

**STEWARTFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday 9 December 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, W. Fleming, others as on separate list.

In Attendance

Cllr. McCann, PC Steven Preece, PC Finlay Ferguson.

71.1 Introduction

The chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

71.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. Graham Simpson.

71.3 Previous Minutes

The minutes were approved; proposed by Tony Fitzpatrick, seconded by Emily Young, and Douglas Wallace was thanked as acting secretary.

71.4 Police Report

PC Finlay Ferguson gave the report, and PC Steven Preece added comments.

CRIME, 12/ 11/ 08 TO 8/12/08 REPORTED IN STEWARTFIELD.

Dishonesty

MacNeish Way. Theft of £34. 18 of diesel and drive off failing to pay. CCTV was of poor quality, leaving no trace of registration plate. Enquiry finalised.

Vandalisms

MacNeish Way. Nearside wing of motor vehicle damaged by unknown means. No eye witnesses or CCTV. Enquiry finalised.

Violence

Simple assault in Stewartfield Crescent. A female was approached in the dark from behind, pushed onto the ground and knelt on her back. She escaped in the struggle. There were no eye witnesses or CCTV. Door to door gave no further leads. The jacket of the complainant was not suitable for DNA testing. Enquiry finalised.

Fraud

Mitchell Grove. Goods advertised for sale on ebay, payment received, but failed to despatch goods. Relevant forms are being collated for investigation, and the enquiry continues. This is a complex affair to secure satisfaction. S. Preece commented that by using credit card and Pay Pal there is a facility to put a stop on the payment of money till 4 months beyond the point of sale, when buying per ebay.

Other

MacNeill Gardens. Attempted housebreaking with intent to steal. Rear garden was entered by climbing fence, and attempt made to gain entry to house by forcing patio door. No eyewitness or CCTV to incident or in area. Nothing at scene of crime. Enquiry finalised.

Stewartfield Gardens. Theft of motor vehicle, keys picked up, car driven off and crashed into lamp standard. Enquiries continue through DNA samples sent to lab.

Gilderdale. Attempts to defeat the ends of justice. Trader offering monoblocking of driveway, providing false details to the police. Charged under Peddlars Act 1871 X 2.

S Preece had responded swiftly to a call from Cllr. McCann about youths drinking in the new play area at McIvor Crescent. 2 fixed penalty tickets were issued to the offenders.

Nigel Pentland mentioned a crime he had heard of in Glasgow, where people who had been observed taking substantial amounts of cash from ATM were brushed against by an observer and marked with chalk on their clothing so as to be known as someone carrying a large sum. Members were glad to be alerted to the practice.

The members of Community Police warned members of the community to be careful to lock cars, doors etc. as there is an escalation of burglary at this time of year.

71.5 New Committee

At a brief committee meeting ahead of the main meeting, the remaining post of secretary was filled. The committee consists of Chair, Alistair Maxwell; Deputy, Nigel Pentland; Secretary, Tony Fitzpatrick; Treasurer Maureen Watt. Other members of committee, Sheelah Jess, Douglas Wallace, Emily Young, Bill Fleming.

71.6 South Lanarkshire Council Report

Cllr. Michael McCann gave the report.

International Children's Games

After a visit to a conference at Stirling University, "Pathways to Sport for Youth and Children", Cllr. McCann encouraged the Community Council to allow a presentation on the Games at a meeting early in the New Year. The meeting agreed.

There had been a failing with the implementation of the Winter Maintenance Programme of the Roads Dept. Main streets had been cleared of ice but side roads

were left untreated in the recent days of freezing weather allowing a build up of ice which took longer to rectify. A public outcry ensued, the EK News allowed rumours of scaled down services, less lorries, and budget cuts to be circulated, damaging the reputation of the Council. The head of Roads Dept. was called to account quickly and staff were allocated as a matter of priority to clearing side roads and paths used by pedestrians. Cllr. McCann intends to take up with the paper inaccurate reporting. Mrs Watt thanked the councillors for providing grit for MacLean Drive in good time, as she requested at the last meeting.

The Cllr. drew attention to the annual review of services for efficiency savings and said that the centre at 169 Pine Crescent Greenhills, which faces ending of its contract in 2009, will be subject to this kind of rigour. He spoke of how easily such issues, which are ongoing, can be sensationalised by the press, and yet that successes like Operation Robust, leading to the arrest of a number of leaders in the illegal drugs trade in Lanarkshire, went unreported.

71.7 Treasurer's Report

Balance in the account is £1,081.20. Nigel Pentland informed of annual expense in renewing arrangements for the community website, and would be reimbursed for the costs of this. He was thanked for this valuable service to publicise the work of the Community Council.

71.8 Chairman's Report

Planning applications were shown to the members for their interest, including the former BSR site, a large retail outlet for Kittoch Field and a hotel at the Play Golf complex.

It was agreed to incorporate into the minute the decisions by the committee meeting ahead of the Community Council that Tony Fitzpatrick be nominated as Secretary. Nominated by Douglas Wallace, seconded by Sheelah Jess. The committee would seek to secure the services of a minutes secretary on a paid basis. Cllr. McCann was asked if a written copy of the items in the Councillors Report could be supplied to the Secretary for ease of minuting.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 13 January.