

STONEHOUSE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman: George Smith, 6 Naismith Court, Stonehouse. Tel 01698 793946

Secretary: Robert Freel, 75 Lockhart Street, Stonehouse 01698 793498

Minutes of meeting 22/10/07

1. MEMBERS PRESENT & APOLOGIES

G. Smith, R. Freel, W. Mackie, A. Paterson, M. McBain, R. Craig, B. Craw, M. Casey, Craig, W. McMurtie, PC Colin Thomson, Cllr James Malloy and **10** members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Bill Holman, Cllr L. Filshie. W. McMurtrie, M. Casey.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Spelling of Jeff Frew's (Stonehouse Development Trust) forename was corrected.

3. POLICE REPORT

- 22 crimes reported with 11 detected.
- PC C. Thomson reminded the public about the "safe as houses" survey that was available free of charge, which involves a survey of your house to see how secure it is. Chains locks etc can be supplied free if required.
- G.S enquired to PC C. Thomson about kids smashing windows at the local primary school, as no one let him know if they had attended the incident. CT indicated that officer did go to the school. GS commented on the lack of communication.
- CT reminded people to phone the Police if they witness any incident so that if a problem seems to reoccur at certain areas etc he will be able to ask the local office for more support.
- There was a question from the floor regarding an incident at The Cross on Saturday night. CT indicated that it was a disturbance with some youths and the matter had been dealt with.
- The local surgery is being used and CT felt very positive about it. CT apologised for not always being there, but he has been on Court duty some of the time.
- The new inspector has been invited to the Community Council meeting and he has indicated he will be at the next one if possible (he attended the previous week, but the meeting had been postponed to the following week due to the school holidays). Chair or executive committee may seek a separate meeting.
- There is no word from the "fairshare" scheme as yet. The previous bid was rejected, but has been "beefed up" and has been re-submitted to Fairshare.
- A question arose over the proposed use of floodlighting of the hard play area at Alexander Hamilton Memorial park to allow football or basketball . Previous community police officer was pursuing this and CC sought an update. CT stated that the money was used for a new fence and that no new funding was available for a timer or sensors. CT will look into who was dealing with this in the council and advise.

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4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- None

5. CORRESPONDANCE

- Friends of the Earth have offered anyone on the CC the chance to take part in a “Training For Change” seminar.
- The speed activated sign are still not working correctly, with the one at the bottom of Lockhart Street not operating at all. The response from SLC was that the sign only detects the speed of the lead vehicle and not each one. Questions from the floor asked if we were supplied poor quality units. Council letter also indicated that there were no plans to replace units in the near future.
- The priority sign at the chicane at the primary school is facing the wrong way.
- Pride of Place – RF informed meeting of Regeneration scheme but it was unlikely that we would be entitled to any funding but we are still waiting for a reply from them regards other areas.
- Brighter village project will be dealt with under AOCB.
- Planning permission for Cott Castle has been approved for caravan sales.

6. S.L.C.

6.1. Roads

- Re parking at The Cross – bollards will be installed to stop cars/vans etc parking on the pavement and double yellow lines will be painted and wardens will be patrolling the area.
- The railings outside the Bucks Head are the wrong height because children are not visible behind them so the fence will be changed. No timescales provided
- The trees at The Cross were supposed to be mature ones but we did not receive mature ones. Council are speaking to Land services (the contractor) regards this.
- It would appear that kids are riding their bikes etc through the planters at the cross. W Mackie has asked that a single course of paving be place round planter to prevent this from happening.
- Discussion about the fence for a local business which seems to have been paid for as part of The Cross works.
- Discussion about the unsightly building at The Cross – perhaps between Stonehouse Development Trust at the Community Council could be set up to improve these buildings. Trust to set up meeting with interested parties.
- The timing of the lights at The Cross seems to be out of sync with the street lighting and it is very dark in the morning. CC will write regarding this.

- We are 49th in a queue to get a pelican crossing on the bypass to enable the kids to get to school safely, but warning signs will be installed.

6.2. Planning

- A neighbour notice for 7 houses up Townlands Rd off Lockhart St was advised. CC will object when the planning application is fully submitted.

6.3. Community Hall

- Still in the local plan and the completion date will probably be the end of 2012. George Smith will try to meet Colin Mc Dowall and try to get it moved to outside the local plan to try to speed things up. There is one objection to the hall and this will hold up proceedings. The present buildings will be painted and made watertight until the new hall is ready.

7. HEALTH MATTERS

7.1

- WM has been to a meeting regarding the local health issues and the proposed change in hospitals status. He has got a large file regarding the proposed changes in the local health system and will be required to attend a number of meetings to present CC views. He is due to go to another meeting at the start of November. Agreed that we seek the nearest option to the status quo. He informed us that the Urology clinic will definitely be closing at the hospital.

7.2

- There is a proposed meeting with the local surgery Practice manger and office bearers, if you want to raise any points see a member of the council before then.

8. UTILITIES

8.1. Water

- None

8.2. Gas

- None

8.3. Electricity

- None

9. TRANSPORT

- None

10. REPORTS

10.1. ELECTED MEMBERS (Cllr Malloy)

- Will try to arrange for more new surgeries at other locations in the village.
- He has had a look at the local cemetery and is working to improve it.

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- Cllr Malloy informed us that grants were available to various groups. Any group wanting to apply for funding can call him on 01698 454815 to obtain a grant form.
- Regarding the housing of people it would appear that we are getting more than our fair share of certain groups of people. Cllr JM will keep an eye on these figures. He stated that Homeless etc people should only be housed in one area for a certain amount of time.
- Test purchasing of alcohol will be coming to the village. Under aged kids will be sent in to try to buy alcohol from our local shops to try to catch out sellers.
- New laws regarding the licensing of alcohol will be introduced soon.
- We will try to set a date for a meeting between the councillors and the CC; a Friday might suit all parties. Chair will write to all parties.
- Energy efficient light bulbs for pensioners will available soon, probably November

There was some concern of the lack of local elected councillors attending the CC meetings of late.

10.2. TREASURER

- WM stated that we have £1328 in the bank.

10.3. DEVELOPMENT TRUST

- Jeff Frew will be present at the next meeting and keep us up to date with what is happening with the Trust.

11. WAR MEMORIAL SUB COMMITTEE

- None

12. A.O.C.B.

- Stonehouse Brighter Village introduced some proposed plans regarding the improvement of the flower beds etc across the Co-Op. No funding available to re-draw plans showing additional car parking. The CC agrees with the development but only if it includes additional parking spaces. The CC will try and put pressure on roads as well as re-generation to fund work The group were also advised to apply to SLC for funding. They are planning to work closely with the Stonehouse Development Trust for funding as well

Next meeting is AGM and an ordinary meeting on the 19/11/07