



Coupar Angus, Ardlar and Bendochy Community Council

Minutes of meeting on Monday 9 October 2006, 7.30pm at Coupar Angus Town Hall

Members present: Christine Itani, Ian Clark, Ron Leslie, Ann Campbell, Michael Gallagher (taking minutes).

Visitors: Jean Napier, Pauline Dolby, Jo Kettles, Ron Stevens, John Swinney MSP, Cllr Alan Grant, Kathleen Frew (Perth & Kinross Care in the Community).

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

1. **Previous minutes:** Are they an accurate representation of the previous meeting? OK, except for clarification requested by Caroline with regard to item 20 (see below).

Proposed by Christine, seconded by Ann.

2. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

▶ Item 3 – Damage to stone cross in High Street – Christine has had a visit from the police who told her the investigation had gone cold.

▶ Item 4 – Re Christine's letter to the Council about local concern over speeding in George Street and a request from local resident that Causewayend be made a 20mph zone – Jillian Murray of Traffic and Road Safety has replied to this letter. The main points of the letter are as follows:

- She says she will arrange to have speed measurements carried out to determine the extent of the problem in Causewayend and George Street. However she is not optimistic because there are so many places where 20mph zones would be considered.
- With regard to advisory 20mph zones (Twenty's Plenty), the emphasis is on roads adjacent to schools.
- With regard to mandatory 20mph zones, a report in 2005 indicated that they were ineffective. However they are being considered for Safer Routes to Schools projects.

▶ Item 6 – Organising a meeting of local groups to meetings in November and December – Michael will book the main hall if possible at our usual meeting time (or as close to this as possible), and send invitations to local groups.

▶ Item 7 – Michael and Ian are continuing discussions on subject of a town manager and community centre. On subject of money taken by Perth & Kinross in council tax and business rates, Alan suggested that most of this would be taken up by the cost of the primary school.

▶ Item 11 – Offensive graffiti on skate park – the Coupar Angus Skaters' Association has agreed to deal with this, and have written to the Council for assistance with the cost of paint and brushes etc.

▶ Item 12 – 'The Pend' (the vennel between High Street and George Street) – Ann says that all but one of the adjacent residents have approved the idea of erecting gates at each end to reduce vandalism. Ann is still trying to contact the remaining resident.

▶ Item 14 – Community notice board – Michael will carry out research into this. Ian suggested that we should go for something a bit different. Ann will ask Pride of Place for ideas.

▶ Item 20 – Caroline asked that it be made clear that the increase of £256 in the Community Council's bank balance between August and September is only a portion of the advertising revenue from the latest issue of the CAN magazine. Advertising revenue only covers printing.

3. **Police:** No-one was available to attend tonight's meeting, and there is no report.
4. **Horse Fair Group:** Ann and Michael will invite Graham to attend the next meeting of the Horse Fair Group, which takes place on Wednesday 18 October at the CART office at 7pm.
5. **Pride of Place (PoP), update from Ron Stevens:** Five members of PoP were working on the school garden today. PoP recently removed the broken seat from the High Street prior to the recent competition. The seat had been broken for 8 months. Ron wanted to know who was responsible for repairing the seat. Christine suggested Willie Mahoney could help.

Action: Christine will phone Willie Mahoney about this.

The vault / mausoleum of the Arthurstone family in the Kirk graveyard is in a poor state. Jo Kettles said she had brought this up at the Community Council five years ago.

Action: Michael to find out who is responsible for repairing this.

Christine asked Ron Stevens for an article on PoP for the CAN magazine.

Action: Ron Stevens to provide article for CAN magazine by the end of October.

6. **Other observations from Ron:** There is a lot of litter – mainly plastic bottles and drinks cans – around the skate park. Ron showed the Community Council the bag of litter that he had collected.

Action: Michael to talk to CASA and the Countryside Ranger from Environment Services.

7. **Coupar Angus Pipe Band:** The Blairgowrie Common Good Fund Committee has awarded the Coupar Angus Pipe Band a grant of £300 towards the cost of three young people participating in the Mary of Dunglow Festival in Ireland during 3 to 7 August 2006.
8. **Planning:**

▶ **Moorfield House Hotel:** At meeting of Development Control Committee on 2 August 2006, outline planning permission has been given for the demolition of the Moorfield House Hotel and the building of a residential development in its place, on condition that all aspects of the final design are approved by the Planning Authority within 3 years, and the development is built within 2 years of approval of the final design. Before final approval is given there must be a full tree survey, indicating which trees are to be retained and felled.

▶ **30 Holding:** At meeting of Development Control Committee on 2 August 2006, erection of 2 dwellinghouses refused as contravenes Eastern Area Local Plan 1998 (1) Policy 49 Housing in the Countryside as the proposal is not in accord with the building line of the group and could lead to ribbon development, and (2) Policy 38 as there is no occupational need.

▶ **Flats at Lamb & Gardner:** At meeting of Development Control Committee on 30 August 2006, permission was given for the erection of 35 flats and associated car parking at the Lamb and Gardner site bounded by the Town Centre Bypass and Union Street on condition that the Planning Authority approves proposals for:

- 10 of the flats to be sold as affordable housing under a shared equity arrangement within terms of the Council's affordable housing policy.
- External finishing materials
- Details are of hedging and small tree planting along the A94 frontages
- Assessment and treatment of contamination

- Implementation of archaeological works in accordance with a scheme agreed with the Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust
 - Parking and roads, including 50 parking spaces
 - Bus shelters on both sides of Union Street
 - Drainage agreement with Scottish Water
 - Compliance with recommendations of Noise Impact Assessment relating to the construction of this site.
9. **Planning officer for Community Council:** Christine asked Ian to take over from Ron Leslie as planning officer for Coupar Angus, Ardler and Bendochy Community Council. Ian agreed.
10. **Gardens Competition prizegiving, Monday 18 September at the Town Hall:** A very enjoyable evening for all involved. Christine thanks all the entrants for their hard work, and expressed appreciation for the beautiful results. Many thanks to Ann Campbell who provided the catering.
11. **Articles please for the Coupar Angus News (aka the ‘CAN’ magazine):** Please give your articles to Ann Campbell or Caroline Young before the end of October. Ian suggested that he could print in colour, but a quick calculation showed that this would be too expensive.
12. **Councillor’s Report:**
- The Heritage Lottery Fund award for renovation of the town centre is still delayed
13. **Discussion of lack of Sheltered Housing and Care Home accommodation in Coupar Angus with guests John Swinney MSP for North Tayside and Kathleen Frew of Perth & Kinross Housing and Community Care:**
- Kathleen** – The current emphasis is on care tailored to the individual. The distinction between care homes and nursing homes has been removed. All care homes now cover the full spectrum of care from minimal support to full nursing care.
- John** – The problem of having to leave one’s home town to receive care has been a big issue in many places, as it can be very disruptive.
- Kathleen** – In Pitlochry a new care home is being built next to the Cottage Hospital. It is a private venture, but the council is giving its support by promising to provide funding for future residents. In Coupar Angus we would need to get a private sector provider involved, such as Bield Housing.
- John** – Converting old buildings is often problematic.
- Ron Leslie** – Moving 5 miles to Blairgowrie might as well be 100 miles for an elderly person.
- Kathleen** – The Care Commission regulated quality standards in care homes, day care, foster care, child minding and other aspects of care.
- John** – In the case of care home providers, it would be necessary to show that there was a need for at least 40 places. In order to find out the level of demand for care home accommodation it was necessary to see if nearby care homes were full.
- Kathleen** – There are currently 76 vacancies in Perth & Kinross out of 1495 places. Chequers, the new care home in Pitlochry, already has 25 places that will be incorporated

into the new facility. The company knew there was a shortage of care homes in North West Perthshire, although there are two in Aberfeldy.

There are six care homes in Blairgowrie, plus plans for a top-of-market home. A company recently approached Alan about the possibility of building a care home in Coupar Angus, but Kathleen said the company has now withdrawn the proposal.

Perth & Kinross Council currently run three care homes itself, but does not propose to build more because of the cost. It is much cheaper to pay private companies who do not have the same duty to provide pension plans etc.

Several surveys have shown that people want to stay in their own homes rather than go to a care home. The Scottish Executive wants Local Authorities to help achieve this. With that in mind, Perth & Kinross is developing a strategy for better care at home, including crisis care at home, short term admission to care homes for help from community psychiatric nurses and improved rehabilitation services from occupational therapists. The strategy should be ready by the end of the year.

In the meantime the Council want to increase care at home through its existing services, i.e Social Care Officers and *some* Home Support Workers. For example Social Care Officers can get people up, washed and dressed and settled for the day. They may make a lunchtime visit for toileting, medication, providing lunch, and the same again at tea time, and then help at bedtime for example with a catheter. They can also deal with continence accidents.

However they no longer have time to cook – they can only heat up a ready-made meal in the microwave and help with eating.

Christine – Is the expense problem the result of there being more older people due to medical advances? It is predicted that by 2025 the number of elderly people will rise by 25%.

John – Perth & Kinross has a disproportionate number of elderly people.

Alan – Perth & Kinross is a popular place to retire. Also the general population has increased due to good economic conditions. The Council has asked for more funding because of this.

Ron Leslie – A lot of care services paid for.

Kathleen – All care services are free for the over-65s, but housework, laundry and shopping are charged for.

John – Perth & Kinross has had to put £1.5m towards supplementing government funding for free care for the elderly. The Council is in discussion with care home providers all the time, but it comes down to financial judgement of care home providers.

Two of the six homes in Blairgowrie may face difficulties meeting the requirements of the Care Commission, so may have to close. This could help Coupar Angus.

I will approach Servite and the Perthshire Housing Association about sheltered housing, but again there will be a market place judgement.

Action: John will contact Servite Housing and the Perthshire Housing Association.
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Kathleen – It would be useful to know how many people in Coupar Angus are on the waiting list for sheltered housing (this prompted general agreement that there is less sheltered housing than there is demand).

Action: Kathleen will contact her housing colleagues to find out about the waiting list for sheltered housing in Coupar Angus and forward this information to John.

Kathleen - A recent review of sheltered housing (from March/April) looked at all tenants of sheltered housing. There was surprise at the number of people in sheltered housing who didn't need support. The report recommended that more wardens should be provided and more intensive care so that residents don't have to move again to a care home.

John – Burnside Court has 20 single story sheltered housing apartments in a semi-circle with a group area in the middle. This houses a day room and provides exercise classes. Residents have a broad spectrum of abilities. It is important to use technology, e.g. personal alarms and call centres. This provides a sense of security, for example enabling people to phone in at bedtime and again when they get up.

McCarthy Court (new flats by the Ericht in Blairgowrie) provides electronic surveillance and other devices such as sprinklers in kitchens, although this is easier to do in new-build accommodation. It is worth a visit.

Kathleen – Technology can be tailor made.

Ron Stevens – Social contact is very important

Michael – It is worrying that we are in the hands of the private sector, and that there is a glut of care homes in one place (Blairgowrie) undermining market forces that would otherwise encourage the provision of care home accommodation in Coupar Angus.

Alan – The Council cannot dictate where companies build nursing homes.

Michael – Why can't the Council build care homes?

Alan & John – They can't raise the capital.

Kathleen – Councils have to pay carers much more than the private sector.

Michael – How can we get quality care workers when private care agencies pay as little as £5.40 per hour?

Kathleen – It's up to the care agencies how much they pay.

Michael – The Council sets a maximum rate that it will pay to care agencies, which in turn limits how much they can pay their workers.

John – Paying more than the market rate cannot be justified to my constituents.

Michael – (to John) – In theory could we set up a development trust, buy some land, and build care home accommodation ourselves?

John – Yes.

14. **Correspondence:**

- **Convention of Perth & Kinross Community Councils:** Their 53rd meeting will take place on Sunday 22nd October at 2.30pm in the Tulloch Community Centre, Perth – off the Crieff Road at the traffic lights, before the Crematorium turn, on the left. Representatives from all community councils in P&K are invited. Agenda enclosed – other items can be brought up under AOCB.
- **Waterwatch Scotland:** Waterwatch Scotland is the national complaints handling authority for all customers of Scottish Water and consumer representative body for the water. Their role is to investigate complaints, represent your views and interests,

influence policy and inform and advise. The correspondence included a bundle of information leaflets about its service. The information includes an Emergency Helpline 0845 600 8855 and a Customer Service Helpline 0845 601 8855.

- **Perth & Kinross Council:** Minutes of meetings from 28 June to 6 September 2006.
- **Perth Youth Orchestra:** The Perth Youth Orchestra has requested a donation. The Community Council agreed a donation of £10

Action: Christine will send a donation of £10 from the Community Council.

- **Community Wheels:** Quarterly newsletter with news of public transport and community transport (usually minibuses for the elderly). They can also give advice on how to fund and run minibuses. There is a new Rural Development Team based in Kinross, offering advice on rural transport. Phone 01577 866766.
- **Perth & Kinross Leisure:** Confirmation of booking of hall for garden competition prizegiving.
- **Notice of road closure:** A984 Bendochy – Meikleour from Millbank Farm for a distance of approximately 1.2 kilometres westwards, effective from 9 October for two weeks. Pedestrian and vehicular access to premises will be maintained. The alternative route for vehicles is via **A923 – C426 – A93**.
- **NHS Tayside Newsletter, 4 copies:**
 - Public invitation to ‘Your Health Days’ workshops – an opportunity for members of the public to say what is important to you and your family, and how, together, we can make things better. Phone 0808 202 0885 (free) if you have special requirements in order to attend.
 - ◆ Sat 21 Oct – Morgan Academy, Forfar Road Dundee, 10am – 3pm
 - ◆ Sat 28 Oct – Forfar Academy, Taylor St, Forfar, 10am – 3pm
 - ◆ Sat 11 Nov – Dewar’s Rink, Glover Street, Perth. 10am – 3pm
 - The Scottish Executive action plan of 2005 has determined that instead of health services being focused largely around hospitals, more care must be made available in communities through primary care teams (GPs and healthcare professionals who deliver care in the community).
 - If you have any ideas on how to make NHS Tayside better, call free on 0808 202 0885.
- **Perth & Kinross Draft Community Plan for 2006-2020:** The Community Planning Partnership is looking for comments on the first draft of the Community Plan for 2006-2020 (the Community Plan sets priorities for Council services).

The first part of the draft describes the social and economic situation in P&K. With regard to rural areas it says there are “particular challenges linked to the remoteness of some of our rural areas including isolation, low pay and a reliance on seasonal jobs”.

The draft then suggests the following 3 priorities (this is just my own summary):

- **Vibrant and successful area:** They want to encourage new business development, provide a broad range of employment opportunities, ensure that the level of household incomes increases, and stimulate the property market. They

also want to promote cultural activity, improve infrastructure (roads, utilities), and expand business sites and premises.

- **Safe, healthy and inclusive communities:** They want to tackle health inequalities, reduce crime and improve quality of life, with special emphasis on children and vulnerable adults. They say they want to work with local communities to improve services.
 - **Nurtured and supported people:** They want everyone to be able to fully participate in the life of their community, and that individuals, groups and local communities can play a meaningful role in shaping policy and influencing decisions. They also want to improve education opportunities, especially for those in the NEET category (not in education, employment or training).
 - These three priorities are underpinned by three principles: Equality, community engagement and sustainability.
 - The draft report states that they are still trying to figure out how to measure performance with regard to the above.
- **WE HAVE UNTIL MONDAY 23 OCTOBER TO SEND OUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS TO: Annette Oman, Community Planning Officer, PKC Ext 5060, apoman@pkc.gov.uk. The address of the service is:**

**Performance Planning & Management,
Council Buildings,
2 High Street,
Perth, PH1 5PH.**

15. Any other competent business:

- Jo Kettles wanted to thank P&K Council for putting up an electronic speed warning sign at the entrance to the town from the Dundee Road. The previous week her daughter-in-law and two children had almost been run over by speeding drivers. She asked if the sign could be kept there permanently. Alan said that it could only be kept there as long as it was effective, and that the effectiveness of that type of sign tended to reduce over a period of time. Jo said she would monitor the effectiveness of the sign, and let the council know when it stopped making a difference to the speed of drivers entering the town.
- Michael asked if Randa was still a member of the Community Council as she has not been present for 3 consecutive meetings. Clause 5 of the constitution states:
“Elected Councillors who have not attended three consecutive or four in six monthly meetings will automatically cease to be a member of the Council unless ill health, vacation or other community business prevents them from being in attendance or for some other good reason approved by the Council.”
Ian asked Christine to ask Randa to attend in future.
- Michael asked if anyone minded if he put contact details of all the members of the Community Council in these minutes. A majority decided this was alright (see page 8)

- Michael proposed that the Community Council send a letter in protest at the threat to the viability of rural post offices caused by the removal of many services. John Swinney stated that the SNP is actively campaigning about this, and recommended that we send a letter to the Royal Mail.

Action: Michael to send letter as described.

16. **Next meeting: Monday 13 November 2006, 7pm, Town Hall main hall (unless this is unavailable, in which case an evening as close to this as possible will be arranged and all members informed of the new arrangement).**

Current members of Coupar Angus, Ardlar and Bendochy Community Council

Christine Itani	628148 or 628347	mumitani@yahoo.co.uk
Randa Itani	628148	
Betty Buist (Ardler)	640326	
Caroline Young	627665	
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Michael Gallagher	627124	berlmaketea@hotmail.com