

**KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2010**

*Present:* I. Beaton; J. Duncan; N. Kelly; C. Macintosh; J. May; B. Pell (*Chair*); P. Rea; H. Wright; P. Wilks.

*Apologies:* A. May; E. Smith; D. Stuart; Pam Campbell.

*In Attendance:* Councillor G. Lambie; PC D. McNally; and 10 members of the public.

**CC68 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2010 were adopted with the following corrections:

CC55 Delete *still*, CC61 2 (iii) Delete *which is highlighted in Stirling Council's Open Space Consultation 2010-2011*, CC63 Replace *cancellation* with *postponement*.

**CC69 Matters Arising**

**Youth Matters** Because of the likely absence of the youth members during the examination period, it was decided to defer an invitation to come and talk to the Council to May.

**Safer Routes to School** Heather Wright said she had met with the chair of Killearn Primary Schools Council, Caroline Whitson, who said this would be discussed at the next meeting. Caroline Whitson also raised with her the state of some pavements, which were of concern to parents of both Primary and Pre-School groups.

**CC70 Police Matters**

PC McNally stated that this had been a busy period with a theft of a laptop from a car in the Black Bull car park, a break-in in Branziert Road with theft of jewellery, a break-in at the Council Yard at Dumgoyne with nothing taken and an attempted break-in at the Co-operative store. Two drivers were apprehended drunk in charge of a vehicle. There were no apparent difficulties on Gartness Road during the closure of the A81. Four boys went missing after the school holiday, but were found safe and well. There had been some vandalism by young people at the old school and residents were asked to report any unusual activity there. A suspicious vehicle had been reported at Stilwater. Residents were reminded that Killearn was a *no cold calling area* and should inform persons trying to sell at the door of this fact. PC McNally said *Trading Standards* had issued a warning on a firm called SCS selling alarm systems.

**CC71 Question Time.**

A resident asked on the availability of affordable housing in Killearn as she had lived here all her life but was unable to find suitable accommodation. She was advised of the method for applying for Killearn Trust rented houses and the facts that she should give to Stirling Housing department.

A resident objected to a letter of objection to a planning application sent by a member of the Council as the wording appeared to make it an official Council communication. The member stated that he had made it clear in the accompanying email that it was a private communication. Although he did not think it would be interpreted in that way, he accepted that the letter could have been better worded.

The question of speed reducing measures was raised. The Chair stated that although there had been consultation, it was difficult to gain a consensus as there were so many differing opinions, so what came out of a meeting depended on who was present at that time. A number of suggestions did not go down well. The *Safer Routes to School* initiative had been successful in getting 20mph limits on certain roads.

A member of the public said that he had heard of a possibility of the closure of the recycling depot at Balfron. Councillor Lambie said Stirling Council was proposing to run the bin collection vehicles from Stirling to reduce costs, but had heard no rumour of closure of the depot. The Chair said it was an important facility and the council would oppose any proposal for closure.

**CC72 Treasurer's Report**

Number 1 Account balance - £58.75, Number 2 Account balance £1337.60.

The expenses on the Number 2 Account were subscription to *Scotways*, expenses to A May for the production of the Council handbook, and administrative expenses to P Rea and B Pell. A grant of £270 was sent by Stirling Council in error and returned.

**CC73 Planning**

**Valid Planning Applications Received:**

**10/00167/PPP Erection of 2 self catering holiday lodges at Land 84m South East Of North Ballochruin Farm.**

**10/00190/FUL Re-roofing of garage/store at 2 Balfron Road.**

It was decided to take no action on these applications.

**Planning Panel Decisions:**

**09/00533/FUL Alteration, extension and conversion of old school to form 3 dwelling houses with private parking and extended access at 3 Main Street.**

**Decision:** Refuse for the following reasons: The proposed development cannot achieve an adequate means of access. As part of the approval, a condition was imposed to ensure that the proposed road would not have a detrimental impact on the road safety within the area. The condition stated that the proposed road would not serve more than 4 dwellings. Currently there were 2 existing dwellings. The proposal would mean the road would serve 5 dwellings and would not be in compliance with the recently imposed condition relating to the site.

**09/00534/PPP Erection of 2 dwelling houses and demolition of scout hall at Hall Main Street. Decision:** Refuse for the following reasons: The proposed development was not deemed to be in accordance with *Policy E34 of the Stirling Council Local Plan* which seeks to ensure that all development preserves and enhances the landscape and architectural qualities of Conservation Areas. The development proposed in the grounds of the existing Old School building did not meet this policy. The proposed development was not deemed to accord with *Policy E35 of the Stirling Council Local Plan*. This policy stated that all new development within Conservation Areas, including redevelopment, should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. The development was deemed to be contrary to *Policy H6 of the Stirling Council Local Plan (as altered)* which states that the character of the Conservation Area would not be adversely affected, and the established pattern of frontage was retained. The proposed erection of 2 dwellings was deemed to not be compliant with *Policy ENV6: The Historic and Built Environment, of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Structure Plan 2002* which states that the Councils would seek to ensure that cultural heritage resources was recognised, recorded, protected and enhanced as appropriate, and that new development respects and contributed to the character and quality of the area. All three local members supported this decision to refuse.

**Planning Schedule Recommendations**

**10/00129/ADV Replacement of existing signage with new signage at 4 Main Street** Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

**Planning Decisions by Appointed Officers of Stirling Council:**

**10/00087/FUL Extension to dwelling house at 7 Lampson Road Killearn.** Decision: Approve with Conditions.

**10/00078/FUL Extension to dwelling house at 21 Lampson Road** Decision: Approve with Conditions.

**10/00088/FUL Change of use of agricultural land to garden ground at The Bungalow 92 Main Street.** Decision: Approve with Conditions.

**10/00111/FUL Extension to dwelling house at 8 Beech Drive.** Decision: Approve with Conditions.

**10/00120/FUL Erect a one and a half storey extension with a single storey sun room at Blane River Cottage.** Decision: Approve with Conditions.

**Licensing Applications.** Notification of applications by Killearn Community Futures Company for an entertainment licence and a licence to hold a procession, both on 12 June, in connection with the Killearn Hoolie Gala day. It was decided that no comment was necessary on these applications.

**CC74 Correspondence**

**Correspondence received:**

Rural Forum minutes; Big Fit Walk; Advertising circular for playground and fitness equipment; Stirling Focus; Notification of a meeting in Balfron on 13 May to assess training needs for organisations.

NHS Public Partnership meeting. Heather Wright said she would be attending this meeting on cancer services, and asked anyone who wished to bring any matter on the subject up to contact her.

Letter from Anne McGuire noting that as parliament was dissolved, she was no longer MP for Stirling, and should she not be returned as member, any outstanding matters she had been dealing with would not automatically be continued after the election result.

**Emails Received:**

Draft policy document and questionnaire on Housing. Comment was made that the questionnaire asked numerous and detailed questions of a nature which were unlikely to be within the scope of a lay person to respond.

Notification of election meeting on 25 April in Killearn Village Hall, when questions on their policies may be asked of all the local candidates.

Stirling Council Local Development Plan Road Show in Balfron 27 May and Strathblane 29 May. This important consultation includes information on open space policy and housing policy as well as the Local Plan.

Notification of EGM of Rural Youth Network on 28 April in Callendar. Unfortunately the youth members of the Council would be unable to attend because of examinations.

**CC75 Other Local Issues**

**Village Hall Refurbishment** All Council members would shortly be receiving a personal letter asking their support for the project from the Development Group. Application was being made for 90% funding for the project and already generous donations have been pledged towards the 10% that will have to be raised locally. The Council as a body was unable to give financial support to the project, but would back it in every other way.

**Eco Meeting** A small sub-committee met twice to plan the evening meeting on 18 May, which would take the form of short presentations, followed by discussion groups on individual topics. It was hoped that this would show what topics were important to local people, which would then be followed up by an Eco Fair public in September at which it is hoped there will be with contributions from a wide range of environmental bodies, energy-related companies, members of Killearn projects and other local communities.

**Village Spring Clean** The following youth organisations had agreed to take part: the Boys' Brigade, Killearn Primary School, Ballikinrain School, the Scouts, 1st Killearn Guides, 1st Killearn Rainbows 1st Killearn Brownies and 2nd Killearn Brownies. It was also hoped that the Kirk youth group, *the Friday Night Thing*, will also take part. As last year a certificate would be presented to every participating group.

**Roads** Nigel Kelly stated that he had met with Stephen Todd, Roads Area Officer, Roads Maintenance Rural Team, who believed the geometry of the Spar entry was appropriate, although residents may thank otherwise. He said that the flooded drains in Main Street and at Westerton would be dealt with shortly. He said the team were doing their best with limited funds. The budget for 2010/2011 for the Killearn area was: A875 Buchanan Street, Balfron - £84,500; A875/A81, resurface hill from below Baptiston down to A81 junction - £50,000 est.; B834, Station Road from Blane Smithy roundabout to and beyond old railway bridge - £31,000, *(completed)*; A81 Blanesmithy, resurface stretch of road beyond Croy Cunningham - £120,000. *(in progress)*; A81, resurface stretch of road at Meikle Drumquharn - £65,000; A8, Paddies to Ballat, resurface stretch of road towards Ballat junction - £106,000; A875, Main Street, Killearn, resurface stretch of road from Wellgreen towards Old School House - £45,000.

Nigel stated that he had noted that both cars and commercial vehicles were regularly parking on pavements which caused damage as well as being a hazard to pedestrians.

Councillor Lambie said the budget for road maintenance was 4% of the total this year, compared with 7% last year and he would campaign to get this increased. He said a meeting in Balfron put forward a plea for the upgrading of the A811.

Mr Wilks asked if anything could be done about the state of the private Endrick Road. Councillor Lambie said the officer dealing with this had left and it had not yet been reassigned. A suggestion was made that including it in the *Safe Routes to School* initiative might have some effect.

#### **CC76 Any Other Business**

**Compost at Balfron** It was reported that broken glass had been found in a batch of compost collected from Balfron. Mr Wilks said he investigated and found that there was glass in part of the heap, which he reported to the officer on duty and to Stirling Council. It appears it may have been a skip not properly cleaned before re-use.

**Logo at the Distillery** Concern was raised regarding a logo on a newly erected building at the distillery. This was felt to be unsympathetic and not in keeping with the rural surroundings. The Planning Correspondent undertook to find out whether or not this would be a permanent feature.

**CC Handbook** All members present indicated they had received their copy. The Chair said she was disappointed that it was not easier to read the structure of the administration of Stirling Council and regretted the names of the officers with whom Community Councils are likely to do business were not fully included. She found the format and print so reduced in size it was difficult to read.

**Welcome** The Chair welcomed Daren Piper, the newly elected chair of Balfron Community Council, and hoped that he had found the meeting informative.

***CC77 Date of Next Meeting***

A special meeting on Eco topics would take place in Killearn Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 May 2010. The next monthly meeting would take place in Killearn Primary School at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 May 2010.