

STEWARTFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 13 November 2007
Time: 8. 00pm
Venue: Stewartfield Community Centre, 3 MacNeish Way, Stewartfield

Present

A Maxwell (chair), D Wallace (secretary), A. Fitzpatrick, E. Young, others as on separate list.

In Attendance

Cllr Simpson, PC Finlay Ferguson, Donald Gray, Area Services Manager with SLC, Civic Centre.

60.1 Introduction

The chair welcomed those present and gave introductions for the benefit of people attending for the first time.

60. 2 Apologies

A Vann, N Pentland, V Yaneske, S Jess

60. 3 Previous Minutes

With minor correction to Aldi for the store mentioned in the last item, the minutes were approved; proposed by Tony Fitzpatrick, seconded by Emily Young.

60. 4 Police Report

The chair thanked PC Finlay Ferguson for his persistent efforts, which have begun to bear fruit against anti-social behaviour in the area.

CRIME FIGURES, 10/ 10/ 07 TO 13/11/07 IN STEWARTFIELD.

Crimes of note;

Two Stewartfield males (The same 16 and 17 year olds responsible for the Wilful Fireraising to a m/v within driveway of Bellflower Grove/same 16 year old male responsible for vandalism to Electricity Box at the rear of Morrisons Supermarket), admitted responsibility for twenty (20) theft by OLPs (opening a lockfast place) to cars within the Stewartfield and Calderwood area during October 2007. Case to be submitted to PF in respect of same.

Vandalisms

MacArthur Court. Window broken by stone. No eyewitnesses or suspects to incident.

Rosedale. Window broken by stone. No eyewitnesses or suspects to incident.

Dunlin. Damage nearside door of m/v by striking same with golf club. Golf club sent away for SOCE.

Innes Court. Smash m/v windscreen with stone. Enquiries continue.

Stewartfield Crescent. Smash passenger window of m/v by unknown means. No eyewitnesses or CCTV.

Stewartfield Gardens. Throw bottle or similar object at window smashing same. No eyewitnesses or CCTV to incident.

MacNeish Way. Window of Morrisons Supermarket smashed by stone. No eyewitnesses or CCTV.

MacNeish Way. Electricity Box at rear of Morrisons Supermarket. Two males (16 and 17 years of age) charged with two separate vandalisms.

MacNeish Way. Bonnet of m/v scratched near to Morrisons Supermarket. Enquiries continue.

Arrotshole Court. Smash offside door window of m/v by unknown means. Enquiries continue.

Dishonesty

Theft of m/v Stewartfield Drive. Steal m/v by unknown means, and park 15 yards away from home address. Door to door and SOC negative.

Other

Wilful Fireraising. Stewartfield Gardens. Set fire to contents of Recycling Bin. No eyewitnesses or CCTV.

Wilful Fireraising. Bellflower Grove. Set fire to m/v whilst parked in driveway. 16 and 17 year old males charged.

Culpable and Reckless Conduct x2 and Simple Assault x2. Place lit fireworks under m/v and threaten owner with knife. Two 18 year old males charged.

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 5(2) and Criminal Law Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1955 S.47 Have in possession herbal cannabis and a wooden baton. 29 year old male charged.

Commenting, PC Ferguson noted an increase in vandalisms reported and increase in detection. After a productive meeting with Cllr. Graham Simpson a joint approach with Caper House, Community Hall and Morrisons was planned for CCTV and a mosquito siren with a high frequency which deters youths. PC Ferguson commended Alistair Maxwell for the way when he reported to the police eggs thrown at his house he asked if the incident could be emailed to Community Police. It meant he did not miss the report. He said certain individuals who had made continuous nuisance of themselves had been excluded from the area at the shops and Arrotshole Road. John Doyle from Stewartfield Gardens spoke of his perspective as a taxi driver that groups regularly converged on the area at the flats from East Kilbride and Cambuslang around 7pm in the evenings. PC Ferguson explained that his strategy for discouraging this gathering was to concentrate on local youths, who were the key to the problem.

PC Ferguson had mentioned problems in Stewartfield at a meeting of EK community wardens, and requested attention to these as time allowed. They had diverted youths from East Mains who were heading into Stewartfield.

60.5 South Lanarkshire Council Report

The Community Police officer stayed while Cllr Simpson introduced Donald Gray who came to speak about the partnership approach of “The East Kilbride Problem Solving Group” to dealing in a strategic way with anti-social behaviour.

Speaking to the document which was circulated to all attending, "Joint Problem Solving in South Lanarkshire", Mr Gray told us that at the hub of measures being taken against anti-social behaviour was the co-ordinating work of a steering group which worked to bring communication between agencies working in the field, to find funding, to encourage a degree of cooperation and learning from one another that would deliver results that could be monitored. As well as calling on a range of services, e.g. trading standards for issues of licensing, particular matters locally like the moving of the bottle bank from Morrisons to the Heritage Park, could be focussed upon, and community wardens could be sent to hot spots of continual nuisance.

A success in resourcing came in the allocation of funds to permit youth clubs to run on the weekends of the summer holidays from school, a period of most trouble by youths. There was a noticeable decline in cases of anti-social behaviour. Licensees were party to a forum where discussion was led on danger for youth from alcohol, and attendance was encouraging, and discussion regular and ongoing. Mr Gray outlined the measures in ascending order to a final sanction of eviction from the area, to control the behaviour of youth threatening the peace of the community. The first step was negotiating an acceptable behaviour contract, a reasoning approach showing it was in the youth's best interest not to let his behaviour come to the later and harder sanctions of the scheme. John Brooks asked if parents were held responsible and was told yes. A police inspector came to the family and explained the importance of the acceptable behaviour contract in containing what was getting out of hand and could lead if unchecked to the Sheriff Court and worse. Tony Fitzpatrick sought assurance that the Children's Panel input was taken into the approach. PC Ferguson said that in effect he enforced a curfew in respect of children and youths he took home if he found them drinking alcohol in public or being out and unsupervised late at night.

In questions about CCTV, it was noted that temporary cameras had been used at hot spots in South Lanarkshire, St. Leonards being one.

Lorraine Fraser has asked three times for attention to a lampstand in the passage from Arrotshole to McArthur (23C). Maureen Watt drew attention to a sack of cans which had lain for a long time in the same area, with question over who was responsible for moving them. The Cllr will pursue these. Eric Margetts said that in the same walkway there was a stretch of 70 yards without a lamp. Mr Doyle spoke of his wife being threatened by youths as she walked the dog.

Cllr. Simpson had worked with Cllr McCann on playpark provision for McArthur but did not get sufficient interest in the form of names on a petition. There is go ahead to improve the playpark at the Heritage Loch.

A meeting has been arranged on Friday 23rd Nov. in the Community Centre to form an EK West seniors club. The chair noted that Stewartfield Church had come behind this, as has Rev. Dr. John Mc Pake of Mossneuk Parish Church. An island to assist crossing is being made next to the roundabout at McIvor Crescent. Maureen Watt asked to ensure a footpath to it instead of a walk across grass. John Brooks spoke about difficulties with overgrown shrubbery at Rosedale which contributed to vandals being undetected, said it had been minuted a year ago at residents assoc. but no action taken. Cllr. will visit and see if Land Services or factor is involved.

60. 6 Officebearers Reports

The chairman invited any members who have issues with Scottish Water to let him know in advance of a forum he will attend in Bothwell, 27th Nov. He noted that a street cleaning survey had been sent to some homes, as to his own. He emphasised to members not to tackle youths themselves, but to continue to report.

The Treasurer reported funds in balance on 1 Nov. at £1541. 84.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 11 Dec.