

STRATHAVEN AND GLASSFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 26TH MARCH, 2024

1. **Sederunt:** Aileen Mc Mann (Chairperson); Gordon McAllan (Vice Chair); Sheila Munro Tulloch (Treasurer); John Graham (Minute Secretary); Morag Arnot; Margot McDonald and Douglas Scott.
SLC Councillors: Susan Kerr.
Visitors: Ian Mossley; Robert Murray; Jonathan Read (SLC) and Colin Thomson.
2. **Apologies:** Linda Brown; Dr. Lisa Cameron MP; Margaret Cooper; Colin Drysdale (Police Scotland); Elise Frame; Les Hoggan; Mairi McAllan MSP; Andrew McIntyre (Police Scotland) and Aileen Stewart.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (27/02/2024).**
The Minutes were approved with the following change:- 'Date of Next Meeting changed from 28th March 2024 to the 26th March 2024'. Proposed - S. Tulloch. Seconded - G. McAllan.
4. **Police Report.**
Crime figures from 21/02/2024 - 19/03/2024 were as follows:-
4 x Breach of Bail Offences (3 Offenders Charged).
6 x Assaults (All Offenders Charged).
5 x Vandalism Offences (2 Offenders Charged).
3 x Theft Shoplifting Offences (All Offenders Charged).
2 x Theft from Motor Vehicles (No Offenders Detected).
2 x Anti-Social Behaviour Offences (Both Charged).
1 x Fraud Offences (Undetected so far).
1x Dangerous Driving (Offender Charged).
1 x Drink Driving (Enquiries Ongoing).
2 x Fail to stop after a Traffic Accident (Enquiries Ongoing).

A comment was made about the high number of assaults.
5. **Visitors Input.**
 - (a) Representatives from Strathaven Dynamos informed the CC that they planned to put in a CAT Application to Lease the running of the football pitches and the changing rooms in the Park. This would not include the areas out with the area of the pitches and they have no plans to install floodlighting. Taylor Rigby, a ground maintenance company have been contacted and funding will be sought for this Project. This will have no effect on events held in the Park.
[The representatives left the meeting at 7.15pm.].
 - (b) It was agreed that L. Hoggan be requested to send a Letter of Support on behalf of the CC for this Project.
6. **Planning Applications.**
 - (a) Nothing of note in this month's Applications but the CC will continue to monitor the situation regarding the proposed erection of three wind turbines close to 'The Heron'.
 - (b) Concern was raised about a possible Application to demolish a wall on Glasgow Road. Councillor Kerr agreed to check on this and report back to the CC.

7. Bank of Scotland (BoS) - Proposed Closure.

- (a) The BoS proposes to close the Strathaven Branch on 3rd December, 2024. This would mean the closure of the last Bank in the town. It is proposed that a Community Banking Representative will be in the town for a limited time each week. The role of this person is not clear at present.
- (b) An assessment of banking options in the area needs to be carried out and the impact of the closure on individuals and businesses also needs to be assessed, especially as the Post Office is no longer in the centre of the town.
- (c) The possibility of getting a Community Banking Hub to be investigated. Discussions with the Hubs in Cambuslang and Carluke to be considered. L. Hoggan and D. Scott to speak on-line with LINK regarding this next week.
- (d) Transport options, in the event of a Community Hub not being possible, will also be looked at.

8. Ballgreen Hall - Housing Plan.

- (a) J. Read from SLC Housing distributed a detailed Plan for the proposed building of nine Flats on the former Ballgreen Hall Complex site.
 - (b) The building of the Flats will begin once the Hall has been demolished.
 - (c) The CC was also given a verbal presentation on the copy of the Plans.
 - (d) It is possible that some Community Benefit may be accrued from this Project.
 - (e) Following the presentation, concerns were raised regarding access to the site for Refuse Lorries and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service vehicles as the turning space for such vehicles did not seem appropriate. In response it was said that there would be no turning space for larger vehicles.
 - (f) The CC asked if they could get access to the criteria to be used in the allocation of the Flats.
 - (g) The CC were assured that having solar panels on both the front and back of the property met with Planning Regulations.
 - (h) SLC will maintain the Bin Stores at the rear of the premises.
- [J. Read left the meeting at 8.10pm].

9. Ash Pitch CAT.

No further information on this since the February CC meeting.

10. Funding Opportunities.

Nothing to report since February CC meeting.

11. Working Together for Avondale.

Nothing to report.

12. Review of Communications Strategy.

L. Hoggan to be requested to take this item off the Agenda for the next meeting.

13. Kype Muir Community Fund.

- (a) No more funds to be allocated until after the 7th May, 2024.
- (b) The event at the Community Hub in Kirkmuirhill was very successful and OnPath promoted itself well.
- (c) Money from the Kype Muir Extension will not be paid out until all turbines are fully operational.
- (d) The CC expect new funding to be available in May, 2024.

- (e) Connect2Renewables still has £500 Grants available for students going to either University or College and this needs to be promoted on the CC Website.
- (f) The REF will give Revenue Funding to an extent.
- (g) OnPath will fund the Community Action Plan (CAP). The CC needs to decide the priorities for inclusion in the CAP and some suggestions were made (e.g. Public Toilets, Potholes, Policing, Speeding, Parking and Public Transport). A special CC meeting may be needed to discuss the areas of concern for inclusion in the CAP.
- (h) OnPath will carry out a Survey in the Community on the CAP.

14. CC Micro Grants.

- (a) The full Report was circulated to CC Members prior to the meeting.
- (b) No funding remains in the current Financial Year and the CC Website has been updated to reflect this.
- (c) As agreed at the February meeting four Grants were paid out completing the awards for the current Financial Year.
- (d) During the past month one further Micro Grant has been signed off - 2023/24: Evangelical Church Toddler Group (£500).
- (e) Outstanding paperwork is still required for eleven Projects.

15. Secretary's Report.

- (a) The full report was circulated to CC Members prior to the meeting. This full Report will be displayed on the CC Noticeboard in the Common Green and on the CC website.
- (b) No update on a date for a proposed Transport Sub-Group meeting.
- (c) SLC confirmed that drainage clearance work will be done on Stonehouse Road near the Town Mill.
- (d) SLC confirmed that in its view there is adequate provision for disabled parking in Strathaven.
- (e) A Report from SLC regarding Threestanes Road was received just before the meeting and this to be circulated to CC Members by J. Graham.
- (f) SLC has agreed that the COVID Commemorative Stone can be placed in the newly landscaped area near Strathaven Castle. M. Arnot has ordered the Stone and delivery is expected at either the end of April/May, 2024.
- (g) A productive meeting was held between the CC and Friends of Strathaven Castle and working processes were agreed between the two groups.
- (h) The reduction in seasonal activities in Strathaven Park means that the Boating Pond and the Putting Green will close. The Lease for the Barrie Shelter will continue as will the Bouncy Castle and Dodgems. Councillor Kerr said that the people running the Barrie Shelter would also take over the Franchise for the Toilets and that they would be available when the Cafe was open.
- (i) Strathaven Tennis Club is in discussions about the option of a CAT for the Tennis Courts.

16. Treasurer's Report.

- (a) The full Report was circulated to CC Members prior to the meeting .
- (b) During the month Micro Grants to the value of £1,350 have been paid out. £180 was paid to 360 Graphics and a refund totalling £1,530 was reimbursed to the

Treasurer. Town Centre overpayment cheque made to SLC for £999.42.

(c) Current Balance in the COVID Fund is £5,858.81.

17. Reports from CC Members.

(a) Monitoring of the proposal to erect three Wind Turbines near 'The Heron' is ongoing. R. Murray contacted the owner of 'The Heron' giving advice on what to do but no reply has been received as yet. The CC can comment on the proposal once it goes to Planning.

(b) The CC Noticeboard needs some repair work done to it and it was suggested that the CC money could be used for this. It was believed that this money could not be spent on such a project.

(c) It was suggested that a line could be put on the Noticeboard to differentiate between CC material and other items.

(d) The Strathaven John Hastie Museum Trust Quiz Night will be on the 19th April at the Golf Club and its 'Strathaven Churches' Exhibition will open on 20th April in the Museum on Todshill Street.

18. Reports from SLC Councillors.

Councillor S. Kerr.

(a) SLC has to make £7 million in savings.

(b) Talks are ongoing regarding the Boating Pond and the Putting Green. There are issues with Insurance and the condition of the boats regarding the Pond.

(c) The Bowling Club and the Tennis Club will get access to keys for the Toilet.

(d) Portaloos will be provided when events are on in the Park.

(e) Complaints have been made regarding inappropriate parking during football matches in the Park at the entrance beside the Church. The bollards which were there will be replaced.

19. AOCB.

G. McAllan attended the Cycling Partnership meeting and reported that provision of cycle parking in Strathaven had been put on hold at present.

20. Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 30th April, 2024 at 7.00pm in the Avondale Wing.

Members of the Public are most welcome to all our Meetings.

All correspondence to:- strathavencommcouncil@gmail.com