

Dunblane Community Council

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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 8 May, 2006, at 7.30 p.m. in the Burgh Chambers.

Present: Sandy Mackay (Secretary), Peter McCusker (Treasurer), Kirsten Strachan, Stuart Hepburn, Terence O'Byrne, Domenico Angeolini, Craig French.

In attendance: Councillor Pat Greenhill, Bryan Grieve (Dunblane Development Trust), Alan Booth, Moira Stewart, Sue Faulkner, Lesley Malkin (Corporate Asset Manager, Stirling Council); Suzanne Grahame, Ron Mackintosh, Paul Dearden, Cameron Bowie, Martin Jack, Lorraine Thomson, Dawn Gray, Lyn Mathieson, Lynn Thomson, Andy Thomson, Howard Barr (opponents of the site of the proposed Orange phone mast); Jo Bicheno, Julie Forrest, Finlay Forrest, Mike Youde, Samuel Youde, Ross Dunn, Alex Bicheno, Aidan Hepburn, Graeme Stewart, Yura Petrov (supporters of the proposed skateboard park); Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Tony Ford, John Alexander and Duncan Taylor.

2. Chairman's Remarks

In the absence of the chairman, the Secretary, Sandy Mackay, agreed to chair this meeting. He suspended the order of the agenda to allow discussion of (i) the proposed site of the Orange phone mast and (ii) the site of the proposed skateboard park.

(i) Orange phone mast Terence O'Byrne, as planning correspondent, referred to the minutes of the last meeting of the Community Council and confirmed that he had written a letter of objection to the pre-planning consultation from Orange about siting a new mast at Barbush, but, despite sending a second letter, Orange had not replied to him. With the building of the new High School, the present mast on the roof of the school will have to be resited and Stirling Council's present policy is not to place phone masts on schools. Phone companies identify suitable sites for masts before submitting planning applications; as utilities the Council cannot prevent these applications from being made. The site at Barbush is on adopted land beside the pavement and the Council would, therefore, unlike when it was on the High School, not receive any monetary gain from Orange.

The residents at Barbush object to the proposed site of the new mast on health grounds and reference was made to studies by Strathclyde University and Essex University. It was known that pacemakers

and hearing aids could be affected by radiofrequencies and Lorraine Thomson confirmed that the owners of the proposed care home at Barbush have objected to the mast. Mobile technology has not been in the system long enough for any research to be relevant, but Government guidelines stressed that caution should be exercised in the siting of masts near residential areas. Exposure to low level radiofrequencies was suspected of causing changes at cellular level and residents felt that the Community Council should be able to prevent masts being sited near housing. In view of the expected increase in future applications from mobile phone companies as they rolled out their plans not only to cover the country but also to upgrade present masts, it was felt that the Community Council and Stirling Council should enter into a dialogue to identify suitable sites for relocating masts and should encourage mast sharing between the different mobile phone companies.

The residents were encouraged to write individual letters to Orange, and to their Councillors, MPs and MSPs, in order to make their objections known, in the hope that Orange could be persuaded to change their plans. The Community Council will also write in their support to Stirling Council and to Orange. Lorraine Thomson and Terence O'Byrne will keep in contact. The Secretary thanked all for attending.

(ii) Skateboard park Supporters of a skateboard park in Dunblane have been fundraising for at least five years and have raised a considerable amount of money. Some of this money would no longer be available if the skateboard park were not constructed soon. The project has been taken over by Stirling Council and Lesley Malkin brought plans for the three suggested sites for the skateboard park: the Laighills, the old gasworks at Mill Row, and Rylands. It had originally been thought that the best site would be in the Laighills but there were difficulties of access, not only to construct the skateboard park but also for emergency vehicles if required. These would add considerably to the construction costs at this site. The preferred site would be at Mill Row as it is very central; however, the skateboard committee wish to put in planning applications for all three sites. The fee for this will be halved if the Community Council applied on behalf of the skateboard committee.

Councillor Greenhill, although supporting the building of a skateboard park, pointed out that there would be objections to building it at Mill Row as there would be concerns about young people congregating there. She also pointed out that the site of the old gasworks has been earmarked as an extension to the car park.

Craig French felt the Community Council should be cautious in putting its name to three planning applications, to which they knew there would be objections, without consulting the community; he felt the decision should be left until the next meeting of the Community Council.

Lesley Malkin commented that, although the Laighills site would get planning permission more easily, the site was more problematic from a civil engineering point of view, and the costs would be greater. At Mill Row, the car park could be extended and the skateboard park built, with the playpark being relocated.

The skateboard park was part of the Dunblane Development Plan, and, as Kirsten Strachan pointed out, there was no time for consultation over the site. It was, therefore, felt that there was sufficient community support for a skateboard park and the Community Council agreed to support the planning applications, with neighbour notification proceeding. Jo Bicheno thanked the Community Council for giving them a hearing.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting of 3 April 2006

These were approved, proposed by Terence O'Byrne and seconded by Peter McCusker.

4. Matters arising

Bollard at The Haining More people are taking their cars down this road since the bollard has disappeared. It is important that it be replaced soon.

Grass cutting arrangements The Secretary is to write to the Council asking for specific maps of the areas to be cut and details of the frequency of cutting. Moira Stewart brought to the meeting's notice the bill from the Council to the Soccer 7 Football Club for lining their pitch.

The Secretary and Craig French are to write to the Council about the Area Community Planning Forums.

Terence O'Byrne has had no reply to his letter to the Council about the work at Ardnablane and the Council is still trying to get samples relating to the temporary building at Arnhall.

The Secretary reported that the funds to tackle antisocial behaviour money were being split as follows: £5,000 to the Dunblane Centre so that it could re-open on Saturday evenings; £1,000 each to the Guides, the Scouts and the Boys' Brigade; and £1,800 to fund an art therapy teacher. Stirling Council will monitor that the money is spent appropriately.

5. Correspondence: See attached list.

Stirling Council is responsible for resurfacing the footbridge at Bridgend, subject to a structural survey; the Secretary will be pushing for the work to be done timeously.

It is hoped to have proposals for the siting of the zebra crossing at Springfield Terrace by mid-June.

The cycle racks at the station are the responsibility of the railway company and will be repaired by them.

The pre-consultation document on Community Council boundaries was passed to Craig French and this will be discussed at the next meeting of the Community Council.

The *Standing up to Antisocial Behaviour Awards Scheme* leaflets were distributed.

The Secretary has written to the Council about the disappearance of the no-parking yellow lines at Boe Court.

The letter about the Calor Gas Community Awards Scheme was passed to Bryan Grieve.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

The new fence at the community garden at the Faery Bridge has been paid for but paint was still required. The quaich for community service awarded at the High School Awards ceremony had been purchased. When the accounts have been audited, an application can be made for a community grant.

7. Planning Report: See attached.

It was agreed that Terence O'Byrne will write to object on the grounds of access and backland development in response to the outline application to build a house in the garden at St Brydes, Kilbryde Crescent.

There was no objection raised to the application for a seven-flat conversion at Auchintek Farm.

With regard to vehicle access at the Braeport, it was felt this could be resolved by the use of white-lining and not fencing.

Terence O'Byrne will write to the Planning Department about the violation of traffic restrictions by contractors at the High School, at Easter.

Terence O'Byrne is to inspect the site at Ardnablane and will write to the Council for clarification of what is going to happen there.

There was concern about the increasing number of households in Dunblane which did not fall within the agreed increased in the Development Plan as they were seen as brown field developments, and the increasing strain on Dunblane's infrastructure. It was agreed that Terence O'Byrne will ask Stirling Council for the number of units built in Dunblane since 2003.

8. Report of meetings

Kirsten Strachan said that she had attended a meeting of the Dunblane Development Trust recently and proposed that minutes of Community Council meetings were distributed to DDT members. This was agreed.

9. Police Report

As no representative from the police attended the meeting, there was no report. The Secretary will write to Chief Inspector Kevin Findlater asking for a written report when no-one from the police can attend Community Council meetings.

10. Councillor's Report

Councillor Pat Greenhill reported that Stirling Council is changing the system of how it governs to a Cabinet-style executive government with two committees.

11. AOCB

The Secretary read out a letter from John Alexander raising the following subjects:

- (a) There were difficulties in people other than the present holders acquiring a taxi licence. Councillor Greenhill confirmed that there were strict regulations governing the number of taxis but she would enquire about taxi provision in Dunblane.
- (b) A number of pavements needs repaired.
- (c) There was a request to take down the communal aerial at Balmoral Court. Councillor Greenhill agreed to look into this.

Stuart Hepburn raised the difficulties of people in Ashfield who tried to use the bus service but found that the buses did not run to the timetable in the bus shelter. Councillor Greenhill informed the meeting that the Council was retendering that route and she would report back to Stuart Hepburn.

Sue Faulkner raised the problem of parking in Dunblane, and there would be articles about this in both the *Community View* and the *Stirling News*.

Alan Booth reported that the next edition of *Community View* will be out shortly with the publicity for *The Fling*. *The Fling* committee is helping with distribution.

Peter McCusker brought the meeting's attention to the danger of people parking just before the slip road left down into Beech Road, although no parking bays are designated there. "No parking" signs were required.

The Secretary is to arrange a meeting with the police about CCTV cameras and Terence O'Byrne will also attend.

After repeated requests to the residents of Dunblane for individuals to fill vacancies on the community council, Mr Paul Dearden, 29 Alpin Drive, has put his name forward. Since there is a vacancy in his ward, it was unanimously agreed that Mr Dearden be co-opted as a community councillor representing the Dunblane North, Area 6 ward.

The meeting ended at 9.55 p.m.

MONTHLY REPORT –MAY 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 Loch Sloy Ramoyle, 23 Dykedale, Aurora Braeport, 5 Leewood Road, 38 Ochiltree, Willowbank Bridgend, Longbank Dunblane The Joiners Shop Arnhall, Dykedale Farmhouse, 31 Atholl Place, Conservatory at Pernettya Sinclair Place. High Level Decking at the Dunblane Hotel. Demolish building at the Queen Victoria school. Erect house in the garden at St Brydes Kilbryde Crescent. Substitute velux windows with dormers at Carinston

There are three applications to consider at this meeting tonight, Phone mast at Barbush, 7 house conversion at Auchenteck Farm and another application for a house at the Knowe on the Doune Road. There was an application for a house at the Knowe last year, the Community Council objected on the basis that the application was on land that is designated Greenbelt and Countryside, it is recommended that we object again on the same grounds.

Details of the conversion at Auchenteck are available at this meeting.

With regard to the proposed new phone mast at Barbush by Orange, the Community Council replied to the pre consultation by Orange, we have had no reply other than an acknowledgment letter to our queries despite a follow up letter 2 weeks ago. There are many objections locally from residents whose main concerns are about health and safety which is further exacerbated by the fact that this mast will contain 3G equipment over which there are serious unanswered questions on health effects. We will consider this application tonight where we expect many of the neighbours to attend.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

The appeal against the decision to build a house in the Walled Garden at Ledcameroch has been refused.

There have been discussions about vehicle access at the Braeport Centre regarding the application to convert the Old School building into two houses. The applicant wished to fence off a road around the perimeter of the Braeport to provide access. This would seriously affect the amount of parking at the Braeport which is a community facility. We believe that the planners are not in favour of this access route. It is recommended that the Community Council write to the planners asking that they refuse this method of access and ask why the Community Council was not informed of these discussions given the wide community use of the Braeport Centre.

Stirling Council finally signed the contract with Stirling Gateway for the High School project. Works have commenced at Dunblane High, the site is now fenced off. Completion is expected in November 2007. There was a neighbour meeting a couple of weeks ago where the main concern was the presence of construction traffic on the Old Doune Road below the junction of Wallace Road which is banned in the planning conditions. This occurred at Easter when advance works took place. The meeting was informed by the Project Construction Manager that all sub contractors will be informed again. The

Community Council asks that any infringements be noted with time, place and registration number and reported to Ian Bowman at the High School who is the school's own co-ordinator.

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

Other Planning Matters

The planning sub committee met with Mick Stewart, Head of Planning at Stirling Council on April 27th to discuss the Council's proposals for involvement of the community in advance planning matters which results from the recent legislation changes. We were informed that the Council already has a higher level of public involvement than most Scottish Councils. Further information will be available soon in the form of electronic copies of all plans and correspondence relating to planning applications on their website, currently these are only available on paper at the Council offices. With regard to advance planning matters, the planning dept is currently working on revisions to the Structure Plan up to 2025 (the current plan is to 2017), details will be available for consultation in the next few months, the Community Council is seen as the principle voice of the wider public in this process and as such will be involved in the consultation process. Following on from this a revised Local Plan will evolve in the next 12 months or so once the Scottish Executive approves the Structure Plan. It is not anticipated at this stage that there will be any significant additional house build (other than at the High School and Anchorscross) until after 2017, we will wait and see! The meeting was productive and worthwhile from our viewpoint.

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