

Minutes of Coupar Angus, Ardler and Bendochy Community Council, 11.9.06

Present: Caroline Young, Christine Itani, Ian Clark, Ann Campbell, Michael Gallagher (taking minutes).

Visitors: Alistair McAskill, Ron Stevens, Margaret Linley

Apologies: Randa Itani, Ron Leslie, Betty Buist, Alan Grant, the police, CART

Matters Arising from previous minutes

1. It was unanimously agreed the police report and associated discussion should take no more than 15 minutes altogether.
2. It was unanimously agreed that future meetings of the Community Council will start at 7pm and end at 9pm.

Action: Christine will change the booking for the meeting room accordingly.

3. Regarding damage to the stone cross in the High Street, Christine has received word that the police investigation is ongoing.
4. Regarding a request from a member of the community that Causewayend be made a 20mph zone, Christine has written to the Traffic Coordination Group of Perth and Kinross Council. There has been no reply yet. Christine also mentioned the problem of people speeding in George Street.
5. Regarding the Community Council's request for more visible beat policing, Ann Campbell said that since the recent community survey there have been more police around the town. Three members of the Community Council expressed satisfaction with policing as it is.
6. Regarding item 15 – organising a meeting of local groups – it was unanimously agreed that there would be two meetings at the normal meeting time of the Community Council. These will take place in November and December. Groups will have the choice of which meeting they want to attend. We will ask for a reply so that we know how many will come.

Action: Community Council to invite local community groups to meetings in November and December

7. Regarding item 16 – getting young people to attend tonight's meeting to discuss what action should be taken in light of the results of the community survey – Michael was unable to find young people who wished to attend, but instead carried out mini youth survey, and distributed copies to the meeting. Main finding – they all want a youth club for teenagers.

Ian Clark suggested that the youth issue was part of the wider issue of the need for a community centre with wow factor, and a full time town manager who would provide administrative backup for local community groups. He suggested that even if it cost Perth & Kinross £30,000 per year it would be money well spent as it would enable the townsfolk to do many things that P&K would otherwise have to pay for.

Action: Ian and Michael will draw up an initial report on a community centre and town manager.

On the subject of money spent on the town, Michael said he had written to P&K accounts department to find out how much money the Council lifted out of Coupar Angus each year in council tax and business rates. The figures are as follows:

	2005/6 Actual	2006/7 Projection
Council Tax	£1.95 million	£2.03 million
Non-domestic rates	£0.34 million	£0.35 million

8. Ian Clark felt that Supt Bell had been somewhat high handed in saying that it was ok for children to play in the school playground out of school hours, because this was against the policy of the School Board.
9. **Horse Fair** - Regarding preparations for the Horse Fair in 2007, Ann reported that CART will continue to hold the money for this, which currently stands at over £700.

Ian Clark said that his company will contribute £200 to the Horse Fair! – Many thanks.

Police Report – read out by Christine

10. 4 vandalisms – one detected, 4 thefts, 5 assaults – 2 by adults, 3 by juveniles (all caught), two boys caught speeding on Bogside road.

The police are out to catch drink / drug drivers, enforce seat belt use and stop mobile phone use.

The police would like to know if there has been any more trouble around the Cross since the Royal and Athole pubs had reopened. The general consensus of the meeting was that this was not the case.

Accusations of a serious incident in George Street have been dropped, and the accusers given a ticking off.

Ian said he would like to ask the police about training local people to use speed cameras, but Christine said she had already asked and the cameras were not available.

11. **Obscene graffiti** - Ann showed photos of obscene graffiti on the skatepark. The photos were taken by a local parent.

Action: Michael to discuss this with Coupar Angus Skaters Association on Tue 12 Sept and report back to Community Council.

12. **Vennel between High Street and George Street** – Ann said that Bob Clark has been having more problems with vandalism, and would like gates fitted. The owner of Elegant Windows agrees, and says he will contribute towards the cost of fitting gates. Ann has also written to the Royal, but has not received a reply. The Fords and the Tablet factory are also okay with the idea, as long as they have access to the bins, and keys are distributed to residents.

Ian expressed concern that these vennels were part of the character of Coupar Angus. Ann said the vennel would only be closed in the evening, and Ian was happy with this.

Action: Michael will write a letter to P&K Chief Executive to request permission for lockable gates to be erected.

13. **Care & Repair fund** – Christine said there is a fund available to enable people to stay in their own homes. Care & Repair now have £500 to start a scheme with emphasis on safety, e.g. door chain, spy hole, security alarm.

Margaret Linley said that some of the ladies at St Annes Church have already been talking about this scheme.

14. **Better communication**: Michael brought up the subject of having a dedicated community notice board to act as an information hub. Ann suggested that it could be made of decorative wrought iron.

Action: Everyone to think about improving communication in the town for next meeting.

15. **Pride of Place** wins prizes – Ron Stevens reported that Coupar Angus Pride of Place came 5th out of 8 Pride of Place groups, ahead of Alyth and Scone. They won a special award for best involvement with local schools. 99 children entered the competition to design their logo.

Pride of Place is not just about flower baskets – it’s an environmental group with an emphasis on community involvement.

16. **Observations by Ron Stevens** - Ron expressed concern about the efficiency of the Care & Repair scheme – see item 13 above. He said he had been approached through CART by Adam Drummond who had left leaflets. He then filled in the leaflet to make a request for bathroom aids on someone else’s behalf. Later he phoned the number on the leaflet, but got passed around several people. Clearly this is no good for elderly people.

Furthermore, he had asked Adam Drummond that local tradesmen be used. Later, though, Ron was told by local tradesmen that Care & Repair were bad payers.

Ron also expressed the following concerns:

- a member of Pride of Place had gone into the Royal to ask if they would be willing to water the flower planters at the cross, and a policeman who was in the bar made disparaging remarks about the efforts of Pride of Place.
 - The chairs in the Community Council meeting room were looking very shabby, and needed reupholstered.
17. **Open Doors Day** – Christine asked Ron for details of the next Open Doors Day by the Architectural Heritage Society. It will take place on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September.
18. **War Memorial** – Ian will keep this locked, and hold the key.
19. **Road closure** - Butterybank will be closed to vehicles for 2 weeks from 25 September.
20. **Treasurer’s report** - £1,468.52, including £1.08 interest, up from £1212 last month. This is due to advertising revenue from the CAN Magazine.
21. **Councillor’s report – read by Christine**
- The trustees of CART (Coupar Angus Regeneration Trust) have changed their mind and decided not to attend tonight’s meeting to discuss what action should be taken in the light of their recent community survey. Cllr Grant suggests that we hold a special meeting later when their new project manager Graham Young has settled in.
 - There has been a hold up with the money for the renovation of the town centre.
 - John Easson is looking into the possibility of a caged ball area for young people.
 - Youth shelter – Larghan Park would be the most suitable place. He will investigate this and involve young people via the YWCA.
 - Inquiry into flooding of the burn – ongoing.

- Grampian Foods has decided not to move its headquarters to Coupar Angus.
- Sepa has issued a warning letter to Grampian Foods about the smell.
- Fireworks display by John Kettles – discussions continuing.
- Butterybank closure – as mentioned above.

22. **Correspondence**

- P&K recycling guide
 - Scottish Water are holding a public meeting at the Isle of Sky Hotel in Perth on 26 September at 6pm. If you want to go, please let them know.
 - Ian says he has heard that the upgrading of the sewage works is on track.
 - Future of rural post offices, meeting at the Birnham Institute at 2pm on Friday 22 September.
 - The Scottish Executive has send information about awards for community involvement in planning and development. A copy of the guidance and application form can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Planning/About/Awards> or hard copy from William Kell, Tel: 0131 244 7538.
 - Letter from CART saying they were coming to tonight’s meeting and another letter saying they had changed their mind.
 - Brochure from playground equipment manufacturer
 - Speed camera information
 - NHS magazine ‘Spectra’
 - Servite News
 - Brochure showing 5 local paths around Blairgowrie, available at Tourist Info, Wellmeadow.
23. **Gardens Competition prizegiving** – Monday 18 September 7.30. Sheena and Hamish Lamond will present prizes to this years winners.

Action: All members of the Community Council to attend.

24. **Sheltered housing and nursing care** - Discussion for next month regarding Sheltered Housing and Nursing care in Coupar Angus, and home adaptations for disabled people. It was unanimously agreed that the Community Council would invite Andrew Kilpatrick of Servite Housing and David Burke of Community Care (new name for social work department) to attend our next meeting. We will also invite Pete Wishart MP, John Swinney MSP and members of the community who work with elderly people.

Action: Michael to draft invitations.

Action: If any members of the Community Council know of people who have had to leave Coupar Angus because of the lack of sheltered housing or nursing care, please bring this information to the next meeting as this will strengthen our case.

Any Other Competent Business

25. Caroline suggested that the Community Council could contribute to the Horse Fair.

Action: Community Council to discuss this at next meeting.

26. **Next meeting: Monday 9 October 2006: 7pm at Coupar Angus Town Hall. Visitors – see item 24 above – will be invited to attend from 7.30pm to discuss sheltered housing etc.**