

Approved November Minutes

Buchanan Community Council Meeting 7th November 2016

- Attendees:** D Morris, L Buchanan, A Peebles, D Lee, A Lee, L Holl, M McLeman
Cllr Berrill, T Teasdale RSHA, D Robertson FC, I Denvir SC.
L Storrle, T Thomson, I Bruce, A Hannan, B Twaddle
Apologies: S Macfarlane, Mr. Peebles, Sheena McAlister
- Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed and introduced the new Councillors. Total number of Councillors now 8.
- Declarations of Interest** None
- Draft Minutes** of September meeting. No amendments had been received.
Proposed by LB, 2nded by D M. Approved.
- Matters Arising** from September Minutes. Agreed they would be discussed at appropriate point in the Agenda
- Treasurer's report** Short report until we finalise bank details. New signatories (DM, LB and AP) expected to be confirmed later this week. Should other Councillors wish to be added please let us know. DM had spoken to RBS today who confirmed Current Account held £472.25, Deposit Account £650.32 Total £1122.57.
Payments under £200 would require 2 signatures. Payments over £200 would require 3 signatures. Treasurer requested approval to write cheques over the next two months for items already purchased from personal accounts during the period of financial abeyance. The total would be £397 and would cover £208 for 2 editions of the Communicator, Website set up costs £54, Data Protection Annual bill (approved at last meeting) £35. Secretarial costs up to £100. Proposed by AL, seconded by M M. Approved. The projected balance for the BCC Current Account would then reduce to £75.
DM advised that SC had advised verbally some months ago that we did have money & the accounts were OK.
Admin Grant I Denvir was asked to update us on progress of this grant. **ACTION I DENVIR**
Connect Fund The Treasurer noted we had missed being able to apply for the first round of CF due to not having access to the Bank account. The Treasurer now asked for approval to put in a new application for £562 to cover 2 editions of the Communicator (£210), another community survey ref Locality Planning (£284) & mileage (estimated £68) for door to door survey to ensure good quality response. Money to be spent before the end of the financial year. Application Deadline end of the month. Two signatures (usually Treasurer and Chairman or secretary) required for the application form which treasurer would complete. Approved. **ACTION LB**

Note, there was £384 previously ring-fenced for the Communicator under previous grant applications and contained within the balance of £1122 mentioned above.
Print approx. 270. Deliver 150 including Drymen Library and post 120.
- Correspondence** In future all Councillors will be included in correspondence which will enable better discussions in the future.

Invitations to meetings which we try and attend.

Regular reports from DR of FC

Mairi Bell has responded to our questions regarding car parking charges being brought in by the NP. They will be in line with those at Lubnaig. Residents permits £5 pa. First hour £1, 2hrs £2, all day £4. Automatic Number Plate Recognition to manage parking. Penalty notices issued to non-payers. One ticket for all car parks in the area which are owned by a number of different owners is an aspiration for the future.

- Cllr Muirhead had forwarded an email 21.10.16 from A Ogilvie, Parking Team Leader, SC regarding Decriminalised Parking Enforcement. (Action from last meeting) This has yet to be handed over to SC who were in discussions with Transport Scotland regarding new implementation date. Until that had taken place enforcement would be the remit of the Community Police based on “reports made by constituents to the Police, as it will be based on intelligence, with the community officers being tasked as and when required.” Implementation date has been delayed.
- Balfron HS Parent Council regarding school transport for out of hours activities
- Consultation with NP regarding Camping Byelaws detailed below.
- S Paterson MP Surgery 12.45 – 13.30 Sat Dec 3rd Memorial Hall, MoB. Drop-in ONLY

8. Reports

Police Read by AP. Full report on BCC website.

Key points – Balmaha Braw weekend very busy. 1 minor issue dealt with. 2 reports of access to driveways being blocked by parked cars. Concern regarding parking in designated field due to muddy conditions.

Fixed penalty notices issued for contraventions of parking restrictions in BCC area.

Theft of mobile phone from house window sill. Thief apprehended and phone returned.

Community Engagement and Reassurance

Police Message to all Residents. Darker nights. Please consider actions to make theft more difficult e.g. timer switches on lights, lock windows and door securely, create FREE inventory of all your personal property at www.immobilise.com, report suspicious activity to 101.

Air Weapons licensing scheme being introduced from 31 Dec 2016.

BCC have asked for further details on if Ironworks will be affected after Decriminalised parking will be transferred to SC. **Update 8.11.16** Email RM responded that “Police Scotland will continue to work with our partners in Loch Lomond and The LLTNP through Operation Ironworks in 2017 to ensure our communities remain a safe place to visit, live and work”

Planning Two applications received for Lomond Bank, Balmaha. Period of representation past. Former HWH site application still not concluded legal documents so no work can start on the site.

Roads Work on kerbs in M of B still being undertaken to prepare area for new green cycle track surface being laid at the end of the financial year.

NP Proposed Local Development Plan Report. The Park has now sent this to the Scottish Government Ministers.

9. **Forestry Commission** Chairman thanked DR for his timely updates and invited DR to give a brief report on issues relevant to the BCC area.

Key points – Advised that reports for the QEFP which might be useful to B & B proprietors, were sent to the BCC who put them up on their website. Local issues appeared in Communicator when possible.

Sallochy Campsite closed on 31.10.16 after a very successful year despite the weather and the resulting mud. DR hoped to deal with drainage over the winter.

Changes in Ironworks but individual groups working together which is proving successful. Wants this to continue next year.

Ben Lomond Hill Path snagging list was being dealt with which had added to work load. Diversion route in operation.

Blue Path, Balmaha – works due to start in Dec 16. (Delay due to infected trees in another area having to be cleared first). He will update us on start date. Phase 2 will be to re-sign the route. Phase 3 Evaluation of path use after which there will be discussions as to its future with the BCC.

10. **Affordable Housing**

The Chairman welcomed Tony Teasdale, Director RSHA and invited him to give us a brief update on the Affordable Housing proposed for Balmaha.

Started 25yrs ago RSHA is a community controlled charitable housing association based in Doune. Working exclusively in the rural Stirlingshire area, they have built some 600 houses principally for affordable rent.

He gave a comprehensive view of RSHA decisions to date. He informed the meeting there were still uncertainties in the current proposal, he was still in discussions with Scottish Gov, Forestry Commission and the NP over various aspects of this pioneering development and has been in discussion with Highland Small Communities Housing Trust who have experience in developing low-cost evolution initiatives.

The current proposal was for 10 socially rented houses and some open market houses to subsidise the project.

Going to planning as soon as possible, possibly before Christmas. Some funding available for this year but most for next year.

National Park required a number of surveys to be done. Information is available on request.

Next step is a need to establish the actual demand for the open market plots/houses that will be provide financial support for the social rented units. (They already know that there is demand for social rented units). Issue information, letters to all houses and advertise through a community event in the next month or so.

Initially part of this site was to be retained for community use and developed by a community body but at early stage was put on ice pending development of the housing side. Now looking to start that process of engagement locally as to how that would work.

Is there enough local demand? Social rented yes initially but not advertised it more recently.

Asked what the catchment area was TT replied it would be the CC area. The survey will establish the balance of demand.

Suggestion put forward that it could also include Drymen. TT replied RSHA hadn't considered this but would give it some thought.

The chairman indicated that the Community Council was keen to be actively involved and asked how that could be facilitated. TT's Response was to come along to the community event. (Date tbc). Community Council as a statutory body would be a Consultee. Tony would come back and discuss with the Community Council after the Planning Application had been submitted.

11. **Presentation from Hall Committee** No one was present from the Hall Committee so it didn't take place. The secretary reported that following a decision at the September meeting when a verbal invitation had been issued to MM along with a request that she gave us the details of a point of contact, an email invitation to attend this meeting and give a presentation had been sent to both M Milner and S McAllister. No response had been received from Maggie Milner. When asked at the Community Lunch on 5th Nov if she would be attending S McAlister had advised the secretary she was unable to attend and didn't know about MM.

It was agreed that the invitation would be reissued for the January meeting once the contact details requested at the September meeting had been provided. **ACTION**

SECRETARY

LB, Editor of the Communicator offered the hall committee space in the Communicator and on the CC website. A FREE dedicated webpage could be made available if required which the Hall Committee could administer themselves. We could also agree to pass on the responses relevant to the hall which resulted from the survey we carried out earlier in the year.

Questions were asked about how the hall committee operates. ID advised that they were an autonomous group.

This would be carried forward to the next meeting.

12. Reports from meetings attended by Councillors

- **Camping Byelaws meeting with NPA** Attended by LB, DM and MM. Report put in the Communicator
- **City Park Development** and access to M9 discussed. Attended by AP. Very large development plans for all areas of Stirling including a city park between the M9 and Stirling Castle but dependent on amount of grant funding available. Very ambitious project. Hoping to boost Central Scotland. Funding results due at the end of the year.
- **Alan Milliken**, Senior Manager Communities and People, Stirling Council. Attended by LB and AP. Started at our meeting with Stuart Carruth who'd invited people from local councils and groups to meet and have the opportunity to tell them that Stirling Council wanted to have a new approach to engagement and find out some of the issues facing communities. We mentioned transport was an issue here especially as we don't have DRT in our area. Afterwards Alan Milliken invited us to come and speak with him to talk about transport and localities model and that how services are provided. He spoke about equitable outcomes which is where some communities require more services than others to achieve an equal outcome. He said he would refer us to the localities team so we could work together with them,

which would include is doing a detailed survey which could result in GSI mapping and build new service provision around that. He recognises the work done by community councils. Very much partnership and any surveys would be developed with the localities team to ensure the best results.

13. CONSULTATIONS

- a. After school buses. Letter from Balfron High School Parent Council to a number of members at Stirling Council raising concerns about the reduction of buses for after school activities. Councillor Berrill advised there has been further consultation between SC and First Bus resulting in buses will go back to stopping at the school. A consultation period is active now.
Is there provision to DRT up to Rowardennan? Only a few children involved. Possibly 3 children which might benefit at the moment.
A Councillor questioned whether this was an equity issue.
McLaren school in Callandar have never had an after school bus service.
Cllr Berrill will pursue this.
DRT is working well in areas where it was available.
- b. **Red tarmac crossing M of B.** This was an alternative offered by DCDT after we turned down a build out at our last meeting. Red band would draw attention to the crossing. Discussion covered provision of zebra crossings, safety of school children and other pedestrians. There was no indication of what would be put in place at the other end of the village where pedestrians have to cross back over the road. Ask DCDT if zebra crossing which is more relevant to school children would be possible. Could there be a crossing at each end of the village. Pedestrian crossing with lights as in a town is the best solution.
Response: Advance warning to alert drivers to people crossing. Could there be a crossing at each end of the village. Pedestrian crossing with lights as in a town is the best solution.
Agreed to request a permanent 20mph speed limit through MoB.
There is an existing 20mph sign but questions were raised as to whether it was working. **ACTION ASK POLICE and DCDT**
- c. **Removal of telephone boxes.** BT are consulting with us regarding their proposal to remove telephone boxes in Balmaha and Rowardennan. Following discussion of options for future use – Wi-Fi hotspot/information box/defibrillator housing - and costs and upkeep, it was decided that we would not seek alternative uses.
Accordingly, it was agreed that BT will be advised that the BCC have no objection to the removal of the telephone boxes. **ACTION SECRETARY**
- d. **Camping Bye-laws** – Poor answers from NP representative at the meeting last month. Eg Couldn't provide details of new Byelaws. Current Camping Byelaw has been very successful. We're being asked to accept the new Byelaws which are being produced for areas around the Park. Ours is proven to work. Significant item is new laws will encourage more wild camping in this area. It will be formalised and charges imposed. Also included more motorhome/caravan parks. Individual farmers/landowners could set up camping areas and this would be supported by the NP. NP Board members had said they had a lot to learn over the first year of the new Byelaws. Attendees objected to the introduction of new Byelaws. No discussion with us as stake holders on the ELL regarding the introduction of new byelaws. **Proposal** Object to revoking of old Byelaws. We wish to retain our current Byelaws on this side of the Loch. Proposed by MM, 2nded AL Unanimous approval from councillors & supported by audience. Register late notice of option which wasn't volunteered but discovered when we

attended the NP Board Meeting. Investigate procedure for registering this objection.

ACTION SECRETARY CHAIRMAN TO SEND LETTER TO NPA

Date for NPA to attend meeting Jan/Feb 2017 **ACTION SECRETARY**

14. Questions from the floor NONE

15. Upcoming Meetings

- 11.11.16 National Park Planners 11am on NP HQ. **UPDATE.** The Councillors were advised by email from S Mearns, not received until after the meeting, that the NP Planners were unable to make this date they had proposed. We responded that we will provide some alternative dates for later in the month. **ACTION ALL**
- 21.11.16 PBB Meeting Balfron High. 4.30, 5.30, 6.30 Councillors to confirm to secretary who can attend and when. Anyone can attend from the community as well. Tickets on line but you can just turn up. **ACTION ALL**
- 29.11.16 Stirling Council and Home Energy workshop AP attending
- 7.12.16 Stirling Council Broadband Supplier Event. AP to advise Councillors of venue **UPDATE** Theatre and Arts Studio, Balfron High School 1800 – 2100hrs **ACTION ALL**

16. AOCB

The Secretary requested that the Council bought a digital recorder and microphones in order that we could ensure accurate Minutes were taken and she could take part in discussions. Recordings would not be made public. The long term cost would be considerably less than having an external Minute taker.

One Councillor registered an objection. DR advised that other CCs use them.

It was agreed that the decision on this would be delayed to the next meeting to allow for further discussion.

17. **2017 meeting dates** would be decided by the Councillors by email after the meeting and sent to SC before the end of December. **ACTION ALL**

18. Chairperson advised date of next meeting as 30th January 2017 and closed the meeting at 21.35