



## **STANLEY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL Minutes**

Stanley Village Hall on 27 January 2025 at 19:00.

Neil Hardy, Ivan Carroll, Fiona Hepburn, John Graham, Joyce Jamieson. Claire McLaren

1. Apologies: Elspeth Coutts, Jackie McLeod, Ian James, Grant Laing
2. Minutes of previous meeting

CMcL advised that she is not happy with the minutes from the previous meeting. She expressed that she left when questioned about the new 20 mph speed limit due to three individuals in attendance being confrontational. When CMcL was answering questions, she was not given the respect to answer. She highlighted that it was difficult to come back into this room following the behaviour she was subjected to. CMcL highlighted that she did not feel safe and it has been difficult to return to this community council meeting. A letter to be sent out to all community councils about expected behaviours.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting/minutes

An attendee at the meeting expressed that it was most disconcerting to witness the behaviour of some individual members of the public at the last meeting. He expressed that this was decidedly uncomfortable. He highlighted that he was concerned that such behaviour may result in some of our counsellors may not want to engage in our community council meetings. He highlighted that people should recognise that people are volunteers and are giving up their time to try and make Stanley an even better place to live.

Discussion took place about the lack of lights around the village hall which is a safety issue, especially if individuals do not feel safe. It was agreed that if someone feels the need to leave the meeting, a member of the Community Council will leave with them to ensure they are okay, feel safe and supported.

4. Looking ahead to 2025 and celebrating successes

NH advised that he would like to achieve more of the same and continue working in areas we are currently involved with.

NH applauded a small group volunteers, Stanley in Bloom for their recent achievement of maintaining their outstanding achievement award. Well done for holding onto the award. NH expressed that they are always looking for volunteers [stanleyinbloom@gmail.com](mailto:stanleyinbloom@gmail.com). They also have Facebook page.

Also a big thank you to those involved in the Christmas lights switch on. A lovely display and light switch on. It was acknowledged that the event is growing year on year and it is a fantastic community event.

Thank you to Eva at the school who designed the snowflake light on the school fence. Well done!

A member of the community raised question about safety at the Christmas light switch on. He raised concerns that a car could drive through the crowds and questioned whether there was a need for barriers. It was discussed that we cannot account for every possible risk and it was felt that this is unlikely to happen and with limited funds, we need to prioritise other things.

IC will continue to work on the community plan over the next year.

Roads – There are things we want to achieve but recognise that there are limitations. FH and KR are working alongside partners in PKC. We are aware there is a Councillor road safety priority list. There are 900 requests throughout PKC and we need to recognise that there are not the resources to have everything we would like within the village. There is a need to prioritise what can be achieved.

Dog Fouling and littering – Ongoing issues within the village. People need to clean up behind their pets. Issues in Station road and Atholl Drive with dog poo bags being thrown in people's gardens.

FH has been in contact with PKC to request additional dog poo bins but was informed that there is a 'Litter Bin review' and bins are subject to budget restrictions. It is likely they would need to relocate a bin from somewhere else in the village. They are getting rid of dog poo bins and this waste should be put in a general waste bin. NH suggests that they might not all be in the best place.

Poo bag dispensers – School kids could get involved. Need to consider funding options.

Most of the village is okay in terms of littering but small areas have problems. There is a monthly litter pick arranged which helps.

Engagement with a wider demographic within the village. Looking at ways to engage with more people. Positive that we have great attendance at our meetings but would be good to network with other groups too.

5. Finance:

a. Treasurer update

KR has nothing to update, no transactions.

Top up of admin grant is due in February.

6. Ongoing matters

a. 'Old' Stanley Church disposal

JJ spoke to the current owner today. She advised that she intends to keep the church until such time as someone offers the price she is asking for. Concerns were discussed in relation to the condition of the building which in a significant state of disrepair. It is unsafe for perspective buyers to enter the building.

Is this getting closer to needing to go on the building at risk register?

b. Manse Crescent flooding

CMcL has spoken with Grant Laing. The issue is drain capacity within James Street. NH trying to speak to Scottish Water but not having any success.

Scottish water is statutory body and are accountable to the Scottish Government. There is a need for Scottish Water to work in partnership and be in attendance at the meeting. CMcL was clear that Scottish water are responsible for the flooding difficulties.

ST advised that she is awaiting a reply from William Shand from the Scottish Government in relation to a meeting date.

There is a need to get information together to present to the meeting. NH trying to get additional information.

7. Community matters/community groups

WSWG – Wildwood – Elspeth Coutts was unable to attend so will provide an update at the next SDCC public meeting.

SDT will come along from February 2025.

8. Road and Traffic Safety/Police

No update – will all come down to funding and priority will be aligning dropped kerbs in the village

Ballathie Road – There are no white markings from when they repaired the road.

Concerns raised about the railings outside the school which were hit by a private bus. This is sticking out and children are playing with this which is dangerous. This needs repaired ASAP.

The Pedestrian Crossing keeps breaking and has been reported several times. NH has had emails saying it appears to be repaired but then it breaks again. NH reminded community to ensure this is reported and not to assume someone else has done this.

17 February 2025 – work will commence on the second phase of the Stewart Tower road, from the cottages to the A9.

5 March 2025 - Caputh to Dunkeld road will be closed for one day.

14 April 2025 - Airtully Road closed from Stanely village to the end of the hamlet. There will be no access and road users will need to go the long way round.

9. Update from Councillors

Budget review – medium term financial strategy agreed a 10% council tax rise.

Conversation about rural libraries.

Health and social care partnership budget is stretched.

Cross Tay Road will be open soon, slots to walk the bridge sold out within minutes. This event is for people aged over 12 years, younger children are not allowed. Hopefully Kinclaven Road traffic will settle when the new bridge opens.

Phase three – discussions underway. Developers at Bertha have withdrawn funding which is disappointing but this will need to go ahead. CMcL confident there will be funding for this within the budget.

10. Emergency plan

Four volunteers have come forward. Ivan has few more contacts to get in touch with. The group have identified nineteen activities and have completed three.

11. Planning applications and appeals

Very little happened in relation to planning applications over the festive period.

There has been one approval for internal works in a property at Stanley Mills. Craighall – Planning application for 5 holiday accommodation units at back of existing property. So far there has been one objection from a neighbour. There was some expression

of disappointed at the suggestion of holiday accommodation given that there could be more holiday accommodation by the quarry. Deadline for public comment is 7 February. CMcL reminded that CC can put in an objection if this is the view of the community.

NH has tried to obtain more information about timeframes/progress in relation to the Phone Mast but has not received a response yet. CMcL advised they have 18 months under the current planning application. They are at least half way through this timeframe. New smart meters being put into properties need the phone signal to work so there are bigger implications for people than just mobile phone signal.

There is an application for another mast in North Barns which is just out of our boundary. Hopefully this, combined with the new mast will result in improved connectivity within the village and surrounding areas.

JG questioned Snaigow outcome – advised that this was withdrawn.

## 12. AOCB

### Safer Community Wardens

Safer Community Wardens attended the meeting to provide an update in relation to their role. They are employed by Perth and Kinross Council and undertake patrols in the late afternoon/early evenings.

They provided promotional materials which contain the number for people to contact if they have any concerns about antisocial behaviour within the village. They were patrolling the old church but they are no longer expected to do this since it was sold into private ownership.

They patrol the school grounds and try to encourage youths to come down without the need to contact the police. If required, they have the direct number to contact the desk sergeant.

The community wardens are keen for the community to use the service and advised that they log all calls and can report and pass on information over to relevant departments in the council. All calls to the community wardens are reviewed by the police. They have a good multi-agency approach with police. They will try to support with any issue or signpost to relevant services. No issues are too small, they encourage individuals to make the report.

It was asked if the old church can be put back on their route. The community wardens advised that they can patrol the area but there are limitations in terms of what they can do. If people report incidents/concerns or they witness any concerns, they can log this to build up a profile if young people are using the area and placing themselves at risk. They are unable to get the door secured by the unpaid work team because it is now privately owned. They also cannot enter the property due to safety concerns.

FH shared concerns that on Saturday night there were 6 or 7 youths (one female, the rest were male) vandalising things in the village. She reported that they were knocking over bins, damaging cars and vandalised the cardboard policeman. This behaviour appears to have been opportunistic because council resources are deployed elsewhere due to the storm.

The community wardens highlighted the importance of proper reporting and advised that they cannot respond if people are only reporting on Facebook.

The community wardens have been checking in and asking questions to get a sense of how things are in the village. For example, they have asked in the shop how things are in Stanley. They are trying to build picture of what the local issues and they are not aware of any local issues/concerns. The profile they have is that things have been quiet since the summer. Discussion took place in relation to free bus travel for young people. Young people travel from further afield and the YP causing trouble are not necessarily from the village.

The community wardens advised that they are happy for people to stop them in the street and that they try to be as approachable as possible.

#### Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust

Bid Strachan from Perth and Kinross Countryside trust advised that she wanted to make contact to share that they are currently liasing with Stanley Development Trust and other groups to improve a number of paths across Perthshire including the proposed Stanely – Luncary path.

Tasked through Stanley Development Trust to look at improved access via railway path off Linn Road. It is tricky to get down there and the path is not useable. It is hoped that work can be undertaken to create a path at the edge of the field. There are three landowners who initially gave permission for improvement work but are no longer committing to this. PK Countryside Trust and SDT have secured £20000 of funding to support the work and they are looking for a more formal approval from the landowner to enable work to be completed. They are asking for support from SDCC in relation to this matter.

NH agreed to provide a letter of support. He is asking for someone from SDCC to go out with PK Countryside trust to look at the proposed plans. JG asked why the railway cannot be used as a path. This is impassible and also is a biodiverse area. Core path planning 2009-2010 notes that the original path does not run along railway (was an active railway) They saw no reason to put the core path through the railway – full of trees and place local deer bring up their young/wildlife reserve. Ploughing has been closer to the boundary fence that might be desirable which has negatively impacted on the core path. This would be a real asset to the village, providing a mostly off-road walk to Ballathie/Kinclaven.

It was noted that it is dark around the square area and public car park area. CMcL will explore whether additional lighting could be sourced. This has been an area of concern with groups of young people vandalising the school. It was noted that there have not been recent concerns regarding this but improved lighting would act as a deterrent. It was questioned whether the school gates should be locked but the consensus was that young people would just climb over the gates.

NH asking that if people have any items for the agenda, these should be emailed to [stanleycommunitycouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:stanleycommunitycouncil@hotmail.com) by the Thursday prior to the meeting. This will allow for community council members to consider the request and prepare for the meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 24 February 2025 at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall