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**Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 6 September 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, Peter McCusker, Craig French, Sandy Hall.

**In attendance:** PC Graham Love, Councillor Pat Greenhill, Elizabeth Farrer (Library Services), John Risk (Customer Services, Stirling Council), Mark Worby, Craig Duffy, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Stuart Hepburn, Susan Rodger, Gordon Boyd and from David Bright, Emergency Planning Advisor, Stirling Council, who will be invited to the December meeting.

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

The Chairman suspended standing orders and welcomed John Risk and Elizabeth Farrer to the meeting to discuss the threatened closure of the Burgh Chambers. John Risk thanked the Community Council for its response to Stirling Council's consultation documents and questionnaire, and wished to discuss the best way forward in delivering council services to the community. It is the Council view that providing a 24-hour helpline and arranging home visits by mobile officers to help the infirm and the aged is the most efficient use of resources. Some services, eg paying bills, could be handled by the Post Office, while the number of registrations of births and deaths did not warrant keeping the local office open full-time. However, it is possible that the office would be kept open part-time.

In response, Community Councillors felt that individuals and their problems are better dealt with locally, especially when dealing with sensitive issues, such as death registrations. Many would find it difficult to travel to Stirling, or would not trust officers

visiting them at home. Dunblane is still growing, and, therefore, there is an ever-growing need for the local office. It was proposed that, instead of reducing the services covered by the local office, ways in which these could be increased should be investigated, especially in view of the government's aim of increasing local community governance. There was a general feeling that things were being centralised in Stirling, remote from the needs of Dunblane, and that these proposals would not mean improved services.

Consultation about the proposed closure of local offices is still ongoing and John Risk urged everyone to fill in the questionnaire. John Risk also agreed to transcribe the Community Council's letter into the questionnaire format and send a draft for approval by the Community Council. The Chairman thanked him for coming to the meeting and listening to their comments.

The Chairman then invited Mark Worby and Craig Duffy to address the Community Council about their wish to reopen the allotments in Dunblane. Allotments had, in the past, been sited behind the Development Trust garden near the Fairy Bridge, and Derek Robertson from Stirling Council was very encouraging about the possibility of using the site again. While raising the issues of ease of access and security, the Community Council gave full support to the proposal, but felt it would be better addressed by the Environment Group of the Development Trust.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting of 9 August 2004**

These were approved, proposed by Peter McCusker and seconded by Duncan Taylor.

### **4. Matters arising from the previous minutes**

Football pavilion The Secretary had been able to get into only part of the pavilion and is going to obtain a full set of keys so that he can inspect it fully.

Abbotsford The Secretary will circulate to Community Councillors a copy of a letter from the Development Trust to Helen Munro. It contains a list for the proposed future use of funds from the sale of Abbotsford.

Pavement at Claredon Place The Secretary has notified Moira Stewart of the plans and placed them on the notice board.

PPP Terence O'Byrne notified the Community Council of a public meeting to be held in the Victoria Hall on 21 September.

Bins There had been a satisfactory meeting about the bin collection in Ramoyle, but there were complaints about the bins at Churches House and the Tappit Hen. The Secretary will follow this up.

Whitecross Avenue The Chairman has passed this on to the Development Trust.

Community View The distribution of this will now take place on 10 September.

#### **5. Correspondence: See attached list.**

It was agreed that the Secretary will reply to Bruce Crawford MSP and Anne McGuire MP, asking that the public payphone at the police station be retained.

The Chairman has already attended a meeting about Community Governance Strategy.

The Secretary will precis the Annual Report of Talkback (the comments and complaints scheme of Stirling Council) for the next meeting.

The Chairman has circulated copies of the minutes of RAGE.

The Chairman has received notice of the public meeting on PPP to be held on 21 September.

The Chairman has received a letter from Mr Alexander from the Reporter's Unit of the Scottish Executive, stating that the decision of the Reporter, re the appeal for flats at Kilbryde Crescent, is final.

The Chairman has sent a letter to Scottish and Southern Energy re the route of the Beauly to Denny power line.

The Chairman has sent a letter to John Risk about the threatened closure of the Burgh Chambers.

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

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

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

## **8. Report of meetings**

The Chairman reported that the AGM of the Dunblane Development Trust had been well supported.

## **9. Police report: See attached.**

PC Love reported that public response to his patrols by bicycle had been favourable and he was able to access more out-of-the-way areas and alleys. There has been a spate of egg-throwing in Dunblane and neighbouring areas. He went through the various issues raised in the Local Action Plan - Community Concerns, commenting on the very low number of youth disturbance complaints over the summer, both in the Newton Park area and in Stirling Road. Leaflets about drug offences had also been distributed.

## **10. Councillors' Report**

Councillor Greenhill urged the Community Council to attend the PPP meeting. She commented on the difficulty people were having in completing the questionnaire about the closure of the Burgh Chambers, and urged everyone to get involved in the consultation process, although Stirling Council had already agreed in principle to close local offices.

## **11. AOCB**

John Alexander has been trying to expedite housing repairs for people in his ward by writing to Anne McGuire MP. The Chairman felt that if, after contacting their Councillor and Stirling Council, a resident considered there was a lack of progress, it is appropriate for the Community Council to get involved. The Councillor and Stirling Council should always be the first contacts and there should rarely be a need to involve MSPs or MPs.

The meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.

## **MONTHLY PLANNING REPORT – 6TH SEPTEMBER 2004.**

### **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 60 Braemar Avenue, 145 Ochiltree, 51 Newton Crescent, 20 Anne Street, 34 Roman Way, and 6 Kinnoull Avenue; erect pillars and gates 8 Bellenden Grove; Dormer 12 Roman Way and 4 Kippenross; chimney at 10 Ledcameroch Gardens.

There were four other applications lodged since the last Community Council meeting and the recommendations of the Planning Committee are:

S/04/00589/HAE. Build detached garage at Faery Knowe, St Mary's Drive. We asked for more details of this application, which is in a conservation area. The location, style and size of the garage does not appear to make it potentially suitable for conversion to a separate dwelling so we recommend that we do not object to this application provided appropriate design details and external finishes are applied.

S/04/00654/LBC. Remove gate piers and construct new piers at Provan. We have already objected to the application for four houses to be built behind this property and the decision is still outstanding. The proposed wall alterations are directly related to proceeding with this proposed development, so we should object.

S/04/00684/OUT. Outline permission for a house on land adjacent and North of Killean, Kinbuck. We recommend that we neither support or object to this application. It is only of any real significance to the immediate neighbours, who have been notified as required. The piece of land is bordered by a road and the railway, without any outstanding features. The size and location of the identified development plot is consistent with what is already there.

S/04/00694/OUT. Outline application for Nursing Home on land North of Barclay Place. This is on part of the land designated for Class 4 commercial development at Barbush. A Nursing Home is not Class 4, but it is a commercial operation that provides local employment. We do not know what the Reporter may conclude about the appeal against Stirling Council's decision to reject the application on the Perth Road site. It is recommended that we support this application. If it does proceed, there seems no logical reason why its presence should adversely impact on the remaining site at Barbush being developed for Class 4 use.

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

The applicant has withdrawn the proposal to build 9 houses in the grounds of Provan, which has now become a Listed Building.

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.

An Appeal is underway for the nursing home on Perth Road. A site inspection by the Reporter on 23rd August was attended by Mike and Terence.

### **Other Planning Matters**

Work on the capital project for a bigger and modernised Health Centre is identifying some difficulties regarding a site for a temporary facility to cover the construction phase and design details regarding the possible alterations. We have been asked to be available for a meeting between representatives from the Health Centre, Forth Valley Health Board and ourselves. We now await more details.

We have sent the letter, approved by all Community Councillors, on the latest proposals for the upgraded 400,000 volt power line.

Atkins Consulting has sent details of a proposed cycle shelter to be installed where the existing cycle rack is located at the Railway Station. It is recommended that we approve this.

The next meeting of the Planning sub-committee is on Monday 20th September, 7.30 p.m., Burgh Chambers.