

**Minute of the Annual General Meeting of Torbrex Community Council
held in St Ninians Primary School at 7.15 pm on Wednesday 28th May 2009.**

- 1. Present:** Community Councillors – Murray Dickie, Brendan Docherty, Jim Docherty, Genia Graham, Bob Johnston, Hirek Kwiatowski and Sue Ridler.

Local Residents: John Buchan, Ian Robertson and Valerie Milligan and In Attendance: Cllr. Andrew Simpson, Sandy McLean (Land Services, Stirling Council.)

- 2. Apologies:** - Mr & Mrs Green, Margaret Duff, Julia Leftwich, Pat Scullion, WPC McAvoy, Cllr. Scott Farmer, Cllr. Neil Benny

- 3. Minute of the previous Annual General Meeting** – The minute of the AGM for 2008 was accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by Hirek Kwiatowski and seconded by Murray Dickie.

- 4. Matters arising: Motorway Noise.** Richard Baker had raised the issue of motorway noise and asked if something could be done about it. It was noted that this was a matter for the Scottish Government.

- 5. Chairs Report:** Welcome to the 11th Annual General meeting of Torbrex Community Council. The Community Council was set up in March 1988 and each successive year has seen us faced with new challenges, some successes and, indeed, some failures. Each year has also seen a steady increase in the number of issues with which the Community Council has been involved. I would like to take the opportunity of detailing some of the projects with which the Community Council has been involved during the past twelve months and recognise some of the many individuals and groups who have helped.

- **Friends of Beechwood Park:** This area continues to be a major interest. Following on from last year's consultation on the PPP Planning Gain Monies, a group of interested people set up a local support group. Having decided to operate as a sub-committee of the Community Council, this group has made major contributions to ensuring the establishment of an effective voice for the community. Ably chaired by Hirek Kwiatkowski, this small but determined group has worked tirelessly to engage with Stirling Council in promoting a long term plan for Beechwood Park. The group were successful in getting a £9,982 grant from Breathing Space for the purchase of additional trees and other works for the park and were focal in the decision to place the previous plans for a refurbished children's play area on hold while a longer term plan was agreed. Stirling Council's decision to use this plan for Beechwood Park as a pilot for the development of their master planning exercise is recognition of their appreciation of the worth of the activities of the group. The Friends have ensured that the local community and people who use the park have a voice in the on-going consultation for a masterplan for the park and have also represented the Community Council within that consultation. More importantly, they have engaged in practical activities, working in partnership with the school's Eco-Team leader, Trudi Togneri, and pupils from Stirling High School Eco-Team on regular litter picks, of which I hope you have seen the benefits. The group are currently organising a summer litter pick to keep up the momentum while the school is on holiday and I am sure that they would welcome additional support. More recently the group have been successful in obtaining a grant of just under £500 from the Sons of the Rock to purchase equipment to support the Stirling High School Garden Project.
- **Public Private Partnership:** While regretting the loss of greenspace which PPP inflicted on the Torbrex Community, we have accepted the reality of PPP and moved on. Relationships with staff of Stirling High School and Stirling Council Children's Services have dramatically improved and I would like to express particular appreciation for the support of the new headteacher, Pat Scullion and Eco-Team leader, Trudi Togneri at the High School and the new Director of Children's Services, David Cameron. We look forward to a continuing, productive dialogue with the school and Children's Services on a number of issues of common interest.

Public consultation on the use of planning gain monies for Torbrex Traffic Calming consumed a great deal of community council time and I am not sure that we can consider this one of our greatest successes. Discussion at meetings showed that there is a substantial difference of opinion regarding the whole issue of traffic calming and, despite the considerable efforts which went into ensuring that people were informed and had several avenues to get their voices heard, the depth of differences has ensured that there are many individuals who are not satisfied with the outcome.

The planning gain money for Beechwood Park Children's Play is in abeyance, pending the outcome of the Beechwood Park Masterplan consultation. It is hoped that work will be undertaken on the children's play area before the end of this financial year.

- **Lidl:** Following the demise of Sommerfield, the Community Council were supportive of the planning application from Lidl and were pleased to welcome the company to the site. We look forward to working with Lidl and Stirling Council to further improve local open spaces.
- **Primary Care:** The Community Council, working through the local Community Planning Area Forum 05, put in considerable efforts to persuade FVHB to enrich its public engagement. I am pleased to report that the Board has now set up a Community Reference Group on the Community Hospital to help with this. The Area Forum 05 has a representative on the Group, which has its first meeting in June 2009. We had also made representations regarding the proposed movement of GPs to Orchard House and are pleased that an alternative arrangement is now being considered.
- **Scout Centre:** Following the successful pilot, supported with a grant from the local Area Community Planning Forum, a class for older people has been organised by Active Stirling. While this block ends at the end of June, Active Stirling has expressed interest in continuing through the summer, if there is sufficient support.
- **St Ninians Community Development Trust:** The Trust held a successful Environment Fair in February 2009 with a view to bringing together groups working on environmental improvements with the local community, particularly young people. The Trust is now looking to extend this fair to an annual event open to the public. The Trust is also working in partnership with Stirling High School, the Friends of Beechwood Park and the Community Council to obtain further funding for the High School's Garden Project. Currently, funding has been given by the Stirling Council Civic Pride Fund, the Sons of the Rock and Torbrex Community Council itself totalling just under £2,000. This will enable the first phase of the project, the establishment of a working polytunnel, to be in place for the beginning of the next academic year. The Trust also co-operated with the Community Council in obtaining a Freepost licence which has been used to support the Older People's project and consultation for the Beechwood masterplan.
- **Community Planning Forum 05:** The Forum picked up the key priorities which emerged from the St Ninians Community Development Trust's Community Plan consultation in 2006. The first two priorities of Transport and Community Facilities have been worked through by the Forum members and a Transport plan agreed. This will be submitted to the Council's Planning Services staff as part of the new Development Planning process consultation. A further consultation has been agreed for Polmaise Road. The plan for community facilities recognised that the new Stirling High School represented an underused facility for the local community. An open day is being arranged for September 2009 to enable local people to visit the site, see the potential for activities and express an interest in existing activities or propose new activities. The next priority for the Forum is "The Environment" and the outcome of the main part of meeting this evening will be taken forward to the next Forum meeting.

- **Planning: I would like to thank** Julia Leftwich and Sue Ridler for their hard work in supporting our planning brief over the past years. Sue has also been supporting consultation on the new Stirling Local Plan.
- **Recycling and Carbon Reduction:** Torbrex was one of the first communities to pilot kerbside recycling and continues to support this at a high level. We will have the opportunity in the next year to look at ways of increasing the effectiveness of community, commercial and individual recycling. We also have the opportunity to sign up to Going Carbon Neutral Stirling.
- **Torbrex Newsletter:** The Community Council continues to use our newsletter to keep local people informed and I would like to thank those who help with distribution.

In achieving these successes, I would wish to recognise and appreciate the efforts of my fellow Community Councillors; our regular supporters; local Councillors: Scott Farmer, Neil Benny and Andrew Simpson; staff of Stirling Council and our Community Policewoman. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Secretary, Jim Docherty, who does so much work behind the scenes. Lastly, I would wish to make special mention of Julia Leftwich and Brendan Docherty who have decided to resign as community councillors. Both have been major contributors to the work and the development of the Community Council. We have all appreciated and thank them for their support, wish them well in the future and hope that we will retain their friendship and an on-going interest in the activities of the Community Council.

We go into this next year with three vacancies for Community Councillors and will be asking Stirling Council to set up a by-election. I would finish with a plea for at least four local people to put their names forward to insure that there is an election and that the Community Council is able to continue its work of informing and giving a voice to our local community.

6. **Treasurers Report:** The Treasurer produced a copy of the annual audited accounts for the period 1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009 (See Appendix 1 for details). The accounts were accepted; proposed Bob Johnston and seconded by Sue Ridler. The Community Council expressed their appreciation to the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditor.
7. **Retiral of Community Councillors:** - Julia Leftwich had intimated that she would be standing down as a Community Councillor. Murray thanked her on behalf of the Community Council for her many years of valuable service, particularly as Planning Officer. Brendan Docherty also stated that he would be standing down. Murray thanked him on behalf of the Community Council for his contribution to the Council's activities over the past few years.
8. **Election of Office Bearers:**
 Co-option of community councillor – John Buchan –proposed by Murray Dickie and seconded by Sue Ridler.
 Chair – Jim Docherty, proposed by Genia Graham and seconded by Murray Dickie.
 Secretary – Murray Dickie, proposed by Genia Graham and seconded by Sue Ridler.
 Treasurer – Sue Ridler, proposed by Genia Graham and seconded by Bob Johnston.
 Vice Chair – Vacancy.
9. **A Better Environment for Torbrex:**
 There was an animated discussion on the issues currently impacting on the quality of the local environment and what strategies could be put in place to improve conditions.
 - (i) **Beechwood Park Master plan:** Hirek Kwiatkowski reported that, following a second, broader consultation, the Masterplanning steering group was due to meet later in June to consider the issues arising from the consultation. It was hoped that a draft Masterplan for the Park would be agreed and made available for consideration. Once an overall strategy had been agreed it was hoped that progress would be made on delivering key elements, particularly the utilisation of the PPF funding and the Breathing Space grant.

- (ii) **Litter:** Over the past year the Friends of Beechwood Park had worked with the Stirling High School eco-team to undertake regular litter picks in Beechwood Park and along Torbrex Lane. The Chairperson expressed the appreciation of the Community Council to the many volunteers and pupils who had undertaken this work. In particular, the Community Council was appreciative of the efforts of Trudi Togneri, school's Eco- Team leader. It was agreed that Torbrex Community council should work with the new newspaper shop owners in Newhouse and the Stirling High School Eco-Team to address the litter problem in and around Beechwood Park
- (iii) **Dog Fouling:** It was agreed that Torbrex Community Council would contact Stirling council's Dog Warden to ask if improved signs could be erected in Beechwood Park.
- (iv) **Parking:** It was agreed that Torbrex Community Council would approach Central Scotland Police and *Active* Stirling to explore a solution to parking problems at Beechwood Park when football matches were taking place.
- (v) **Increasing Recycling and Reducing our Carbon Footprint:** The community of Torbrex had been involved from the earliest stages in recycling. It was agreed that the time was right for a further push to *increase* recycling and contribute towards reducing our carbon footprint. It was agreed that representatives of Going Carbon Neutral would be invited to the next meeting.

10. Access to Stirling High Facilities: - It was noted that the Community Planning Area Forum 5 has agreed to take forward a community day at Stirling High School in autumn 2009 and that representatives from Torbrex community Council will be invited to participate in the planning.

11. A.O.C.B.: None.

12. Dates of Next Meetings:

Tuesday	30 June	Mayfield Centre
Wednesday	22 July	Mayfield Centre
Thursday	27 August	St Ninians Primary School
Tuesday	29 September	Stirling High School
Wednesday	28 October	St Ninians Primary School
Thursday	26 November	Stirling High School
December	No Meeting.	

Appendix 1: Extract from Torbrex Community Council Accounts for 2008-09

Balance from 2007-2008		£4,479.64
Income	Administrative Grant (Stirling Council)	£280.91
	Bank Interest	£99.88
	Donations (Friends of Beechwood Park)	£75.00
	Breathing Spaces Big Lottery Fund (FoBP)	£9,982.00
	Community Pride Fund (Staging/Tools)	<u>£1,000.00</u>
Total Income		£11,437.79
Expenditure	Printing	£387.33
	Mail Licence	<u>£120.00</u>
Total Expenditure		£507.33
Funds in Bank at 31.03.09		<u>£15,410.10</u>
Surplus for Year		£10,930.10

B. Docherty (Honorary Treasurer) and W. Kerr (Honorary Auditor)