

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

Present: I. Beaton; C. Macintosh; A. May; B. Pell(*Chair*); K Pollock; P. Rea; E. Smith; D. Stuart; P. Wilks; H. Wright.

In Attendance: Councillor A. Berrill; PC D. McNally and 10 members of the public.

Apologies J. Duncan; I. Moreland; C. Riches; P Campbell.

CC320 *Minutes of the Last Meeting*

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2009 were approved.

CC321 *Matters Arising*

Litter Bins The litter bins requested by the Council were now in place.

CC322 *Roads & Traffic Management*

Alistair Dawson of Stirling Council had been invited to the meeting, but was unavailable. It was agreed in his absence that Council Members and public could raise any matters and these would be passed to Mr Dawson for comment or action.

Bruce Crawford reported that a number of residents had asked him to report that vehicles were still entering and leaving the north end of village at excessive speed.

Concern was expressed that the access to the car park at Spar was too narrow, and that double yellow lines should be painted on the fence side of the entrance to deter vehicles from parking in this area.

The litter bin by the new grass area was redundant and should be moved close to the bus stop. The bus shelter had no seat. The new grass area needed attention.

There were still drainage problems to be sorted at the new crossing points.

It was noted that the bollards in Beech Drive have been replaced with new concrete bases.

Stirling Council was to take up the concern about the strip of land opposite Garteneaglais with the owner of the property.

Stirling Council recognised the problems with the road surface on the Fintry Road, but resource limitations meant that, at present, only jet patching was available to Stirling Council to remedy defects.

CC323 *Question Time*

A resident of The Square, expressed his serious concern about a party held in a marquee at the Black Bull on 29 August, when loud music disturbed neighbours until 2.34 am. After a request to the licensee to reduce the nuisance was unsuccessful, noise abatement officers of Stirling Council were informed and the police called. PC McNally stated that the level of complaints had been passed to the Licensing Authority, and environmental health officials had written to the Black Bull. It was noted that changes in the licensing laws required licensed premises to have a designated premises supervisor, who himself must hold a personal licence, which would give greater accountability. It was also noted that marquees gave rise to particular problems for events with music.

CC324 *Police Matters*

PC McNally noted that there had been some minor crime in the area, none of it involving local people. A man was charged with cruelty to a dog, manhole covers were stolen in Gartness Road and scaffolding stolen from the Old Hospital site. Youngsters had been identified playing on the primary school roof, and evidence of a BMX bike track found on the old school roof. A fire had been set by one of the occupants of the care home in Ibert Road. This was successfully dealt with by the fire brigade.

A very successful barbeque for young people was jointly held by Central Stirling Police and Stirling Council, funded by the Balfron Children's Community Partnership. New funding of £1700 had now been obtained from the Partnership to hold, in association with Active Stirling, to provide a weekly event around the Strathendrick villages. There was a shortfall of £500, and generous offers had been made by local individuals towards meeting this. A

proposal to transfer funds left over from the Fourteen-Up Club was made. PC McNally and the local police were congratulated on this initiative.

CC325 Youth Matters

The youth members added their appreciation of the barbeque and said that much useful information had been given by the organisers. An offer had been made to send Bluetooth messages to give notice of youth events in the villages.

The youth members had been active in finding out what facilities were required, and a skate park, indoor football facilities in the winter were mentioned.

It was noted that the youth members had been invited to attend the next Board Meeting of KCFC to get the youth perspective on the proposed refurbishment of the Village Hall and other youth matters.

CC326 Treasurer's Report

Number 1 Account balance - £58.75, Number 2 Account balance £1805.49.

The Stirling Council administrative grant of £373.35 had been received. A Community Pride award of £117.70 to refurbish the notice board had been received and paid out to Mr J Fallas for carrying out the work. £66.29 was paid to repair damage caused by vandalism to the notice board; it was agreed to see if this was covered by the Council's insurance.

CC327 Planning

Peter Rea intimated that new planning procedures had been introduced by Stirling Council which came into force on 3 August as a result of changes introduced by the Scottish Government. These would affect the way the Community Council was required to react to planning applications.

A questionnaire on strategic issues to be taken into account by Stirling Council in its preparation of the Local Development Plan had been sent to the Council and a response was required by 30 October. It was agreed that Peter Wilks would email copies of the questionnaire to members on the distribution list. The Chair would contact members to consider a Community Council response to be agreed at the next full meeting of the Council.

Planning Decisions by Stirling Council:

09/00401/FUL Removal of Condition 4 (Restrict Occupancy) of planning permission 04/00221/REM at Land At Killearn Home Farm Trout Fishery. Approve This application was opposed by the Council on the grounds that from the commencement of the building of Stilwater, there was no continuation of original fishery business which gave access to local fishermen. The removal of restricted occupancy would set a precedent which was at odds with planning regulation of the countryside. It was certainly the case the original consent was granted solely on the basis of Fishery Manager's house.

09/00442/MSA Erection of dwelling house at Home Farm Killearn Approve - Matters Specified by Condition This application had been opposed by the Council on the grounds that the size and design was more suited to an urban rather than a rural environment. At the meeting, the applicant objected to the Council's reason for objection, stating that it was a matter of opinion. He also felt that the Council had not treated this application equally with others. His comments were noted.

09/00288/REM Erection of new house and garage at Garden Ground To North Of 75 Main Street. Approve - Reserved Matters This application was supported by the Council with a number of provisos. As it lay within the conservation area it must protect the environment and safeguard trees, shrubs, landscape and the visual appearance of the gully walls. The roof should be slated. There was concern that engineering works would affect the ravine. As there had now been three houses already granted permission within White Court policies, there should be no further planning consents granted for this site.

09/00045/FUL Formation of access to replace existing access at Land Between 5 And 7 Main Street. Approve with Conditions The Council has consistently objected to this application for reasons given in February 2009 (CC268). It has been indicated to the Council that a consortium has purchased the site of the application and the Council could not support any application for development over private property by an outside body.

09/00448/FUL Erection of dwelling house at Red Cottage Blane Smithy Road Approve with Conditions This application had been opposed by the Council on the grounds that it was development in the countryside contrary to the Local Plan. The size was not sympathetic to and out of scale with surrounding buildings. The footprint cuts across the footprint of the existing building therefore an order for the demolition of the cottage would be required.

09/00445/PPP Erection of dwelling house at Garden Ground To North West Of The Garth Gartness Road Approve with Conditions This application had been opposed by the Council on the grounds that it was in-filling in garden ground, contrary to the Local Structure Plan.

09/00321/FUL Erection of garage at Dalfruin 25 Drumbeg Loan. Approve with Conditions

09/00020/FUL Replace and extend storage facility, siting of potable tank, car parking and ancillary works at Glengoyne Distillery Strathblane. Approve with Conditions

09/00308/FUL Proposed amendment to existing planning permission to include three dormer windows in lieu of velux roof lights at Ibert Farm Ibert Road Approve with Conditions

09/00415/LBC Replacement of timber lintel with precast concrete lintels and the construction of concealed inner skin in dense concrete blockwork. at Carbeth House Building Shell Drumtian Road Killearn Approve with Conditions

09/00439/FUL Extension to dwelling house at 57 Main Street Approve with Conditions

09/00441/FUL Extension to dwelling house at 4 Crosshead Road Approve with Conditions

09/00398/REM Erection of dwelling house at Land Some 100m South West Of Carston Farmhouse Drumbeg Road. Approve - Reserved Matters

09/00400/FUL Erection of dwelling house at Land To North Of Red Cottage Blane Smithy Road Approve with Conditions

Planning Applications Received:

09/00478/FUL Change of use of un-let space to residential use - 2 units at Unit 2, 13 Balfron Road. The Council objected to this application on the grounds that it would exceed the original three dwelling houses and double the original planning consent. In the opinion of the Council the estimated parking is optimistic and could be detrimental to access to the building.

09/00523/FUL Erection of dwelling house at Land Adjacent And Southwest Of Blacklaw, Drumbeg Loan. The Council objected to this application on the grounds that the site was not within Killearn settlement boundary - proposal was therefore development in the countryside. It was not an infill site; not part of a building group and not able to be viewed as part of an obvious group in the landscape setting; not required for agriculture, horticulture, forestry or an established rural business; not replacement or renovation of a house; not conversion of farm buildings; not a brownfield site. The proposal did not meet the criteria of Local Plan Policy H10A. The topography of the site was more in common with the adjacent woodland areas than with the house plots in Drumbeg Loan. Development would be an intrusion into the countryside. This development is immediately adjacent to the village boundary and would set an undesirable precedent which could justify future similar applications. Access would require removal of the existing hedge and trees thus having an adverse impact on the character of the countryside. The site was an important wildlife habitat.

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. The Council objected to this application on the grounds that the new road should be used to serve 4 houses, 2 of which already exist, and this exceeds the original permission (Note condition 18 re planning panel Decision on 4 June 2009)

09/00534/PPP Erection of 2 dwelling houses and demolition of scout hall at Hall, Main Street. The Council objected to this application on the grounds that the application was against Local Plan and Housing Policy. The Stirling Council Planning Panel Decision 4 June 2008 put condition 18 as follows: *Private Access Road: The new private road shall, in compliance with existing roads policy, be used to serve a maximum of 4 dwelling houses.* The application contravened this condition

09/00473/FUL Formation of timber decking at Whitecroft, 20 Allan Road.

09/00541/FUL Alterations and extension to form new sitting room, entrance hall and shower room at Dunkyan Lodge, Drumtian Road.

09/00531/FUL Extension to dwelling house at Achnagowan, 88 Main Street.

Planning Appeal

09/00191/FUL Erection of new dwelling house at Land 118 Metres North West Of Stilwater Appeal Dismissed In a closely reasoned argument, the Reporter concluded that the proposal would not accord with the Supplementary Planning Guidance for building groups and therefore was no basis for a departure from the terms of the approved Development Plan.

Notification of tree works

Tre 2009\71 Tree felling only at Station Road, Killearn G63 9NU

Tre 2009\85 Tree felling only at Greenend Lane, Killearn G63 9NJ

Tre 2009\122 Tree works, felling and replanting at: Main Street, Killearn G63 9NE

CC328 Reports of Meetings Attended

East Stirling Area Forum – attended by Peter Rea. The forum was on transport for the new Royal Forth Valley Hospital at Larbert. The conclusions appeared confused on how transport from the outer areas of Stirling could access the new hospital by bus. The meeting was inconclusive.

Stirling City Visioning Exercise – attended by the Chair. The meeting was not especially relevant to the rural area. Four possible scenarios for the expansion of the population of the city were discussed. The possible expansion of Stirling into the countryside would go against many of Stirling Council's policies, particularly on environmental grounds.

SW Area Forum – attended by the Chair. This put the results of consultation on areas of specific interest in order of priority, and presented action plans in matrix form. The areas of interest in priority order were: *road maintenance and safety, community facilities, crime and vandalism, health, transport, environment, housing, business and employment.* The Chair said that despite her initial scepticism, she found the Forum useful and thought it had achieved some success, such as improving the budget for rural road maintenance. It gave a degree of accountability and orderliness. She praised the efficiency and helpfulness of Stirling Council officers. A lot of changes have recently occurred within the administration of Stirling Council.

CC329 Correspondence

Received: Model Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils; copy of letter to Bob Jack from Bruce Crawford MSP re traffic control; invitation to SW Area Forum – Chair to attend; invitation to coffee morning and surgery dates from Anne McGuire MP; letter from Colin Scott re football changing facilities; *Travel Information Strategy and Action Plan* from Tactran (Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership); questionnaire from NHS Forth Valley – Heather Wright to respond; *Planning Policy on Wind Farms in Stirling Council*; information on designation of area at Aucheneck as SSSI; information on *McMillan Biggest Coffee Morning*; invoice for renewal of data protection; invitation to ASCC AGM; invitation to ASCC conference; *The Community Councillor* (journal of the ASCC).

Invitation to AGM of Rural Stirling Housing Association. As the Council supported the demand for low-cost housing, it was agreed to invite Tony Teasdale, Director of RSHA, to a future meeting.

CC330 Local Issues

Link to West Highland Way Norman McNab, chair of KCFC Paths Group, outlined the reasons why a link accessible by pedestrians, cyclists, horses, and those disabled would be an asset to the village, encouraging tourism and its associated business opportunities, give a safer cycling route and allow healthy exercise. Unfortunately such a link was not included in Stirling Council's Core Path programme. There were many difficulties to overcome – designation of a route, getting agreement of landowners and not least raising the necessary finance. Mr. McNab asked for the support of the Community Council in this proposition. On a show of hands, the Council overwhelmingly agreed to give its support.

Branziert Road/Ibert Road Link Path Jim Snadden, treasurer of KCFC Paths Group, in a written submission asked for funding support for a Paths Group project to upgrade the link path between Branziert Road and Ibert road to make access easier, particularly for disabled users, pushchairs, etc. It was agreed to support an application to the Community Pride Fund.

War Memorial Work to refurbish the memorial was almost complete. The Council handed the management of the project to Stirling Council who appointed the contractor. £5500 was raised from the Community Pride Fund, the Paul Trust and the War Memorials Trust to cover costs. Heather Wright asked if the seat could be refurbished as well, and it was agreed to pursue this.

Interruption to Water Supply. Parts of the village were without a water supply on two days due to two breaks in the 9 inch trunk main at Boquhan. The Chair praised Scottish Water for their efficient handling of the situation but there was some criticism from Peter Rea on behalf of the residents of Branziert Road on the adequacy of information given. A burst main on the West Highland Way caused no inconvenience to residents and was repaired by Scottish Water.

Grass Cutting and Playpark Maintenance The grass-cutting service was criticised for too long between cuts and cutting when grass is water-logged. Reorganisation within Stirling Council may have repercussions on the contract with KCFC to maintain the Playpark. This may need to be renegotiated. Councillor Berrill agreed to look into this.

CC331 Any Other Business

Road Sweeper Derek Stuart reported that the Village Officer was no longer active due to a leg operation and was unlikely to return. It was agreed to ask Stirling Council for a replacement.

Community Council Elections The Chair reported that the Council was due to disband in October with elections in November. Ian Moreland and Kay Pollock had intimated that they would not stand. Both were thanked for their service to the Council. Kay Pollock has continuously served the Council since its inception, and her decision not to stand will be a great loss to the community.

CC332 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place in Killearn Primary School at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 21 October 2009.