

Meldrum and Bourtie Community Council

Meeting Monday 21st June 1999, Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carole Elrick, Stanley Glennie, Wullie Law, Stanley Niven, John Pirie, John Wilson, Mark Young.

ALSO PRESENT: Daviot representative, Cllr John Loveday, residents from Kirk Street.

APOLOGIES: Alex Manson, Frank Mathers.

KIRK STREET

A number of residents of Kirk Street raised the issue of traffic calming measures on Kirk Street. They brought a petition, which they had submitted to the police and the council, and told the committee of their concern that cars were driven too quickly up the street. They were particularly concerned about a near-miss with a child and stated that they hoped the number and speed of vehicles could be reduced. There are still incidences of vehicles travelling down the street.

Discussing possible action, the residents revealed that they had twice written to the council advocating speed bumps, in February 1997 and September 1997 respectively, and had received no reply. S Niven was in full agreement that speed bumps would be a solution. Cllr Loveday agreed that proper, substantial speed bumps seemed the obvious way forward, adding that he was now of the opinion that the entire village situation had to be addressed because a bypass would not be in place for at least two or three years.

The residents were concerned that children and elderly people might be particularly at risk if the situation was not rectified, given the inadequate pavements. Stanley Niven suggested requesting a police presence at C.C. meetings. Cllr Loveday agreed that this was desirable.

The possibility of making Kirk Street access-only was considered. It was agreed that the chairman would write to the roads department requesting it to meet a deputation from Kirk Street, M&BCC and Cllr Loveday to seek a solution to the issue.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 17th May 1999 - were agreed to be a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

MILLENNIUM

J Pirie noted that the plaque and explanatory board were now in place at the Parcock Tree.

He had spoken to Wimpey, who were happy to pay for any cairns through the "Percent for Art" component of their planning consent given the approval of Aberdeenshire Council. It was clear cut that Barra Hill was the best place for an indicator cairn while the choice location of a cairn to indicate the Battle of Barra was less certain. No reply had yet been received from Barra Farms and the chairman had not discussed the matter yet with G Stephen. Three potential millennium projects were: the restoration of Bruce's Seat to a suitable location, an indicator cairn at the top of the Barra Hill and a Battle of Barra commemorative cairn.

COAT OF ARMS

The coat of arms above the door of the town hall was missing a leg and the scroll it had supported. M&BCC had failed in past attempts to get this repaired but had got the coat of arms painted. No trace or indication of the whereabouts of the missing parts had surfaced. S Niven offered to make inquiries as to possible restoration work. A problem would be that the coat of arms is built-in so any work would have to be done remotely then attached.

WIMPEY

J Pirie said that according to the Press the council would only appeal on minor points. Cllr Loveday told the committee that the day of the meeting (Monday 21st June) had been the last day for submissions to the Court of Session, and that there had been a meeting the previous week with Intervale and the Director of Planning. Cllr Loveday said that Intervale had announced at that meeting, that they would make a full appeal against the decision. This might well take a year and a half for a decision and the Wimpey development would be on hold till then. Intervale had also indicated that they might well appeal to the Secretary of State on the non-determination of their application. Cllr. Loveday said that the council might remove the Southern option from CALP which had still to be formally approved. Cllr Loveday emphasised that the appeal had to be on legal issues, not questioning the planning per se but only how it was achieved. J Pirie asked whether this appeal would halt any progress for the year and a half. Cllr Loveday confirmed this since he understood that the soonest available slot at the Court of Session is 8th August 2000.

J Wilson asked whether the academy would be affected. Cllr. Loveday answered that the academy was going ahead regardless. S Niven asked what facilities the academy would have. Cllr. Loveday said that the specification included an indoor theatre/meeting room/assembly hall, a sports hall for community use, and a public/school library which would allow the library

situated in the Town Hall to close. He also said that the academy design would make provision for future expansion at minimal cost. M Young inquired as to whether new houses and the academy would have any implications for the sewage works. Cllr Loveday said that he had been told the sewage works had the necessary capacity.

NEW BUSINESS:

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

M Young told the committee that the application for a grant had to be submitted by 30th June, but the only decision to be made at present was what size of grant to apply for. The council will match the grant pound-for-pound up to a certain limit, so M&BCC applies for half of the anticipated expenditure. Cllr Loveday said that the cost last year had been £480, which had provided a tree, lights, and money for damage. M&BCC owns one string of lights, which were strung across the front of the Town Hall. These were to have been stored by M Young but had not been passed on to him by the council. It was agreed that M Young would ascertain the cost of three extra strings of lights and apply accordingly for a grant.

AASP AND ALP

J Pirie said that such a variety of ideas had been presented at the special meeting, that he had had great difficulty in composing something which he thought everyone would agree with. S Niven generously duplicated his draft, however, and members were to pass their comments on it to J Pirie. J Pirie noted that Invervale's appeal had muddied the waters considerably. M Young felt it was important that it was made clear that no more than 400 houses before 2006 was acceptable, that more community facilities were needed before houses were built, and that a supermarket on the outskirts was not desirable.

CYCLE RACKS

F Mathers had written to the council on behalf of the M&BCC, and Mr. J. Davidson had also written. The reply stated that the council had taken note of our comments and will not proceed until the views of the Town Centre Working Party are known.

RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT INITIATIVE

J Pirie suggested that, as the Church arranges some such transport, the documentation detailing the funding to be made available be passed to the appropriate organiser.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

F Mathers and J Pirie attended the meeting on 2nd June. The first issue was of insurance, the council has insurance covering CCs but this has to be activated. M&BCC would enter the scheme. The second issue was of CC funding, J Pirie said that M&BCC would receive increased annual funding. There will be an extra £20,000 for community councils in Aberdeenshire. Finally, the Community Council Review was moving towards completion. The details regarding elections and procedures were mostly finalised but CC boundaries had not yet been resolved. Cllr Loveday raised the issue of Daviot, saying that it was now their decision. The Daviot representative said that their view was that there would be insufficient continuing support for a CC, but that they might operate a community association with representation on M&BCC.

PLANNING

ACADEMY: An application for outline planning permission for the new academy had been made. Cllr Loveday said that this was needed to reassure PFI providers. No details of the buildings are needed at this stage.

PRIMARY SCHOOL: More detail of this outline planning application was provided. A new vehicular access will be made from the South for cars and buses to parking and turning areas. Present access points will be upgraded or discouraged. Additional school buildings are also included. Cllr Loveday said that the school roll would rise towards 380 pupils, and it was predicted to reach this by 2002.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 16th August 1999, Town Hall, 7.30pm