

Minute of the meeting of Torbrex Community Council held in Stirling High School at 7.15pm on Wednesday 29th October 2008.

1. Present: - Community Councillors - Murray Dickie, Jim Docherty, Brendan Docherty, Genia Graham, Robert Johnson and Hirek Kwiatowski.

In attendance: Richard Baker, Sheena Baker, John Buchan, Pat Scullion (Head teacher) Stirling High School, WPC Kirsop, Cllr Scott Farmer, Wilson Jamieson, Alan McIntyre and Marjory McIntyre

2. Apologies: - Caroline Edward, Margaret Duff and Joyce & Michael Green.

3. Minute of the Previous Meeting: - The minute of the previous meeting was accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising: - None.

5. Community Police Report: - WPC Kirsop reported that there had been several incidents of vandalism, a theft of newspapers from Springwood Avenue and 11 traffic offences had been committed.

6. Friends of Beechwood Park Update:

The Friends of Beechwood Park sub-committee had been invited to a meeting called by Les Goodfellow of Stirling Council to discuss the possibility of developing a pilot “masterplan” for Beechwood Park. The plan would set out the proposed pattern of longer term development for the whole park for the next ten years or so. The meeting had been attended by representatives from all of the services involved in managing the park, as well as a landscape consultant. The proposal was to use Beechwood Park as a case study to try out the “masterplan” process. If successful, the process would roll out to other areas. It was hoped that a meeting of interested local groups would be held soon

Stirling High School Eco Club was initiating a community Gardening Project to supply plants to local parks and vegetables for the local community. The project would involve the construction of a poly tunnel, purchase of tools and equipment, creation of a garden area and development of a wildlife pond from the school’s surface water treatment pond. Agreement had been received from the PPP developer for the project and funding has been secured for the purchase of a poly tunnel. The friends of Beechwood Park sub-committee and the St Ninians Community Development trust had agreed to arrange funding applications for the purchase of tools and equipment and development of a wildlife pond. The community Council agreed to support the project and suggested that it would be helpful to involve the St Ninians Primary school Green Team at an early stage.

8. Roads Update: - Each household in the Torbrex Traffic Calming Management scheme area had now received two letters with plans, the opportunity to participate in two joint public meetings and to make personal contact with Technical Services staff. In addition, residents in Torbrex Village had been invited to the next meeting of the Community Council to discuss issues relating to the proposals for the Village. The initial draft plans had been modified as a result of comments received and, following the 27th November meeting, a final plan will be published. Beyond this, local residents will have the opportunity to lodge formal objections to the proposals.

There was considerable discussion regarding the responses to the developing plan. It was agreed that, at the meetings, there had been divisions of opinion about various aspects of the plan. The concept of a 20 mph zone appeared to gain majority support and there was a high level of support for the concept of traffic calming. The difficulty came in the response to

particular parts of the plan. The possibility of a community council survey was considered. On balance, it was agreed that, rather than attempt to give local residents a voice through a questionnaire, it would be more effective to ensure that they had access to the final published plan, were clear about the timescales for the process of it being considered by Stirling Council and knew how to lodge objections if they wished to do so. The next newsletter of the Community Council should convey information about these issues.

Although it was not part of the traffic calming proposals, it was agreed that there was a growing level of concern about the traffic on Polmaise Road. It was agreed to contact Stirling Council's Roads Services and the Area Community Planning Forum about these concerns.

9. Access to PPP School: The chair reported that Stirling Council's contract with the PPP developer appeared to be allocated on the basis of Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm for school use, 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm for school extra-curricular use and 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm for community use during the school term and 300 hours per annum of weekend use, also during school term. There appeared to be no use booked during the school holiday periods. Due to the difficulties experienced by Active Stirling with venues, much of the current Stirling HS usage was given over to activities which will eventually move to the sports village. It was agreed that an approach be made to the Area Community Planning Forum to arrange a meeting with appropriate Stirling Council officials and other community groups before the move of activities to the Sports village took place to discuss how the purchased allocations of time could be used to maximum benefit and best value.

10. November Newsletter: - Murray reported that a newsletter was being prepared for delivery in November.

11. A.O.C.B.:

(a) Letter to Caroline Edward – Following Caroline's recent resignation it was agreed that the secretary would write to her on behalf of TCC thanking her for her service since the inception of the community council.

(b) Election of community councillors: The secretary will contact Helen Geddes at Stirling Council informing her that it will be necessary to hold an election in February 2009 to maintain our complement of community councillors

12. Date of Meeting: - Thursday 27th November – Stirling High School. There will be no December meeting.