

Minutes of Coupar Angus, Ardler and Bendochy Community Council, Monday 14 August 2006.

Present: Christine Itani (Chair), Ron Leslie, Ian Clark, Ann Campbell, Michael Gallagher (taking minutes)

Visitors: Joumana Itani, Elaine McKinley, Mary Gres, Ada Hacking, Jenny Ross, Superintendent Ian Bell (Western Division, Perth), Sergeant Rob Prudom, Councillor Alan Grant.

Apologies: Randa Itani (Secretary), Betty Buist (Vice-Chair), Caroline Young (Treasurer)

1. Corrections to previous minutes: Ann said that the item on page 5 regarding Larchan Park was incorrect. The intention was for the information described to be passed on to Alan. Alan also had one correction – the Council has not deferred a decision on the toilets in Larchan Park, but has approved funding for a further year.
2. July minutes otherwise accurate, proposed by Ann, seconded by Ian.
3. Matters arising
  - The graffiti on the salt boxes in Hay Street has been cleaned.
  - There has been a letter from CART (Coupar Angus Regeneration Trust) to say that a representative will come to the September meeting.
  - The Lesser Hall will be in use until 8pm on the evenings of the next three meetings of the Community Council. Therefore we will have to use the usual meeting room.
  - Randa has not received a reply from the YWCA regarding bringing young people to the next meeting of the Community Council.
4. Presentation by Superintendent Bell, followed by discussion with Community Council and visitors

Superintendent Ian Bell is Deputy Divisional Commander of Western Division, Perth. The policy of his Command Team is to visit Community Councils at least once a year to hear people's views. Supt Bell is keen to get feedback so they can improve performance.

*Overview of year up to April*

- Crime reduced by 7% = 400 less crimes, and 9% less so far this year.
- 25-30 people are being put to court each Monday
- 4 less road deaths, 20% reduction in injury-accidents.

*Comparing 1<sup>st</sup> quarter crime figures for Apr-Jun last year with same period this year*

	Apr-Jun 05	Apr-Jun 06
Crimes	92	69
Detection Rate	42%	64%
Crimes of dishonesty (e.g. housebreaking, theft)	36	22
Housebreakings	3	1
Vehicle break ins	2	2
Vandalisms	30 (with 40% detection rate)	11 (with 82% detection rate)

Supt Bell said they have some autonomy to develop strategy. At first he was sceptical of the 'National Intelligence Model', but is now keen on it. It involves basing their strategy on past nuisance, and phonecalls from the public.

They can't afford to have police on the beat. The main thing is that the public call when they see an incident.

Incidents of youth annoyance are low.

*Discussion with Community Council and visiting members of the community*

Christine said she had heard that there was a drug problem in the area. Supt Bell said it was difficult to detect. Rob said that in the last 1½ years there have been 10 arrests in Coupar Angus for supplying controlled drugs, all due to contacts from the community.

The police pool any intelligence they have from the public. One piece of information is not enough to warrant action, but 3 or 4 is. Support from the public is increasing.

Supt Bell said that people should phone Crimestoppers. They can do this anonymously, and they can ask that the police do not come to their door.

**CRIMESTOPPERS – 0800 555 111**

Ada Hacking asked Supt Bell about the procedure for dealing with a driver suspected of being on drugs. Rob said there is a set procedure called the Impaired Driving Test.

Jumana Itani asked if underage drinking was rising or falling. Supt Bell said that for a while drugs were the problem, now it is mainly drink.

In Perth & Kinross the police are utilising supervised children to try and buy drink, in order to ensure shopkeepers comply with legislation..

The police pour away confiscated drink, for example 90 litres in one week in Crieff.

Most underage drinking involves drink taken from home.

Ron suggested that underage drinking should be made illegal. Supt Bell agreed that the problem with the law was that it only prohibited underage *purchasing* of drink.

Ron was also concerned about speeding in the town. Christine said she had been asked if Causewayend could be made a 20 mph zone. Supt Bell said that the Community Council could contact the Traffic Coordination Group about this. Supt Bell said he would also raise the issue.

Action: Community Council and Supt Bell to contact Traffic Coordination Group.
--

Ian suggested that the problem was mostly boy racers. A visitor suggested that a lot of young mothers were also guilty of speeding when taking their children to school.

Ian raised the subject of noisy cars. Supt Bell said that the Anti-social Behaviour Team and the Noise Nuisance Team could deal with this. The latter in particular made it easier to make an accurate assessment of noise levels, because they had measuring equipment.

Ian asked for noisy cars to be investigated by the police. Sgt Prudom said he and his colleagues would look into this in time for the next meeting of the Community Council.

Christine said a parent had asked her how she could find out if workers at a play group had completed disclosure checks. Sgt Prudom said she should ask the employers of the play group.

Michael asked about the findings of the recent survey that showed that the public perceived policing to be poor. Supt Bell suggested that the questionnaire wasn't probing enough, and didn't ask *why* people regarded policing as poor.

Supt Bell said that their policy was high visibility policing, including police on the beat. He will look into the matter.

Sgt Prudom said he and his colleague Steve Brown do walk around the town, but also said that he would look into this.

Action: Supt Bell and Sgt Prudom to look into the issue of police walking on the street.

Ann said that local people complained that sometimes the police didn't respond to their complaints. Supt Bell said that sometimes they have to prioritise, for example if there are people needing arrested in Blairgowrie. However all calls are logged.

Ian Clark suggested that maybe the problem was that the public didn't understand the logistical problems, i.e. police spread too thinly. Sgt Prudom said that the number of officers had been more or less static in recent years.

Sgt Prudom reaffirmed that crime rates are low in Coupar Angus, and that assaults are usually between people who know each other. It's usually drink-fuelled male-on-male or domestic violence. Generally the public are safe to go about their business.

Ian Clark suggested there had been a rise in anti-social behaviour. Supt Bell said that perhaps the problem was that people are being too fussy about kids playing.

#### *Local crime statistics*

Sgt Prudom gave a report of local crime statistics:

- 5 petty assaults detected
- 4 vandalisms – 1 detected, 3 on the way to being detected.
- Drug enforcement – A large amount of drugs had been found. Sgt Steve Brown plans to talk to children at school regarding knives and drugs.
- 5 'youth nuisance' calls, compared to 11 in the same month last year.

Damage to Celtic cross – Sgt Prudom said that a policeman had looked at the Celtic cross and not found any damage. Ron said that the Fleur-de-lis was damaged, and there was a witness, and all this had been reported to the police. Sgt Prudom said he would look into this.

Action: Sgt Prudom to further investigate damage to cross

Sgt Prudom said he would look into the issue of speeding (see above). He and his colleagues have been enforcing the rules on using seatbelts and mobile phones.

Ron asked if the police could issue parking tickets to control bad parking. Supt Bell said that the police couldn't give parking tickets. Ron said that at the end of George Street beside the chicken factory there were problems with parked cars causing an obstruction. Sgt Prudom will look into this.

Action: Sgt Prudom to investigate bad parking on George Street opposite chicken factory

At approximately 8.35 the Sgt Prudom and Supt Bell left. Other visitors left at around 8.40pm

5. Planning applications

Housing at the Tannery, Precinct Street (formerly Malloch's milk yard). The Community Council was concerned about possible contamination in the ground from the days when the land was a tannery. Christine had phoned Perth & Kinross Council regarding the extra cars that would be using Precinct Street. Ron asked if any of the houses would be affordable housing.

Action: Community Council to write to Council to express concern about extra traffic using Precinct Street.

6. Grand opening of Skate Park

Jenny Ross opened the skate park on 8.8.06. A good day was had by all.

7. Treasurer's report

We currently have £1212. Money for advertising in the CAN Magazine has now been mostly collected.

Ann said that the collection of money from advertisers was an example of a situation where jobs could be delegated, and in general there should be more delegation of duties amongst members of the Community Council.

8. Gardening Competition, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006

The competition was judged by Hamish Lamond. The results are as follows:

<b>Novice Flower Garden:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Steve Coram 2 <sup>nd</sup> Debbie Hughes 3 <sup>rd</sup> Susan Stewart	<b>Mixed Flower Garden:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mrs Paul 2 <sup>nd</sup> Alex Smith 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mr J. T. Anton	<b>Rose Garden:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mr. J. T. Anton 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mrs Paul
<b>Sweet Peas:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mr. J. T. Anton 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mrs Paul 3 <sup>rd</sup> Florence Smeaton	<b>Vegetable Garden:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mrs. Paul 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mr Thomas Davies 3 <sup>rd</sup> Albert Croll	<b>Senior Citizens Flower Border:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mrs Paul 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mr Thomas Davies 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mr A. Smith
<b>Hanging Baskets &amp; Containers:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Maria Bee & Dave Low 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mrs Paul 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mr Alex Smith	<b>Most Unusual Plant:</b> Y.W.C.A.	<b>Pot Plant:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Conor Hughes 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jasmine Stewart 3 <sup>rd</sup> Shane Coram

Clarification – The Senior Citizens Flower Border competition is only open to senior citizens.

The cups are at the engravers. The results were displayed at Itani's, Johnstone's, the library and papers. All entrants were given copies of the results.

Presentation will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in September (18<sup>th</sup> Sept) if the Chambers are available.

Christine asked Ann to cater. Ann agreed.

9. Councillor's Report and discussion with Councillor Alan Grant (arrived at 8.50pm)

- Referring to previous minutes (re. correspondence) funding for the toilets in Larghan Park has been extended for a year (funding has not, as previously stated, been deferred).

- Friends of Larghan Park were concerned that our last minutes implied that they were responsible for the removal of roundabout, litter etc. The Community Council wishes to clarify that this was not the intention, as the letter was meant for their information only.
- Friends of Larghan Park are holding a fun day, 'Lark in the Park', on Sunday 20 August from 1 to 4pm.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund say they will give the money soon, enabling CART to get money from other bodies.
- Work on renovation of the Royal Hotel is planned.
- Perthshire Housing Association are deciding how to handle the redevelopment of the old Co-op building.
- Alan gives his apologies for being unable to attend the September meeting.

*Discussions with Councillor Grant*

Ron expressed concern about trees being cut down in Larghan Park, but acknowledges that permission has been given because they are in a dangerous condition.

Regarding the Community Council's invitation to members of the CART board of trustees to our next meeting to discuss the recent Community Survey, Alan thinks that at least two of them are unlikely to attend.

Alan will talk to John Easson about his idea for a youth shelter, although he doesn't hold out much hope of Perth & Kinross Council paying for it.

Alan gave the Community Council a couple of posters to let people know that the Housing Office will have reduced staff on Thursday 7 September.

Regarding the proposal for new housing in Precinct Street, and concern about the resulting increase in traffic, Alan said that the Roads Department of P&K Council would have to approve the plans. The applicant would also have to satisfy P&K Council that there is no contamination of the land, and remedy it if there is.

Ron said that he and his neighbours were wondering about what was being done about the burn and its tendency to overflow. Alan said the consultants will have a report ready by Autumn.

10. Horse Fair 2007

Ann said that the Gala Committee wanted to give some money to the organisers of the Horse Fair 2007, and wanted to know who to make the cheque out to (Rona says there is already £300 available in the CART account for the Horse Fair). The money could be put in the Community Council's account, and ring fenced. Michael suggested that a special account could be opened for the Horse Fair. Alan said that CART could hold the Gala money for us in the meantime.

Action: Ann to discuss this with Caroline Young (Treasurer)
---

11. Community Market, Saturday 19 August

Ann had a phonecall from Sue Cole of Strathmore and the Glens (the organisers of the market) asking if the Community Council could put up small notices to advertise the event.

Action: Michael to borrow poster from Itani's and photocopy and distribute it in more places.

12. Fireworks display by John Kettles of Blast Designs

John Kettles of Blast Designs (explosives specialists) has kindly offered to put on a fireworks display on Bonfire Night in Coupar Angus. The event will last about 12 minutes.

John will help to do the fundraising of the required £2000, and will provide stewarding and barriers for the event. All the community will have to do is provide stewarding for parking.

Alan suggested that the organising could be done under the auspices of Friends of Larghan Park and Pride of Place.

13. Motion to alter minutes

The Community Council unanimously approved amendments to April's minutes from Michael Gallagher.

Action: Michael to print 15 copies of amended minutes, and distribute them at the next meeting.

14. Correspondence

- Perth & Kinross Council – Graffiti removed from salt boxes in Hay Street
- CART – Regarding our invitation 11<sup>th</sup> September – they are coming
- Neighbourhood Watch – Invitation to co-ordinators once the Committees are re-established
- Perth & Kinross Council – Licences
- Fire Brigade – Risk Management
- CART – Fireworks display
- Perth & Kinross Council – Community Wheels – information sheet
- Perth & Kinross Council – Community Mediation – information sheet
- Health Council News
- NHS Spectra
- Scotland Transerve
- Gardens Competition Winners
- University of Dundee courses for adults
- Scottish Health Courses

15. Invitations to Community Groups to attend meetings of the Community Council

It was unanimously agreed that we should invite all local community groups to one big meeting at some point.

Action: Community Council to discuss when we should do this.

16. Agenda for next meeting

It was agreed that young people should be invited to the next meeting of the Community Council.

Action: Michael to ask Gail and Shona at the YWCA and Rory the local Youth Worker for help in getting some local young people to attend, and to find out what they want on the agenda.

17. Attendance of the police at meetings of the Community Council

Ian suggested that the police could come every 2<sup>nd</sup> month so that we had more time to discuss other things.

18. Start time of meetings of the Community Council

Ian suggested that we could start meetings at 7pm instead of 7.30pm, so we had more time and could perhaps finish earlier. Christine said there was a slight problem in that the meeting room was already booked for the forthcoming year.

19. Next meeting, 7.30pm, Monday 11 September 2006, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Coupar Angus. All welcome.

20. **The Community Council sends their best wishes to Betty Buist and a card to be sent.**

