

STONEHOUSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman: George Smith, 6 Naismith Court, Stonehouse. Tel 01698 79346

Secretary: Robert Freel, 75 Lockhart Street, Stonehouse Tel 01698793498

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING 19/2/07

It was proposed that the normal meeting business be suspended when MSP's Karen Gillon and Chris Ballance arrive to give members and the public the opportunity to discuss problems encountered with NHS services.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT & APOLOGIES

G. Smith, R. Freel, W. Mackie, A. Paterson, R. Craig, B. Craw, PC I. McKinley, Karen Gillon MSP, C. Balance MSP and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: W. McMurtrie

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- They were accepted.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- None

4. CORRESPONDANCE (refer to separate sheet)

- The faulty speed sign at the top of the village is still not working; it would appear that Scottish Power is to blame and will be monitored.

5. POLICE

- PC I. McKinley apologised for not attending the previous meeting.
- 28 crimes reported with 11 detections. Pro active policing has led to the high number of detections. Again it should be noted that some reports contained more than one incident.
- I.McK again warned the community to beware of theft from cars due to a number of thefts in the village recently. The police have a unit up and running to try to combat this.
- W Mackie highlighted that a company which stated it was a charity was operating in the area collecting clothing, the public should be aware of the various scams regarding collecting of clothing from so-called charities; some of them are no longer registered as charities and whilst this is not illegal other charities are losing out.
- A member of public asked about the armed response unit which was called to Patrickholme after a call regarding a suspected firearm. PC McKinley confirmed they were in attendance but could not discuss further.
- The police are aware of anti-social behaviour in certain areas and are working with SLC to try and resolve issues.
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- It was reported that drinking in Union Street seems to be a problem early in the morning; it was thought that some of the persons involved were from the DSS accommodation at the Cross. The police are aware of this, however incidents are isolated and not all from DSS accommodation.
- The police with community council backing are trying to obtain Fairshare funding for a community police vehicle which would be used solely for Stonehouse and Ashgill area. It would not be a response unit and could be used as a mini-office and would fit with proposals for using the Stonehouse Police office more however it is all dependant on the funding being available.
- The “digibus” which was bought with “fareshare” money is used at the Tileworks every Friday night and is kitted out with PC’s and play-stations. It is for the youths of the village to use. This appears to be working well.
- It is proposed that new fencing will be erected at play area in the Memorial Park which should stop the footballs from running down the hill, which may encourage more kids to use the park.

MSP’s entered the meeting and normal business was suspended.

6. DISCUSSION WITH KAREN GILLON & CHRIS BALANCE

The next part of the meeting was being dedicated to the problems and issues raised at the previous Community council meeting and were associated with the NHS service in South Lanarkshire.

The main points generated from the meeting were:

- It would appear we get a very poor service from the NHS, which will be made worse by the closure of Monklands A&E.
- The ambulance service seems to be a problem area and there are problems with crews from EK and Law depots. It would appear that there are local politics involved regarding the issue of who is meant to cover our village. This has resulted in people waiting longer for ambulances.
- NHS 24 is not a very effective service and protocol seems more important than patient service.
- It was felt that some GP’s were very poor both at local surgery level and the NHS call out service GP’s.
- There was also a discussion regarding the on-going saga of the ultrasound for Stonehouse hospital.

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- KG read out the MRSA infection rates from our local hospitals.
- There is also a problem with obtaining repeat prescriptions from our local chemist. It normally takes 48 hours for it to be signed off and ready. KG will look into this.
- Both MSP's summarised various points and agreed to raise these with the NHS. CB stated that these incidents need to be reported.

7. A.O.C.B

- H. Burns asked the CC to consider withdrawing from the Rights Of Way scheme and to subscribe to the new "core-path network". GS said for all it cost we could subscribe to both these organisations.

Next meeting is on the 19/03/2007 at the public Institute.