



**STRATHAVEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
(Incorporating Strathaven and Glassford)**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28th June 2011 in the Ballgreen Hall,
Strathaven**

1. Sederunt: Alan Montgomery (Chair), Wendy Gilmour (Secretary), Donald Grierson (Treasurer), Peter Mansell-Moullin, Morag Arnot, Douglas Buchanan, Jo Bradshaw, Gordon McAllan, Claire Taylor, , Councillor Campbell, Councillor Holman and Councillor Malloy
Visitors: Fraser Walker and Andrew Brodie
PC John O'Brien

2. Apologies: Councillor Filshie and Paulo Quodros. The Chairman, welcomed Andrew Brodie and the new Strathaven Academy representative.

3. a Community Police Report

PC O'Brien reported 33 crimes in the area since the last meeting, with 8 detections and 15 on-going investigations.

- * 12 thefts, including a quad bike from a farm, fortunately this was fitted with a tracker device and the thief was apprehended and bike reclaimed.
- * Traffic and disorder offences all resulted in detections.
- * One incident of note – someone was charged with possession of an offensive weapon; a knife.

Hot Spots being targeted in the town included, Common Green, especially in front of Spar, George Allan Park car park, around the Castle and rural farms. He was asked to add the Town Mill and the back of the Ballgreen Hall to his list. If found drinking under 16s are taken back to their parents and over 16s are given a fixed penalty ticket of £40 fine.

When asked about Gala Day PC O'Brien said from the nightshift perspective it was a success, but he understood that 10 penalty notices were issued during the day.

4. Minutes of the May Meeting

These were proposed by Gordon McAllan and seconded by Donald Grierson

5. Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

6. Correspondence and Secretary's Report.

This is on a separate sheet. Wendy summarised letters/e-mails received, many of which had been forwarded to members.

7. Treasurer's Report.

DG reported that the grant of £701 had been received and the bank balance stood at £971.73. He asked for approval to renew membership of the Scottish Rights of Way Association - £20. This was approved.

8. Renewable Energy Fund

There was much discussion on the existing REF arrangements relating to Whitelees, the potential over the next 3-4 years for more funds from other large windfarm developments and in particular the meetings with Banks Renewables for the Kype Muir windfarm.

It was agreed that when the planning application for Kype Muir is received, this has to be considered independently of any possible extra funding. However it was recommended that SCC should state to planners that if permission is to be granted it expects £4,000 per Megawatt contribution to the REF. Only when the Community Council's response to the planning application has been submitted to the planning authority should the Community Councils formally deal with Banks over the details of the money issues. However at all times SCC needs to be kept fully up to date with any financial details emerging and will be represented if appropriate at any meetings deemed necessary in this respect.

The Councillors all confirmed that the REF criteria need adjusting, especially in relation to match funding and this is being followed up at Local Council level, but it would be anticipated that the SLC Councillors would seek in-put from the SCC throughout.

Donald confirmed that Banks intend to submit their proposals to the Scottish Government by the end of June. The Government have 21 days to respond and then the application has to be advertised for two weeks before the consultation period can begin. The planning application should be available for comment at the end of July, early August.

9. Windfarms generally.

DG outlined the following report.

a. Bankend Rigg – The letter from SLC confirmed approval of Sections 75 and 96 and Browns are now working on compliance with the planning conditions. Delivery of turbines is still being planned along the A71 from Canderside. There was no change of ownership, just a change of name.

b. Dungavel – Donald attended a meeting with Eon on 14th June. They are still working on environmental issues, especially monitoring water quality and have problems with NATS. E-on plan deliveries via the A71 but have found a problem with weight on the Glassford Bridge – the cross members need strengthening. This would be costly and SLC are in discussion with E-on over who would be responsible for the work. Eon are still looking at a route via Muirkirk and confirmed that extraction of timber from the site would be going south.

c. Calder Water - The Forestry Commission have objected to the number of trees they propose to remove and they still have problems with access and NATS.

d. West Browncastle - They are still dealing with habitat management as well as issues with access and NATS.

All applications for wind turbines, including small intermediate developments, will be considered carefully.

10. CC Elections 2011

Wendy asked if she might approach Jim McKay to act as Returning Officer again. This was approved.

11. Buildings Updates.

Crosshill Annexe – It was noted that security fencing had been erected in front of the building. A

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structural report on this building had been promised and the Secretary was asked to write to SL Leisure Trust to request a copy of this report.

West Church – Ian Gow had informed the Secretary that the Presbytery had met and at this stage wanted to go ahead with outline plans for a proposal for theatre, café and halls.

John Hastie Museum- Gordon reported that a volunteer 12 person action group had been set up including Lynne Filshie and a number of representatives from the CC. They have now received a copy of the full inventory of the John Hastie Collection, which is very extensive including an old fire engine and an aircraft. As far as the building is concerned members would like to see it as a Cultural Centre. Members are trying to set up a meeting with a Legal representative from the Council to examine the original Deeds. Peter wanted to record an expression of interest in the building not only from the JHM Group but also from the Dynamos. He also asked if the Secretary could write again to the Leisure Trust emphasising the need for a six month delay in any possible transfer of assets - agreed

Other Buildings – Wendy drew attention to the state of RS McColl in the Common Green. It was agreed that a letter and photographs should be sent to their Head Office, emphasising the position of the shop in a “Conservation Area”. Outside lights on the Ballgreen Hall had still not been fixed despite our recent request. There was a particular need for one at the back of the building by the night time exit.

12. Web Updates

Apart from the change of date for the next CC meeting, it was suggested that a web count be placed at the bottom left-hand corner of the home page. Peter had prepared a Calendar of events for the year which he would like added. He would email this to the secretary.

13. A.O.C.B.

It was noted that a new Head Teacher had not been appointed and the current Deputy would be acting Head for the next session. It was suggested that the Secretary write to Mrs Banks to thank her for her good work over the years.

Alan reported that Donna has approached SLC about the damaged notice board and someone was going to have a look at it.

Alan also commented on the large Park Rules notice boards. Councillor Campbell said this was as a response to the problems that had been experienced in George Allan Car Park. There was a need to make the rules known before any action could be taken.

Donald drew members attention to an ASCC workshop in Glasgow about Energy Efficiency and asked for permission to purchase wine for the Auditor, Ian Coyle. This was agreed.

Alan thanked Fraser for his contribution over the year and hoped Andrew would be able to attend future meetings.

14 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CC will take place on Tuesday 30 August 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Ballgreen Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9.30.p.m.