

Minutes of Coupar Angus, Ardler and Bendochy Community Council, Mon 10 July 06

Present: Ian Clark, Michael Gallagher (acting chair and minutes secretary), Ann Campbell, Randa Itani.

Visitors: PC Steve Brown, John Easson

Apologies: Caroline Young (treasurer), Ron Leslie, Betty Buist (vice-chair), Christine Itani (chair), Cllr Alan Grant

1. Amendment to April minutes – Michael will present revised versions for the Community Council’s approval (or non-approval) at the August meeting.
2. May minutes – accurate as amended.
3. June minutes: Minutes deemed accurate, proposed by Ian Clark, seconded by Michael Gallagher.
4. Matters arising from previous minutes

Further to the decision at the June meeting to ask the police if Thrillseekers could be continued through the summer holidays, and to contact Alyth and Blairgowrie Community Council for their support, Michael has since discussed the matter with local Community Education Workers. They have advised that there is no point continuing with this sort of indoor activity for young people during summer, because in the summer young people want to be outside.

5. Police report and matters for the police:

- Thrillseekers Friday evening youth club in Blairgowrie: This is run by PC Roddy Wood for 10 weeks before and 10 weeks after Christmas.
- Police are looking for volunteers to provide activities for young people. It will be up to the volunteers and young people to decide what sort of activities they want to do.
- Recently the police have been organising activities for young people, including a weekend in Carnoustie involving confidence-building activities. Ian suggested that perhaps the most important thing was to show young people that there are better things to do.
- John Easson said that the local Church of Scotland is planning to set up a youth club in Coupar Angus.
- Ian and Ann were concerned that it was difficult to get some young people involved in organised activities.
- Michael said that Rory Maidens, the local Youth Worker, would be doing some ‘outreach’ work soon to try and reach these ‘hard to reach’ young people.
- PC Brown said that sometimes there is drinking in the park. Ann asked how the plan to ban drinking in public places was proceeding, and PC Brown replied that it was hard to tell, but it would happen eventually.
- PC Brown said there had been fewer calls regarding bad behaviour in the town.

- Ian asked PC Brown about the hole in the window above the café. He was concerned about kids kicking footballs at first floor windows. PC Brown replied that the police need phonecalls at the time. After 48 hours it is harder to catch people.
- Michael passed on information from a member of the community regarding obscene graffiti on salt boxes in Hay Street. Again PC Brown said that when it came to catching miscreants, time was of the essence.

Action: Randa to send letter to Perth & Kinross Council about the graffiti.

- Noise nuisance

PC Brown reported 4 complaints about loud music. If you hear loud music late (after, say, 10 or 11pm) police can give a warning, followed by a £40 fine if they are called out again.

Perth & Kinross Council now have a special team to deal with noise – the Anti-social Behaviour Noise Nuisance Team. Members of the public can call 01738 476173 (voicemail). This team works from 4pm to 2pm. Outside these hours the police will take calls.

Ian asked if the police wanted people to use the aforementioned number *first*, i.e. before ringing the police. PC Brown replied that it might be easier if the Anti-social behaviour Team dealt with complaints first because they have monitoring equipment to establish sound levels.

- Neighbour mediation service - SACRO

There is also a mediation service – SACRO. In the case of a dispute between neighbours they will speak to both parties to find out the underlying problems. Leaflets have been distributed widely.

- Crime figures for the month

Over the past month there have been 3 minor assaults in Coupar Angus. Two have been detected, and one inquiry is continuing.

There have been 3 thefts by shoplifting. Two people have been cautioned and charged. Another is under inquiry.

There has been one housebreaking with intent at the church at St Mary's Street, and some damage to flower displays.

- Visits from police top-brass

On the 14 of August Superintendent Bell will attend the Community Council meeting.

On the 13 November, Chief Inspector Ross will attend our meeting.

Action: The Community Council agreed that the Lesser Hall should be used on these nights to allow more room for members of the community to attend. Randa to make necessary arrangements.

Action: For the meeting on the 14 August, **each member of the Community Council** will invite a couple of adult members of local community groups to attend.

- Neighbourhood Watch

Ann asked about Neighbourhood Watch meetings. PC Brown plans to contact former co-ordinators to see if the Neighbourhood Watch groups can be re-started. If this happens, PC Brown plans to send them quarterly flyers on crime prevention.

The re-establishment of Neighbourhood Watch groups depends on at least 60% of people asking for this to happen. They will then have to elect a co-ordinator. The police will help them to get started.

In recent years the Neighbourhood Watch scheme has fallen into disuse. Ian suggested that the reason for this was that Coupar Angus was a low crime area.

Neighbourhood Watch groups can attend quarterly meetings, or just Receive leaflets from the police.

Early warning system

The police could also send out pre-recorded phone messages warning people to look out for particular people who are suspected of a crime. It is basically an early warning system.

- Randa suggested that if the Neighbourhood Watch groups are re-started we should invite co-ordinators to meetings of the Community Council.

Action: When the Neighbourhood Watch groups have been re-established, Randa will write invitations to the co-ordinators to attend Community Council meetings. Randa will give these invitations to PC Brown, who will then distribute them to Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators. However this will be several months from now.

- Report of dangerous driving

Randa said she phoned the police to complain about bad motorbike drivers who overtook her while she was a passenger in a car. She gave the licence number to the police, but the woman who took her call didn't seem interested and no-one has got back to her.

PC Brown said he will look into the incident if Randa gives him more information. Randa said she would.

PC Brown said that from April to October there is an Action Plan regarding bikers.

Action: Randa to pass on details of incident of dangerous driving to PC Brown.
PC Brown to look into same.

- Non-emergency Call Scheme

Ian asked if the police are still working on their Non-emergency Call Scheme.
PC Brown said there had been a lot of complaints about this scheme.

6. Correspondence

- Pamphlet of police statistics
- Information on SACRO neighbour mediation service
- Scottish Health Council News
- Spectra – NHS Tayside magazine, Issue no.24
- Tayside Fire and Rescue Performance Report
- Calor Scottish Community of the Year competition – deadline 14 July.
- Perth & Kinross Council minutes, including a report that the mobile phone mast at Johnstone’s Yard is back on the agenda, and the decision about the toilets at Larchan Park has been deferred.
- Bill from Culross for printing of CAN magazine - £450
- ‘Snapshot’ – news on safety cameras in Tayside
- Letter from the Convention of Perth & Kinross Community Councils – they suggest that Community Councils should:
 1. Contact sub-postmasters about how to help maintain local post offices.
 2. Persuade local people to make full use of their local post office
 3. Visit postwatch.uk website and fill in the questionnaire
 4. Arrange a meeting of local sub-postmasters
- Letter from Michael to Christine regarding amendments to April and May minutes of Community Council
- Door-to-door public transport – ‘Rural Community Wheels’ for the elderly. Phone 0845 30 111 30.
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7. **Any other business**

Horse Fair

Ann asked if it was necessary to get additional permission to close the High Street.

Action: Michael to phone PKC for clarification

There will be a **coffee morning** on 19 August to raise money for the Horse Fair.

Action: Helpers needed for raffle and cake and candy stalls.

Litter

Litter has been reported at the Health Centre. Pride of Place want something done.

Action: Randa to send letter to Health Centre.

Benches on Dundee Road

Ann said that two men had asked for benches on the Dundee Road to be reinstated, one being close to Thorn Alley.

Action: No action decided

Larghan Park

The roundabout has been removed, and there is only one picnic table left. Also there is litter in the lower part of the park and campers in the wood.

Action: Randa to send a letter to Friends of Larghan Park to inform them of these concerns

Seat at the Cross

The seat at the Cross has not yet been repaired.

Action: No action decided

Ian asked if the damage to the stone cross had been brought to PC Brown's attention.

Action: PC Brown will look into the situation.

Actions to be taken in the light of the Community Survey results

Michael suggested inviting members of the CART committee to discuss with the Community Council what should be done with the results of the Community Survey.

Action: Randa to invite CART committee to attend September meeting.

Involving young people in the Community Council

Michael said that Community Councils were not covered by the Representation of the Peoples Act, and therefore there was no lower age limit on membership of the Community Council. Perhaps there was an opportunity to create some more places on the Community Council for young people.

While discussing who to invite to Community Council meetings, PC Brown suggested inviting young people, and perhaps organising some sort of youth committee.

Ian suggested asking the local youth worker to bring a group of young people.

Action: Randa to invite the YWCA to bring a group of young people to the September meeting of the Community Council.

Action: Ian will bring juice and cakes

Action: John Easson suggested that something specifically relating to young people be put on the agenda. **COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS THIS.**

Action: Randa to arrange use of Lesser Hall for next three meetings

Grand opening of Larchan skate park

Coupar Angus Skaters Association is organising the grand opening of Larchan Skate Park on Saturday 5 August. There will be local bands, raffles, competitions, food and drink. Admission free, all welcome.

Many thanks to John Easson who is kindly donating his large gazebo to cover the stage.

Pigeons in Meg's Café

Ann mentioned she had seen pigeons flying in and out of Meg's Café.

Action: Michael will phone pest control at Perth and Kinross Council

Signage for Location of Community Council chamber

John Easson pointed out that there is no signage for people to be able to find the Community Council chamber.

Action: No action decided

Caged ball area for young people

John Easson suggested there could be a caged ball area for young people in or near the Cross.

Action: No action decided

Seating and shelter beside skate park

John Easson was chatting with some local young people, and they reached the conclusion that they need seating and shelter beside the skate park.

Action: No action decided

8. **Next meeting: Monday 14 August 2006**

