

MINUTES FOR A MONTHLY MEETING OF STANLEY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Stanley Village Hall on 25 November 2024 at 19:00.

Present: Neil Hardy, Katherine Rix, Suzanne Tattersall, Ivan Carroll, Fiona Hepburn, Joyce Jamieson.

In attendance: Claire McLaren

1. Apologies: Jackie McLeod and John Graham, Ian James and Grant Laing
2. Minutes of previous meeting

KR proposed
JJ Seconded

3. Matters arising from previous meeting/minutes

None

4. Finance:

- a. Treasurer update

There are no transactions to come out for the community council this month.

The hall hire has been paid for.

SDCC have received payment for defibrillator which NH had ordered. This has still to be installed.

Theft of previous defibrillator – battery was removed and will need replaced. SDCC are hoping to use funding applied for via civil contingency fund - Frank Campbell, PKC. CMcL said this should be successful.

5. Ongoing issues
 - a. 'Old' Stanley Church disposal

There was an auction last Wednesday but again there were no bids. The Auctioneer is reportedly unsure what to do. The current owners are not willing to drop the price below £55000.

- b. Manse Crescent flooding – ST update

ST has been in contact with William Shand (from John Swinney's office) who proposed holding a meeting to discuss flooding concerns re: Manse Crescent and surrounding area with representatives of Galbraith, who manage the field behind Manse Crescent on behalf of Lord Cadogan, Cllr Grant Laing, a flood officer from Perth and Kinross Council and John Swinney MSP.

Agreement that this would be a positive step forward and Martin Jeffery would be keen to attend as he initially approached the community council in relation to this matter and has a good understanding of the problem.

Discussion that there is a need to ensure the meeting focuses on the issue with the field drains noting that the fields have not been cultivated for a number of years so the drains will be blocked.

ST will liaise with William Shand to arrange a meeting.

6. WSWG update

Tayside Woodland Partnership have emailed PKC to flag up need for risk assessment as part of discussion and decision making in relation to the proposed management of the small woodland area at Wildwood.

Angus Morgan from Community Greenspace undertook a site visit in August 2024. They are awaiting the write up of his site visit.

They are anticipating that they will receive a report in December 2024 then a meeting will be arranged to allow for further discussion about how to progress.

All looking positive but need to go through internal processes of each group which takes time.

WSWG intend to come back to SDCC to encourage public discussion. They are keen to consult with the community about next steps and possibly look setting up a group of interested parties. Options would include holding a Biodiversity meeting, discussing this within a planned community council meeting or holding a specific SDCC meeting to solely discuss Wildwood.

7. Road and Traffic Safety

FH shared that she was nearly written off by an ASDA delivery van speeding on Duchess Street. She shared that she does not think they have finished the road and that there will also be issues because of the camber in the road.

There have been two accidents on the road which have not been reported to police.

FH has reported concerns to Mark Peebles (Police Scotland), asking if he can have police presence on occasion near Active Kids to monitor the situation.

Mark Peebles has provided two Cardboard Policemen. One will be managed by SDCC and the plan is to move him around the village. The other one has been provided to residents in Duchess Street who will take care of him.

Matt Welsh re: traffic survey. SDCC have asked for three monitoring sites - the village hall, school and duchess street. KR

Member of public raised concerns about the positioning of the Radar Speed signs. He reported that he witnessed 4 cars, all breaking speed limit going through. He feels that the camera is narrow and is not picking up speed from a reasonable distance. CMcL will follow this up. It was questioned whether this could be moved?

Speeding on all the roads – continuing concerns about this from the community.

SDCC will continue to work with PKC and police and continue to raise concerns but also acknowledge that some people will continue to make poor driving choices regardless of what measures are put in place.

Community members from Duchess Street (Mr and Mrs Johnstone) continue to feel PKC and SDCC are not taking road traffic concerns seriously. They feel that simple things such as sign of parent and child would reduce risk. They also feel there should be a restriction of vehicle weight.

It was also noted that 3 or 4 bus routes are using the road although there are no stops. It was asked what route they proposed the buses should take. It was proposed that buses could be routed on B9099 by Luncarty. Residents expressed that they do not intend to let these issues rest and that they intend to go to all public meetings and continue to raise concerns and intend to approach the Scottish Parliament with their concerns.

Concerns shared that tourists who are unfamiliar with area will not know there is a children's play area and signs do not tell road users to slow down until they are past the entry to Active Kids.

ST expressed that as a member of public with young children, she understands and agrees with the concerns raised by Mr and Mrs Johnstone in relation to concerns about safety crossing bridge. She asked that when the signs are changed to 20 mph, could the sign be positioned further along the road, past the entry to Active Kids. CMcL confirmed that the sign will be placed at Burnside farm sign when the 20mph restrictions come in nationwide. This will make crossing the bridge much safer for pedestrians.

It was noted that the passing place sign on the road past Five Mile Woods can only be seen from the field not the road.

It was again discussed that there is only so much that can be done and we need to focus on practical things that can make roads safer. Another attendee suggested a sign at the A9 slip road saying the road is not suitable for a certain tonnage of vehicle which would make people think about whether the road is suitable.

CMcL expressed that there is no evidence of the road being unsuitable and highlighted that we cannot exclude certain road users from using the road. She highlighted that it is an unclassified road and that it has recently had £300000 worth repairs carried out.

CMcL highlighted that all residential areas will be changing to a 20mph speed limit and that the 20mph signs are being ordered. She expressed that there is a roll out system planned and that it is getting done.

Attendees at the meeting continued to express that there will be a serious injury or fatality on this road.

CMcL expressed that she did not know how to answer and was clearly upset due to the confrontational tone of the meeting and a lack of acceptance that resources are tight and measures are being implemented. CMcL left the meeting at 19:40 hours.

Mr Johnstone expressed frustration and that he feels his concerns are being dismissed. NH expressed that we are listening, however this subject is dominating monthly meetings and it out with the SDCC's control. This has been escalated this to ward councillor level and there is no further action SDCC can take. He intends to escalate this to his MSP and stated that they will take this as far as they need to.

Suggestion the SDCC could ask a road engineer to come along to the SDCC meeting.

Elsbeth Coutts suggested that there is nothing that the people in the room can do but suggested exploring a bigger solution such as trying to get a pedestrian foot path over the railway line. She suggested approaching Sustrans to enquire about possible funding.

Another attendee commented that in relation to traffic safety strategies that the Community Council need to ask themselves if they feel they are doing their best and stated that you want to have a clear conscience if there is a serious accident of fatality.

He suggested the need for a Local Place plan - covering things like planning, local development plans and consultation with villagers as main stake holders. He said this should be a joint venture between villagers, SDCC and LA and suggested there should be a planning stage with councillors about how this will progress.

He also questioned what SDCC have done. NH outlined some examples of progress – whitelines repainted, fencing outside school being looked at, pop up police man, foliage cut back, asked for dropped kerbs.

He also questioned how members of the community raise new issues. NH advised that anyone can email SDCC or can raise issues at any of the public meetings.

NH explained that all members of SDCC are volunteers, giving up their own time to try and represent the community and make improvements. He expressed that Community Councillors are doing their best and that it is disheartening when we are faced with such a high level of criticism when we are trying to work together with members of the community.

FH added that SDCC rely on residents as part of the team and expressed that we are not here to have councillors leaving meetings upset because of the way people are talking to us/them. She expressed that CMcL has many villages to look after and tries her best for everyone she represents. She highlighted that we are not working against people in the community, we are trying to help and we are trying to learn the ropes as volunteers in a relatively new role.

NH added that we do share details and follow through with things out with the meetings. However, it is not helpful when we are trying to explain things or provide feedback, that there seems to be a reluctance for people to listen. NH expressed that he came close to walking away last month and that it is not constructive for meetings to continue with this degree of hostility. He reminded attendees that we are passing on what we have been told and we are not the decision makers.

NH added that he will look to create a Facebook post to share what we have asked for from Roads Department and where we are in relation to each area. Further discussion will take place with Matt Welsh (Roads Department)

JJ added that we are very lucky with how proactive our ward councillors are and appreciate that they make an effort to come along to our meetings. There has been a ward councillor in attendance at every meeting to date.

8. Police

Pop up policemen has been provided as detailed above.

FH and residents in Duchess Street are asking for some police presence in the village to monitor traffic violations.

9. Planning applications and appeals:

28.10.24 – 24/01485/AMM P5 Strathtay Erection 41 Dwellinghouse, landscaping and associated works (change of house type plots 15-28 and 73-99 of 19/01130/AMM) (allocated site H30) at Land at Stanley Village (H30).

Muir Homes

Discussion that they are struggling to sell properties.

04.11.24 – No planning notices.

11.11.24 – No planning notices.

18.11.24 – Two planning notices:

24/01724/LBC (alterations to building) at Land at Coach House, Taymount, Stanley.

24/01725/FLL P5 – Strathtay Renewal of Permission 21/01615/FLL (Change of use from Coach House to dwellinghouse and alterations and extension) at Land at Coach House

Work on property in the Mills – Approval recommended.

No update re: Airntully.

Communications mast – no update. NH will follow up and see if he can find out more. They have up to three years to complete under current planning permission.

10. Correspondence – None

11. Emergency plan update

Ivan is leading this and is looking for local people to volunteer for various roles within the core team. Roles include primary and resilience roles, including someone to take on a leadership role.

Rev Ross Stirling-Young is keen to be involved in supporting the Emergency plan and has offered to open St Columba's church in the event of an emergency.

It is anticipated that the Emergency planning group will stand alone once it is up and running.

12. A.O.C.B.

KR shared that Ogilvie Homes have done a lot for the school including providing planters and have painted the shelter shed.

CPR training is taking place at the church once per month. It was noted that the church is there for the village, you don't need to be religious to access the church. Next session is on 9 December 2024 and lasts for one hour. Discussion about time of sessions and it was asked if this could be offered in an evening to enable individuals who work the opportunity to attend. NH is providing training (CPR and Defibrillator training) and will look at possible weekend dates.

Community investment fund could be explored to secure money for installation and use of a hall to run training sessions.

Discussion about the second defibrillator which will be positioned outside the Village Hall. There is some concern about the potential for theft or damage following the first defibrillator being taken and returned without a battery. PKC have funded the second defibrillator and it is hoped that the battery can be replaced with monies from the civil contingency fund. Security options were discussed such as whether there was a way to get CCTV in the Village Hall or a sensor light. It was agreed that the defibrillator needs to be carefully positioned but easy to access in an emergency.

Emergency arrangements – further information required about resources within the village such as who could take people in? Who has police checks? Who is vulnerable? Who is medically trained? Police trained? RAC breakdown recovery etc. A profile of skills and resources available within the community would be helpful.

Date of next meeting: Monday 27 January 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall