correction of the spelling of Moira Stewart's name, these were approved, proposed by John Alexander and seconded by Peter McCusker.

4. Matters arising

Cemetery To prevent rabbits from entering the cemetery, the Secretary has been trying, so far unsuccessfully, to persuade the Council to put mesh along the bottom of the cemetery gates. The Secretary does not think the slope on the road is so great as to preclude the use of mesh and there had been mesh there previously. However, the Council has back-filled rabbit holes and treated them. It was also suggested that screening could be used to increase the height of the walls to prevent rabbits from jumping over.

Zebra crossing The Secretary does not have information on the siting of this crossing on Doune Road or when there will be yellow lines at Boe Court to restrict parking.

Bridgend and parking at Millrow These are both pending.

Vennel cleaning The Secretary has inspected the vennel and found it quite clean.

Kinbuck bridge Stuart Hepburn reported that it had been hit again and reiterated that the Council should put a sign up to prevent lorries going over it. It was suggested that if a turning circle were cleared then lorries would have the opportunity to turn round at the bridge.

Parking near station The Secretary reported that parking restrictions were going to be imposed on the right hand side of the road, local to the Tesco footbridge, to provide easier passage for buses and other large vehicles.

5. Correspondence: See attached.

A letter from Provost Colin O'Brien announced a one-off payment to all Community Councils to pay for or contribute to activities or projects that the Community Council regards as an immediate priority for the area.

John Alexander said he would attend the meeting on 15 February on *Your Health – Your Community*.

Stuart Hepburn took the two editions of SEPA news and *Stirling by Numbers*.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

The Treasurer confirmed that the Community Council had received the additional £1,000 grant.

7. Planning Report: See attached.

In the absence of Terence O'Byrne, the Secretary read out the planning report.

Two applications relating to Ardnablane have been received: (a) to demolish the existing building; (b) to build ten executive-style houses. The planning sub-committee was mindful to object to (a) as this constituted a change of use, and that it could continue as a care home, especially as there was a shortage of care homes in the area. The Community Council agreed. As for (b), this was objected to as it was (i) an over-development for the area, (ii) the architecture was not in keeping with the existing Simonfield development behind it and (iii) it was in a conservation area. The Community Council backed the decisions of the sub-committee and the objections would be lodged immediately.

The application for the conversion of the warehouse at Braeport was objected to because of difficulties of rights of access, and, because it was in a conservation area, the erection of steel fencing, the removal of chimney stacks and the stonework proposed would not be in keeping.

Objections to Provan were reiterated.

8. Report of Meetings

The Secretary reported on the Area Community Planning Forum meeting held on 19 January, at which £10,000 to combat anti-social behaviour, and a further £29,800 for one-off projects was allocated between the three communities of Dunblane, Bridge of Allan and Logie. It had been agreed that £10,000 be disbursed to the Skateboard Park fund. Applications for using the rest of Dunblane's allocation (£9,000) have to be received by August. Although there was support for the Dunblane Development Trust and the improvement their work was doing in Dunblane, community councillors were unhappy that the Community Council, an elected body, did not have a say in such important decisions as allocating the funding. Councillor Dickson commented that the correct approach would have been to invite suggestions on how to spend the money, in an article in *Community View*, but pointed out that the view of Stirling Council was that it was up to the people who attended the Forum

meeting to make the decisions. Pointing out that Forum meetings were not seen originally as ways of facilitating cash distribution within communities, Alan Booth was unhappy that the Community Development Plan was in danger of being changed by unelected people while Stuart Hepburn stated that there was a danger of major decisions being made by people at Forum meetings without any consultation within the community. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Stirling Council expressing the views and concerns of the Community Council.

9. Police Report

PC Linzi Meek was welcomed by the Secretary as the new Area Constable for Doune and Dunblane and gave a verbal report. She confirmed that the police was targeting speeding and youth disorder.

10. Councillor's Report: Councillor Ann Dickson

Zebra crossing Councillor Ann Dickson reported that there was a delay in siting the zebra crossing near Tesco as it would mean the loss of ten parking spaces.

Chinese restaurant at the top of the High Street The owners were being asked to clean up the building.

Kinbuck Bridge Some form of electronic signage to warn lorries about the weight restriction of the bridge was being looked at but permission from the Scottish Executive would have to be granted.

Parking As the car park at Bridge of Allan station was now extended, parking could be restricted round the station in Dunblane, to prevent commuters parking there all day. Councillor Dickson said that the Council was looking at a parking strategy for the whole authority. However, she reported that the yellow no-parking lines were going to be done at Boe Court.

11. AOCB

Problems with potholes round Dunblane were reported.

It was agreed that a note should be included in *Community View* about the threat of closure of the local Air Training Squadron because of the lack of adult staff.

In reply to a query by Sue Faulkner about the site of the proposed extension of the Mill Row car park being earmarked for the new skateboard park, Alan Booth reported that he had investigated twelve sites round Dunblane for the skateboard park and no decision had yet been made.

Sue Faulkner also reported that the vennel beside Burgess and Gibson, although clear of rubbish, needed pressure washing, and she complimented the help the police had given her when someone had graffitied her shop.

The bollard at the Haining had vanished and there was some discussion about how the key for such a bollard could be accessed by those needing access.

Domenico Angeolini asked Councillor Dickson to check on when the Council was going to upgrade the path between Barbush and Ramoyle, but in reply to his query about the underpass at the A9 being blocked, she informed him that this was not a right of way.

Alan Booth apologised for problems with the late printing of the last *Community View*. As they had recently replaced their computer, he offered to give the Community Council the old one. The next edition would be out in March, with the copy deadline being the third week of February. This would, therefore, be too late for publicity for Community Council vacancies, although Alan Booth was

planning to run an article about the community councillors in a future edition, along with maps of the different wards and contact phone numbers. He wanted to be informed of any distribution problems.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

MONTHLY REPORT –FEBRUARY 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 127 Ochiltree, 20 Wallace Road, Oakbank Smithy Loan and 87 Ochiltree. Conservatories at Rosalind St Margaret's Drive, 14 Lawder Place, and 7 Braeport, Illuminated signs at 53a High St and Dunblane Youth Centre, Erection of implement shed at Cairnston, Erection of dwelling house at Langbank (week 1 2006 schedule), Velux rooflight at 106a High St.

The planning subcommittee met on December 22nd to consider applications for 4 houses at Provan and conversion of the warehouse at the Braeport Centre (the old school) to two houses. Letters of objection were sent regarding both of these applications.

Two applications relating to Ardnablane were received, one to demolish all existing care home buildings, the second to erect 10 detached executive style home on the site. The Planning Sub Committee met to consider, final decisions will be taken at this meeting, any letters of objection must be posted tomorrow Tue 7th February.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

The application for the visitor centre at Argaty was approved.

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

Other Planning Matters

Letter received from Corporate Services at Stirling Council regarding the Beauly to Denny powerline proposal on January 5th. The Council has requested an extra 3 months to consider the proposals in line with Highland and Perth & Kinross councils. At a meeting on October 17th members of the Environment Committee members questioned the proximity of houses to the power line, the final submission will come either on Feb 9th or March 23rd. Copy of letter available at this meeting.

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.