

OLD LUCE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 1st June 2020 at 8 pm virtually via Zoom.

Present

Fred Murray - Chairman
Michael Bird
Jane Dodds

Ian Paterson, Vice Chairman
Derek Sloan, Treasurer
Mike Lane

Stephen Ogston - Chair of Old
Luce Resilience Committee

Member of the Public:
Donald Peers

Councillor Jim McColm

Councillor Katie Hagmann

In attendance: Jane McDowall

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Apologies

Action

Marion Muir, Cllrs McCamon and Inglis.

2. Absent

Elizabeth Innes, Diane Lowe, Pamela Marshall, Susan Maxwell, Gordon McKinstry, Joan Miskimmins and Ean Stewart.

3. Police Business

PC Allison had submitted a report - attached. It is unknown when the next Community Surgery will be held.

GLENLUCE

A number of calls received about a vulnerable couple in Glenluce. Social Work contacted.

20/5/20 - 1 drink driver reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

DUNRAGIT

22/5/20 - A quantity of drugs and cash seized. Enquiries ongoing.

Advice and information about Change to Police Scotland's User Experience Surveys, information about scams, policing during Covid-19, domestic abuse and child protection.

Fred advised that there had been incidences of shoplifting from Glenluce Keystore which were being dealt with by the Police.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (4th May 2020)

All agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the business conducted and the adoption of the minutes was proposed by Fred and seconded by Derek.

5. Councillors Update

Cllr Hagmann explained that the Council was still holding only one meeting although they were looking at ways of re-introducing meetings. There are seven Councillors on committee - Jane Maitland and Willie Scobie from west of region.

Fred requested that Cllr Hagmann take a comment to the next Council meeting: The Community Council is grateful for the generous financial support towards dealing with the Covid-19 situation; however the conditions attached to the grant award are too narrow. Old Luce Resilience Committee printed a booklet to deliver to all households to ensure that those not online were able to access information and assistance available - Old Luce CC has been advised that the costs of printing the booklet are ineligible.

*Cllr
Hagmann*

5. Councillors Update (continued)

The Recycling Centres in Stranraer and Newton Stewart had re-opened for waste in bags only at present.

Cllr McColm updated on Education. A tremendous amount of work has been done in relation to return to schools for pupils on 11th August. Online education is ongoing. Primary schools have been issued with 284 iPads and arranged for Wi-Fi access for 52 households to allow children to access online lessons and support. In secondary schools 200 iPads have been issued to Head Teachers for distribution.

Provision of transport for return of pupils is a big issue due to social distancing requirements. There is a possibility that alternative Council buildings may be used.

Derek raised the difficulties for tourism businesses, cafés, bars, restaurants, etc.

Cllr McColm said that it depended on the national effort as well as success of testing, etc. Cllr Hagmann added that there were regular meetings with the new enterprise agency discussing strategies on how to get businesses up and running again across Dumfries & Galloway and the Borders.

Mick enquired if the plans for return to education on 11th August were optional. It was confirmed that it was anticipated that all pupils should be returning to schools on 11th.

Ian enquired about unfairness of business grants not being eligible to those who do not have property. Cllr Hagmann explained that the D&G staff members were doing their best to deliver the grants. Around 48% of the total business grants available have been applied for. Mike added that he found the Council application process for a business grant had been excellent and very much appreciated.

Cllr Hagmann enquired if the Development Trust had contacted the Council to enquire if they could apply for funding towards the running costs of the Public Hall.

Mike

Fred thanked the Councillors for their input.

6. Resilience Update

Stephen reported that there had been very little in terms of requests. A number of people had volunteered to assist but there had been very few requests for help. Stephen had delivered a couple of food parcels. Fred delivers 6 - 8 grocery orders weekly from Glenluce Keystore. Stephen added that the village had been very generous with donations to the Food Bank.

Fred explained about the Council grant of £552.80 to be used towards travel expenses and provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Cllr Hagmann suggested the purchase of a sink for people to wash their hands when entering shop.

Mick enquired about the number of cases in the region. The number is very low in D&G (third lowest in Scotland). Fred said that we should pay tribute to the NHS staff.

Fred instructed Stephen to submit the cost of printing Resilience Booklet to the Treasurer.

Stephen

7. Flower Tubs

Ian reported that the tubs were planted on Saturday 30th May. Fred has been diligently watering the new plants. The gardeners from Dumfries had sought more money when they arrived and also said that they would not do the job next year.

It was noted that many of the existing tubs were reaching the end of their useful lives and perhaps new tubs made of recycled materials should be purchased next year.

It was agreed that the gardeners would be paid the extra £50 giving them the total budget of £450 agreed at may meeting. It was agreed that Derek would make arrangements to pay the £50 via bank transfer.

Derek

8. Artfield Forest Wind Farm

Correspondence had been received from Statkraft about the proposed Artfield Forest Wind Farm (proposal for 20 x 180 m turbines (4 MW) - 80 MW). The site includes the previously consented Gass Wind Farm which did not proceed.

It was agreed that members of the Community Council should initially meet staff from Statkraft via Zoom on either 22nd or 29th June at 7 pm. Jane to organise.

Jane

This year's Turbine Trophy event has been cancelled.

9. Correspondence

Aileen Campbell MSP had a letter via e-mail thanking Resilience Teams for their efforts (to be circulated).

Jane

10. Any Other Competent Business

Mike gave an update on the GP Surgery Development. The webinar on 27th May had gone very well with 100% support for the preferred option of new build given in the poll conducted at the end of meeting. Survey results have been collated and it is now a matter of taking the project forward within the timescale. 100% of respondents wanted a new surgery built on the site. The team is now working on budget and funding applications. There were very few questions raised at the meeting on 27th May.

The development will cost in the region of £2.5 million and some of the cost is attributable to the requirements to follow stipulations set down by the NHS. The cost includes purchase, build and professional fees.

Fred thanked everyone for an enjoyable meeting and thanked the elected members for their contribution.

9. Date of Next Meeting

8 pm on Monday 6th July.

Future Meetings (Monday): 7th September, 5th October and 2nd November.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.