

**STEWARTFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday 11 November 2008
Time: 8. 00pm
Venue: Stewartfield Community Centre, 3 MacNeish Way, Stewartfield

Present

A Maxwell (chair), N Pentland (deputy chair), D Wallace (acting secretary), M Watt (treasurer), A. Fitzpatrick, E. Young, S Jess, others as on separate list.

In Attendance

Cllrs McCann, Simpson, Watson, PC Steven Preece, Inspector Julie Edward (EK Police Office).

70.1 Introduction

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

70. 2 Apologies

No apologies were brought.

70. 3 Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved; proposed by Tony Fitzpatrick, seconded by Sheelah Jess.

70. 4 Police Report

PC Finlay Ferguson is on leave, and PC Steven Preece gave the report.

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

Total Crimes reported in the area from 14 October was 11 reported of which 6 were detected. Most came under violent crime, 4 of which 3 detected. Then drugs, 3 of which 3 detected. One vandalism went undetected to date. Three vehicle related crimes undetected.

Regular cycle patrols in Stewartfield give attention to the area of Stewartfield Gardens, Arrotshole Road and connecting lanes. Complaints received are visited over the requested period. Anti disorder patrols by community police officers at the weekends provide public reassurance in the prevention and detection of crime.

Regular break ins at St. Kenneth's Primary School have ceased after a suspect was apprehended and questioned but not charged. There have been break ins to industrial units in the area, and a theft of lead from the roof of the Museum of Rural Life. Members of the public were asked to remain vigilant for crime and to report any instances they find.

Instances of bad driving were given. On Stewartfield Crescent a motorist was seen going at speed round the right side of a mini roundabout. Racing was reported on the stretch of Stewartfield Way beside the Museum. Drivers still use the entrance to

Playgolf for U turns despite a no U turn order being in force. Inspector Edwards spoke of a campaign between the hours of 8am and 2pm to detect motorists without road tax and insurance. She has a new chief constable, Steven House, who is overseeing increasing numbers of committed officers like our local community officers, whose aim is to improve community quality of life. Some issues like driving habits e.g. at Playgolf do not admit of a quick fix solution.

The chair presented a cheque for £300 to the attending representatives of Strathclyde for the purchase of a new cycle. When this is ready for use, a press item will be released.

70. 5 New Committee

The chairman gave the names of the new committee. Elected: Tony Fitzpatrick, Sheelah Jess, Alistair Maxwell, Nigel Pentland, Douglas Wallace and Emily Young. Nominated: Bill Fleming by Mountleigh Residents Assoc., Maureen Watt by Stewartfield Church.

70. 6 South Lanarkshire Council Report

The three councillors were welcomed.

International Children's Games

Born out of adversity in the Cold War years, this event the dream of a man called Clemek in Slovakia has proceeded as an entirely good news story. In times of a tough budget cycle, it is wonderful to report the preparations in S. Lanarkshire for 2011. Following Cllr McCann and Watson's visit to the US, a presentation will be made to our meeting. Seminars are being given to teachers, volunteers and churches to inspire the fullest participation in all the activity that will lead to delivering a great occasion in our part of the country.

Cllr. McCann reported that new playpark facilities had been installed at the Heritage Park and at McIvor Crescent. Tony Fitzpatrick immediately recorded his family's enthusiastic thanks. As soon as the latter park was opened there was drinking by youths there at the weekend. The youths were confronted, police were called and it seemed to stop the problem.

With Cllr Watson he had shared issues raised by residents of the Stewartfield Grove flats. He was dealing with the issue of the land which has been left unused by Kean, the builder. Improvements will be possible shortly when a new developer takes over. A bad tenant had to be dealt with in Stewartfield Gardens.

There is a growing problem with urban foxes in the area and environmental officers have been consulted. Cllr Watson raised the difficulty in law that they cannot be killed. Further attention has to be given to the problems people are facing close at hand as the animals become more free in gardens and park areas.

The window when fireworks can be sold for 5 Nov. and New Year has been narrowed. Some youths were using fireworks to frighten birds at the Heritage Park.

Cllr Watson reported on dispensers, signage and such to discourage dog fouling at the Heritage Park. Two sites are under consideration by new supermarkets, the former

BSR site, which is currently zoned for industrial use, but is seen as an option for a “Lifestyle” store, and Kittoch Field.

Environmental services have been contacted about the dreadful state of littering in front of the Play Barn. Douglas Wallace had also approached the owner about this. The Local Plan is nearing completion. Planning application made for development at Mavor Avenue may result in a change of zoning from industrial use to mixed use, allowing for a development involving Aldi and flats.

A public awareness campaign is being launched to combat misuse of the blue zone parking areas. A private member’s bill will urge prosecution of misusers.

It was reported that £7.5 million is tied up in the Iceland banking failure, but no current year programmes will suffer.

Maureen Watt asked Cllr Simpson to look into provision of salt for the driveway at Arrotshole Court. A question was raised about whether trees of remembrance are still being planted at the Heritage Park.

70.7 Treasurer’s Report

Balance in the account is £1,380.93. There is a problem with changing the account until a new secretary of the Community Council is appointed.

Members were asked to keep this urgent need of the organisation to the fore in the month ahead.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 9 Dec.