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Minutes of the meeting of the Dunblane Community Council held on Monday, 10 May 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, Sandy Hall, Peter McCusker, Duncan Taylor, Craig French.

In attendance: PC Graham Love, Margaret Bragg (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Gordon Boyd and from Councillors Ann Dickson and Pat Greenhill.

2. Chairman's Remarks:

The Chairman had no additional remarks.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

These were approved, proposed by Tony Ford and seconded by Peter McCusker.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Newton Park Residents and members of the Dunblane Development Trust had a successful clear up of the area on 25 April. At present, there is no problem with youth disturbances, although the police reported that, to a limited extent, the problems had merely been shifted to other areas, in particular the Laighills.

Police bicycle This has now been paid for.

Braeport Centre The Treasurer was able to report that a member of the Braeport Futures Group had attended the last meeting of the Braeport Management Group.

Wire fence at Kippendavie Following a letter from the Secretary, this had been reinstated. The Development Trust is hoping, with Mr Stirling Aird's permission, to turn the area into an attractive feature.

Treasurer's Report The Chairman pointed out the problem of the meter that was used by Scottish Hydro-Electric to bill the Community Council for the Christmas lights, as it was also used for the electricity used for lighting the stairs and close at 4a High Street. At present, the arrangement was that the Community Council paid the bill for the quarter which included the use by the Christmas lights.

Doone Road Peter McCusker reported that the new signage erected to alert drivers to the new pinch points and the priority there was unclear. It was agreed that the Secretary will write a letter to the Roads Department bringing to their attention the need for signs on both sides of the nibs.

Junior members of the Community Council The Chairman had received a letter from David MacKenzie, Headteacher at the High School, in which he made the following proposals to encourage pupils to get involved in the work of the Community Council: either a Youth Subgroup could be formed to forward proposals/ideas to the Community Council, or each Community Councillor could be "shadowed" by a youth representative in each ward. It was agreed that the minutes and agenda will be sent to the Pupil Council at the High School with the invitation that they either send any ideas to the Community Council in writing or in person, or that they have a Community Councillor present at their meetings.

5. Correspondence: See attached list.

It was agreed that the Scottish Executive Consultation Paper "The Water Environment" will be put in the library so that it will be available for members of the public to consult.

The Chairman has received an invitation from David MacKenzie, Headteacher, to attend the next meeting of the PPP project local forum on 1 June.

The Chairman has received a letter from Inspector Brian Rennie, thanking the Community Council for the £500 for the new police bicycle.

The Chairman, in response to his query, has received a reply from Richard Baron, Access Officer at Stirling Council, in which he surmised that there was public access to the track east of Kippendavie Cottages, which goes to the reservoir and Dumyat.

6. Treasurer's Report: See attached.

The Treasurer reported that the books were in for auditing, after which the £402 grant from the Council for the coming year would be released. He had received a letter outlining supplementary grants for which the Community Council could apply. It was agreed that he will apply to the Community Grants Scheme for money for (a) a PA system and (b) after discussion with Bryan Grieve of the Development Trust, new seating around the town. The Christmas Lights Fund will be passed over to the Trust.

7. Planning Report

The Chairman suggested that, in an attempt to widen the planning sub-committee, members of the Development Trust could be invited to attend meetings in an consultative, non-voting capacity. Terence O'Byrne also agreed to become a new member of the sub-committee. It was agreed to publicise, in *Community View* and the *Stirling Observer*, the need to have a contact in those wards without a Community Councillor who could liaise in planning matters between residents and the Community Council.

8. Report of Meetings: There was none.

9. Police Report: See attached.

PC Love thanked the Community Council for the police bicycle and reported that publicity was being organised in the local press.

There is a change in how crime is being recorded so that the same criteria will be used throughout Scotland. As from now on any theft reported will be recorded as such, it is expected that figures will show an increase in crime. In view of this, future issues of the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter will indicate the number of detected as well as undetected crimes, although no details will be given.

At Newton Park, PC Love was pleased to report that there had been no further damage to the primary school. However, the Laighills is still a problem, although noise did not constitute such a disturbance for neighbours. He was going to emphasise again to local shops that they should not be selling alcohol to underage teenagers. The Chairman was going to a meeting of the Dunblane Development Trust in the near future about the future of the Laighills as a managed nature reserve and the progress of the skateboard park.

In conclusion, PC Love reported that the New Community Schools Initiative will be looking at youth issues.

10. Councillor's Report

As both councillors were absent, there was none.

11. Report on the state of street name plates and road signs

The Treasurer wanted a complete list of those which needed replaced or repaired. It was felt there should be more signs at the Fourways Roundabout.

12. AOCB

Despite a visit from a Council representative, nothing had been done to prevent further flooding in George Street and Charles Street.

John Alexander also questioned the state of the football pavilion at the Laighills and wanted to be able to inspect it.

There was no progress on Abbotsford.

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

PLANNING REPORT – 10th May 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 18 Argyle Grove and Bridgend Cottage Cromlix.

The other applications received since the main April meeting were dealt with at the special meeting of the community council on 19th April, which was called mainly to finalise our submissions to the Park of Keir Public Inquiry. The decisions were:-

- Application for lawfulness garden ground, Ashley, Auchenlay and the building of a summer house at the same address. We decided that we were not qualified or resourced to pass judgements on questions of lawfulness and we would leave any issues associated with the summer house to the neighbour notification process. There is no effect on the wider community of Dunblane.
- Demolish building, remove trees and build extensively at Ault Wharrie. We strongly object to this proposal because Ault Wharrie is a listed building in a conservation area and the highly attractive setting in which this building sits must be preserved as far as is possible. The trees and the woodland must continue to be protected. The proposal represents a gross overdevelopment of a site like this and there would be unmanageable additional burdens on the already overstretched infrastructure of the community – particularly schools and Health Centre. The proposed dementia unit, the sheltered units and houses 34 to 45 requires the loss of sections of stone wall which should be protected by conservation policy. It also takes development across the countryside boundary, which should be protected by countryside policy and must not be broken. The proposed location of the dementia unit places it on top of a slope overlooking housing in Symon Field, creating local loss of amenity. Although we strongly object to this proposal, we would like to see the listed building, Ault Wharrie, re-occupied as a residence or for it to be sympathetically converted internally into a few substantial flats. The building has been empty for some time and is at risk of deterioration. The setting in which it sits however must not be allowed to be destroyed.
- 2 houses to be built in walled garden, Ledcameroch. We object to this proposal because it is a further erosion of open space at Ledcameroch and would spoil the setting of the listed building, Ledcameroch House.
- Convert shop at 122 High Street to house. We have no objection.

Progress on Planning Action Log Items since last meeting.

The proposal to change a farm building to a house at Wester Cambushinnie has been rejected. We raised concerns about this.

No further news yet regarding the application to build 9 new houses around Provan – we have objected.

The developer has appealed to the decision to reject the building of 15 apartments in Kilbryde Crescent. The Reporters Unit will determine its opinion based on written submissions and a letter has been written referring the Reporter to our previous submissions.

The proposal to convert farm buildings to housing at Greenyards Farm has been withdrawn. We supported this, but with some reservations associated with road access, the proposed cycle way and a nearby gas main.

The Park of Keir Public Inquiry started today at the Royal Hotel Bridge of Allan. Papers for this inquiry, including our own, are available to the public at the library.

Other Planning Matters

Still no news yet on the outcome of the Stirling Council Local Plan Inquiry held before Christmas.

No further news yet about plans for a bigger Health Centre.

Planning sub-committee.

The existing members are Mike Seal, Gordon Boyd, Duncan Taylor and Peter McUsker. It has been agreed by all Community Councillors that we should enlarge this sub-committee, re-organise the duties and re-structure it to spread the workload more evenly across the members. We now need to action the enlargement, after which the new sub-committee can deal with the remaining actions required. In earlier discussions it was agreed that at the end of the exercise, Mike Seal should be able to progressively withdraw from this sub-committee.