

STRATHAVEN AND GLASSFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 26TH NOVEMBER, 2024

1. **Sederunt:** Aileen Mc Mann (Chairperson); Gordon McAllan (Vice Chair); Les Hoggan (Secretary) Sheila Munro Tulloch (Treasurer); John Graham (Minute Secretary); Morag Arnot; Linda Brown; Margot McDonald; Douglas Scott and Aileen Stewart.
Police Scotland: Diana Ballingall; Thomas McEwan and Scott Shankie.
2. **Apologies:** Councillor Margaret Cooper; Councillor Elise Frame; Councillor Susan Kerr; Mairi McAlan MSP; Joani Reid MP.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (29/10/2024).**
The Minutes were approved without change. Proposed - L. Hoggan. Seconded - M. McDonald.
4. **Police Report.**
 - (a) The representatives of Police Scotland introduced themselves.
 - (b) They understood the CC frustration at the lack of information from the Police.
There is no consistent format for reporting to CCs and staff shortages have meant that officers could not attend meetings. However, the Community Police officers will try to attend in future if operational duties do not take priority.
 - (c) It was recommended that the CC raises any issues with the Community officers prior to meetings if possible.
 - (d) Police Scotland agreed to work with the CC to reach their desired goals and will provide a general overview for meetings.
 - (e) The Police Scotland view is that the area was comprised of a melting pot of people with a wide range of social issues. It was suggested that the Police should make use of sources of local information within the community.
 - (f) The CC asked if the six monthly meetings between the Police and the CCs be reinstated.
 - (g) A general Report was received prior to the meeting. This covered the following:-
 1. There was an increase in disorder calls relating to fireworks during November.
 2. Youth disorder calls have decreased and patrols of the Town Mill area have dispersed the problem elsewhere for now.
 3. The change of the weather saw a number of minor road incidents reported.
 4. December sees the start of the Festive Traffic Initiative.
 5. December traditionally sees an increase in acquisitive crimes and everyone should remain vigilant with regards to personal security. There will be a number of posts from Police Scotland social media channels in relation to this.[The Police Officers left the meeting at 7.30pm].
5. **Visitor Input.**
No visitors attended the meeting.
6. **Community Action Plan (CAP)/Local Place Plan (LPP).**
 - (a) Representatives from the CC met with Claire Martin of Community Enterprise (CE) and the meeting was very positive. The content of the Plans have been completed and the design work is ongoing.
 - (b) Once the final Report is ready an extra meeting will be needed to look at the main areas and themes.

- (c) The LPP is a statutory option and if not done will not feed into the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP). Being included in the LDP is helpful when applying for funding.
- (d) A. McMann and M. McDonald to meet with Planning to discuss the priorities for the community.
- (e) The Chairperson raised the possibility of reinstating the Community Planning Group at the recent East Kilbride Health & Social Care Forum.

7. Planning Applications.

- (a) The Application from Bancon Homes for 105 houses relates to Phase 4 of the East Overton Development.
- (b) The planned planting of forestry in the area does not require Planning permission.

8. Funding Opportunities.

- (a) The Application to the Community Health and Wellbeing Fund for funds to run more Peer Support Group sessions will be considered in January, 2025. This Application allows for one to one sessions to be held.
- (b) It was asked if these sessions could be promoted on Facebook and in The Castle newspaper.

9. Kype Muir Community Fund.

- (a) A Report was circulated to CC members prior to the meeting.
- (b) Better ways of working have been fully discussed with Point North and the Durham team.
- (c) The new Expression of Interest is on the CC website and any group intending to submit an Application must discuss it with A. McMann and M. McDonald.
- (d) Some discussions required about the Terms of Reference with the Greencoats involvement.
- (e) Colin McFarlane from the REF to inform Kype Muir members about applications from their area.
- (f) Grants agreed in our CC area are as follows:-
Glassford Community Group £30,000.
Strathaven Airfield £6,000.
Avondale Heather Curling Club £1,608.
- (g) Applications for next tranche of funding to be submitted by 24th January, 2025.
- (h) It is hoped that the Strathaven Co-ordinating Group can put forward a major project which could lead to an Application for funding from Pot 2.
- (i) Next meeting is on 11th February, 2025.

10. CC Micro Grants.

- (a) The full Report was circulated to CC members prior to the meeting.
- (b) Since October two new Applications have been received:-
 - 1. **007: Strathaven Evangelical Toddler Group** - Seeking a grant of £500 for the purchase of additional activity tables and books to extend and stimulate play experience for the toddlers attending. Proposed that the award of £500 be granted.
 - 2. **Strathaven Fairtrade Group** - Seeking a grant of £400 to fund Primary School activities including Christmas card distribution to the business community with Fairtrade cards plus other items. Proposed that the award of £400 be granted.

- (c) The above Applications were approved by the CC.
- (d) There is still £3,590 remaining in the Fund. More bids for funding are needed to ensure that the money is spent.
- (e) One further Micro Grant has been signed off and outstanding paperwork is required for three projects.

11. Secretary's Report.

- (a) The full Report was circulated to CC members prior to the meeting.
- (b) **Strathaven Co-ordinating Group - CAP** - The Group met with Claire Martin from CE to discuss the content of the LPP. A few action points were agreed for inclusion in the final document.
- (c) **Boots Banking Deposit Point** - The shop on Green Street will not open until March, 2025 and the Deposit Point will be available once it opens.
- (d) **Avondale Radio** - Two funding Applications have been submitted. One for additional presenter equipment and one for additional outdoor PA equipment.
- (e) **Bank of Scotland Closure** - A Community Banker will be in the Crib Community Centre Cafe between 9.00am - 3.00pm on Tuesdays once the Bank closes.
- (f) **Glassford Community Group** - The next phase of the Glassford Village Hall redevelopment involves the preparation of Tender documents, detailed engineering drawings and a fully costed finance model to allow the work to go out for Tender. Cost for this phase is around £50,000 + VAT. Two funding Applications have been made to the Kype Muir Fund and the Renewable Energy Fund.
- (g) **Strathaven Castle** - A Conversation has taken place with L. Hoggan and the SLC Architect and it has been confirmed that all survey work on the Castle structure has been completed and costings are being prepared. The Strathaven John Hastie Museum Trust has old photographs of the Castle which can be used on the Information Boards.
- (h) **Transport** - The Climate Action Strathaven (CAS) Active Travel Report and its Community Consultation Survey has been sent to SLC. There is still no update on either a meeting of the Transport Sub-Group or the implementation of the one-way system for Bridge Street and Wellbrae.
- (i) **Local Initiatives** - The Rotary Club Wrap Up Lanarkshire campaign collected over 500 coats and jackets for distribution to local groups. Two students from Strathaven Academy attended a leadership weekend in Larbert funded by the Rotary Club and the Strathaven Business Association. Avondale Radio plan to interview them soon.
- (j) **The Castle Newspaper** - This new local newspaper is being produced by students from Strathaven Academy. The first edition sold out and the next edition is out on the 6th December, 2024.
- (k) **Christmas Lights** - These should be in place prior to Reindeer Day and will be on 24 hours each day until around the end of January, 2025. Glassford lights scheduled to be switched on on the 7th December, 2024.
- (l) **Gladman Development** - A letter was received from Gladman Development asking if the CC would change its position on new house building in the local area. This would only be considered should an application to build affordable

housing and smaller units be submitted to SLC. The infrastructure is already under severe pressure and the impact of current building in the area needs to be assessed first.

- (m) **ALBA Group** - Changes are being made to the GP Practice run by the Group. These include a new telephony system, a new Manager to start on 2nd December and the possibility of setting up a Patient Participation Group. This should help address some of the issues raised regarding the running of the Practice.

12. Treasurer's Report.

- (a) The full Report was circulated to CC members prior to the meeting.
- (b) As agreed at the October meeting payment of £39.60 was made for the Remembrance Wreath.
- (c) The CE money will be paid into the CC Account and will be paid out from there.
- (d) Following notification from BOS of Account changes (with potential charges to the CC of £60 per annum) in addition to the closure of our local Bank in Strathaven, and following discussion with SLC, the Treasurer has applied to change the Account to RBS. In addition to having the advantage of full on-line banking the Account will allow Direct Transfer payment to organisations without the need for the Treasurer to make personal direct payments and avoid outdated retrospective cheque settlements.

13. Reports from CC Members.

- (a) Fly tipping took place at the Car Park at the top of the Park. It was reported to SLC and has since been removed. There was also a bad incident of this in Glassford.
- (b) The exterior of the former Crosshill School is in bad condition and needs attention.
- (c) Use of the Recycling Centre is still lower than before the introduction of the Booking System.
- (d) It was suggested that a photograph of the COVID Stone, along with a short article be placed in The Castle newspaper.
- (e) The Strathaven John Hastie Museum Trust (SJHMT) has a new publication on "Strathaven of Yesterday" costing £3.
- (f) Urquhart Opticians is holding a Coffee Morning on the 7th December in its premises with proceeds going to the SJHMT.
- (g) The Kilbryde Hospice Santa Dash will take place between 10.00am and noon on the 15th December at Hamilton Racecourse.
- (h) The E.K. Men's Shed Open Day will take place between 11.00am and 3.00pm on the 30th November.
- (i) Still no update on a new cemetery for Strathaven.
- (j) The steps leading to the Monument require some repair work. L. Hoggan to contact SLC.
- (k) The German Shepherd Club, which meets at the Rugby Club, would like to lay a wreath at the Rifleman Khan Statue Armistice 2025. It was believed that there would be no objection to this.

14. Reports from SLC Councillors.

No Councillors were present at the meeting.

15. Date of Next Meeting.

Tuesday 28th January, 2025 at 7.00pm in the Avondale Wing.



Members of the Public are most welcome to all our Meetings.
All correspondence to:- strathavencommcouncil@gmail.com