

OLD LUCE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 7th September 2020 at 7.45 pm virtually via Zoom.

Present

Fred Murray - Chairman
Michael Bird
Elizabeth Innes
Mike Lane

Susan Maxwell
Gordon McKinstry
Ian Paterson, Vice Chairman
Derek Sloan

Stephen Ogston - Chair of Old
Luce Resilience Committee
Marion Muir - Glen of Luce
Resilience Committee

Councillor Jim McColm

Councillor David Inglis

Members of the Public: Liz Anderson, Jane Corrigan and Howard Bennett.

In attendance: Jane McDowall

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

1. Apologies

Action

Jane Dodds, Ben Askew (Forestry and Land Scotland) and Councillor Jackie McCamon.

2. Absent

Diane Lowe, Joan Miskimmins, Pamela Marshall and Ean Stewart.

3. Police Business

PC Allison had submitted a report. Re-commencement of Police Community Surgeries - dates to be confirmed.

GLENLUCE

22/07/2020 - £2,000 worth of fencing materials stolen from farm at Auchenmalg. 1 male reported to the PF for theft.

26/07/2020 – Disturbance at a property in Motehill, Glenluce. 3 persons arrested and charged with the following – 1. Assault to permanent disfigurement; 2. Abduction; 3. Robbery; 4. Assault and 5. Police assault.

Between 1730 04/08/2020 and 0730 05/08/2020 a number of items valued at £15,552.80 stolen from outside Tarff Valley, Glenluce.

12/08/2020 – 1 male given a Recorded Police warning for a Breach of the Peace at a farm near Auchenmalg.

28/08/2020 – Child bitten by the dog of a family member.

29/08/2020 – 1 male reported to the PF for dangerous driving due to a Police vehicle having to take evasive action.

01/09/2020 – Road Traffic Collision at Mains of Park, Glenluce. Green Claas tractor towing a red trailer hit a dry stone dyke and wire stock fencing. Driver was not traced at the time.

DUNRAGIT - No Issues reported.

Update on 101 call handling response times, Trading Standards information and Police response to Covid-19 guidelines (information attached).

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (6th July 2020)

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

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered by Agenda

None.

6. Resilience

Stephen advised that there had been no calls on the Resilience Group in the last couple of months. Some Resilience Groups have closed down since shielding ended.

Fred advised that he has finished delivering groceries. Gloves and hand sanitiser had been purchased for use by Glenluce Keystore staff and the costs would be covered by the Resilience Grant of £550 awarded by Dumfries & Galloway Council. Fred advised that any of the grant award not utilised would have to be returned to the Council.

7. Whitefield Loch

Concerns had been raised by local residents and Glenluce Angling Club office bearers due to the incidences of dirty camping, fires, littering, drug taking, anti-social behaviour, attempted and actual thefts taking place along the length of the road.

It had been difficult to contact representatives of Forestry and Land Scotland during the last few months to raise concerns. Norman Moss from the Angling Club had spoken to someone from Forestry and Land Scotland last week to discuss re-opening their side of the Loch to anglers - decision unknown.

Jane had spoken to Ben Askew from Forestry and Land Scotland and he had agreed to give an update at this evening's meeting but had pulled out today.

The residents are concerned about the lack of updates on reports submitted to Police. One example was a dirty camper who had been staying in Craigenveoch Forest for several days and had been reported to Police along with vehicle details in July. After enquiries Police reported that because person had not been present when they attended no action was taken.

The Angling Club and residents are requesting the removal of the large signpost for Whitefield Loch at the road junction with the Port William road which was originally erected at the time of the Penfield Project and Luce 2000. The sensory garden, walks and other visitor attractions installed at that time are no longer there and the sign gives the impression that there is lots to see at the Loch. Howard and Jane endorsed Jane's comments.

Fred asked Councillor McColm to find out about removing the sign. Cllr McColm said that he would contact Bob Green in the Roads Department to find out about removal of the sign which clearly appears to be out of date.

*Cllr
McColm*

Fred advised that part of the Loch and land at end belongs to the Community Council. The Angling Club manages it well on behalf of the Community Council and members of Old Luce Community Council will throw their support behind the Angling Club.

Fred asked Jane to advise the Police that the Community Council wasn't happy with the Police not keeping the local residents up to date.

Jane

8. Update from Councillors

Cllr McCamon had previously sent an update on the items raised at July meeting which had been circulated via e-mail to Community Councillors. All the under-noted items had been addressed:

- **Play equipment** and grass cutting - prior to Covid-19 shut down the basket swing was replaced and two new flat swings and two new cradle swings were installed. In March the climbing multi-play unit was due to be replaced but this was delayed (now replaced). The play boat should also now be repaired.

8. Update from Councillors (continued)

- **Fineview Crescent railings** - DGHP sent an officer to inspect the hand rail and although it is loose, it is safe. However, as a safety precaution, they will replace the bracket at the bottom of the rail to ensure it is more stable.
- **Wild Camping / campervans** - The Council has now powers to stop people staying overnight - where they can they will attempt to engage with anyone they see, while observing social distancing guidelines and give suitable advice. Also passed to Police Scotland.
- **Grass Cutting** - Council staff checked the areas they are responsible for in Glenluce and the Supervisor confirmed that they are happy with the work. It was also confirmed that Glenluce is not one of the villages where areas of grass have been left longer to encourage wildlife.

Fred advised that the new piece of Play Equipment had been installed at Lady Stair Park and the dangerous item had been removed. The play park equipment is well used and has been well used all summer.

Councillor McColm confirmed that children were using the play equipment as well as the skate park - a good investment for the Village.

Councillor McColm advised that the Leisure Centres are due to re-open on 15th September with a much-reduced capacity. There is an ongoing enquiry into the Trunk Road contract which had a £3 million pound loss - the result of the enquiry is eagerly awaited.

Councillor Inglis gave an update on the Road Service Review.

9. Wigtown Area Committee - Community Asset Transfers

Councillor McColm updated the Community Council on the Wigtown Area Committee meeting held on 2nd September at which the Community Asset Transfers of the Car Park North Street and Woodside Industrial Estate were on the Agenda.

Councillor McColm stated that he had approved the Community Asset Transfer for the Car Park at the nominal sum of £1 and approved the Community Asset Transfer for the Industrial Estate but for an increased financial offer.

Mike expressed his disappointment with Councillor McColm's decision especially when the Council had transferred other more valuable properties for the nominal sum of £1.00. The final decision still has to be made by the whole Council.

Councillor Inglis stated that he had declared an interest in both items on the agenda due to being involved with a group submitting a similar application he had left the Area Committee meeting for both discussions. He added that the Community Asset Transfer application for the Industrial Estate was the first of its kind in Dumfries and Galloway.

10. Correspondence

A number of e-mails had been received from D&G Council in relation to the Amended Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils and request for Responses to Major Festivals and Events Strategy. Information had been shared to Old Luce Community Council's Facebook page where possible.

11. Proposed Artfield Forest Wind Farm

Statkraft UK is running an online Virtual Exhibition from 24th August - 18th September. Printed information had been delivered to all households within 10 km of proposed site. It had also been advertised on Free Press Facebook page and in Dumfries & Galloway Standard. The website is informative and also offers online interactive sessions.

Statkraft staff members have offered to answer any queries from Community Council members or give another presentation. Fred asked the members if they wished another meeting - not at this time. Jane to advise Statkraft that the Community Council was happy with the presentation and to come back to Community Council if they had any updates.

Jane

12. Update - Defibrillator

It was unknown if Derek had drawn down the money due to him having to leave meeting due to internet connection issues.

Ean had not submitted any information about the purchase of defibrillator and case.

13. Planters for 2021

Fred and Ian offered to eat humble pie - in spite of the poor condition of the plants on arrival the plants had put on a great display. A decision will be made on next year's supplier in due course.

Discussion took place around replacing the existing wooden planters with recycled planters which would not require any maintenance. Jane to circulate photo and price. The cost for 30 planters including VAT would be £6,660.00. Planters to be marked / branded with "Old Luce Community Council".

Jane

After discussion members agreed to purchase the new planters for the 2022 season. Mike agreed that the Development Trust would make a grant application in spring 2021 to avoid rushing at the last minute.

14. Any Other Competent Business

A75 underpass lights - Fred advised that these had still not been fixed. Councillor McColm will follow up.

*Cllr
McColm*

Ian raised the issue of signage at the Boreland junction on the A75 obscuring the view of drivers in lorries, buses and tractors. Councillor McColm will follow up.

*Cllr
McColm*

Fred raised the problem of sharp bend on Fineview Road from Viaduct blocking access for artic lorries. Cllr McColm will raise with D&G Council Roads Department.

*Cllr
McColm*

Susan remarked that the park and skate park were very well used. The small blue roundabout play item has totally seized up - possibly due to rust. Susan also raised the broken paving slabs beside park which is causing problems for kids on scooters. It has been on the Council works for two years. Councillor Inglis will look into pavement repairs and broken play park equipment.

Cllr Inglis

Ian enquired if the next meeting could be held back in the Hall. Mike explained about the difficulties of the limited numbers allowed and the deep cleaning required before and after any gathering.

Councillor Inglis advised that some Community Councils in the east of the region are meeting again.

It was agreed that the next meeting is likely to be online via Zoom until the rules change.

15. Date of Next Meeting

7.45 pm on Monday 5th October 2020.

Future Meetings (Monday): 2nd November, 7th December and 1st February.

Fred thanked everyone for a constructive meeting. Fred thanked the elected members for their input and everyone for their contributions.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

POLICE SCOTLAND - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On occasion we do have members of the public asking questions around 101 call handling response times. Unfortunately there has been a slight increase in average waiting times over recent months, in part attributed to the changes to our call demands and an increase in COVID related calls, some of which are not Police related. With the addition of the requirements of social distancing, our Service Centres are running at a reduced capacity, and this has coincided with the peak summer period where call demand has increased as it would normally in keeping with previous years. That has led to an increase in calls being discontinued, when compared to the corresponding period last year.

Police Scotland prioritise 999 emergency calls, together with calls from other emergency services, before answering any non-emergency 101 calls. Understandably, this results in callers waiting longer for their 101 call to be answered, however, whilst holding to speak to a Service Advisor the caller hears messaging informing them that they should call 999 in the case of an emergency. Additionally, callers are provided with messaging about alternative methods of making contact with Police Scotland, including terminating the call to contact us via our 'Contact Us' email based facility available via our Police Scotland website. The uptake on this is high and we process around ten thousand digital contacts per month. There are 3.4 million contacts annually for Police Scotland.

The following link takes you to the Police Scotland website, and all the Call Handling reports with stats are published there; <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/our-performance/>

It's important to note that the average time taken to answer a 999 call in July for example, was 8 seconds, and for a non-emergency 101 call, 32 seconds. There can be times for various reasons where those response times could be significantly greater, but we would urge members of the public to be patient where possible, and remember only to phone 999 in an emergency.

TRADING STANDARDS INFORMATION

Due to the current climate and the increase of scams, the below link to the Trading Standards website may be of benefit;

<https://www.tsscot.co.uk/>

COVID 19

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is presenting an unprecedented and dynamic set of challenges. The policing response is crucial to maximise public safety and support the extraordinary work being done by colleagues in the health profession. The crucial role of the police service, particularly at this time, is to support and protect the vulnerable and we will continue to do so.

We are maximising our own resources to ensure that we protect frontline policing. We have a duty to protect life and improve the safety and wellbeing of people in Scotland. The new emergency legislation has been introduced to help us save lives. We police by consent, with the support and compliance of the public. That has never been more important than right now. The vast majority of people in Scotland are complying with advice. We are asking people to listen to the advice, to stay at home and to help us keep you and your loved ones safe. The policing style adopted will be central to maximising the compliance of our fellow citizens. Officers will:

Engage: ask whether an individual is aware of the government request; establish individual circumstances and how quickly someone can comply

Explain: the risks to public health and to the NHS in line with government guidance

Encourage: voluntary compliance

Enforce: if faced with non-compliance and only as a last resort.

We will use the enforcement powers as a last resort only where people continue to defy the clear advice being given by the government and our colleagues in the health service. We will do so in a fair, reasonable and proportionate manner.

The government has instructed people to stay at home except for a very small number of reasons. We are relying on everybody, collectively, to address this absolutely unique and extraordinary time in our history.

We rely on the consent of the public and the vast majority of people in Scotland are complying with the instruction from government. People in Scotland are being asked to stay at home and only go outside if they have a 'reasonable excuse'. These include shopping for necessary food, household and medical supplies, travelling to and from work where working from home is not an option, and daily exercise that adheres to social distancing guidance.

We have been given extraordinary powers in an extraordinary situation. We are visible, on patrol, 24 hours a day and we can engage with businesses and people gathering in public spaces in defiance of the instructions to encourage them to follow the government advice and stay home. We will challenge those who don't and if people continue to defy what is very clear advice, we will use these powers as a last resort.

The Coronavirus Act 2020, passed by the UK Government, allows police officers, and other officials, to assist in the enforcement of some of the restrictions being put on the public. It means that officers can enforce the testing of individuals with suspected coronavirus. It also allows for the closure of events, gatherings and premises. The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 allow officers to close businesses and premises which flout the government's guidance. The regulations also give officers the power to enforce social distancing among the wider public with the sanction of penalty notices where there has been an offence.

Police Scotland can issue penalty notices of £60, reduced to £30 if paid within 28 days, where they have reason to believe there has been an offence under the regulations. These penalties are doubled for each repeat offence up to a £960 cap, with no reduction for early payment. Due to the exceptional nature of these powers, the regulations will be reviewed at least every 21 days to ensure they are still necessary.

We have a hugely committed and driven workforce with a shared purpose to keep people safe. Officers and staff are delivering a first class service during this unprecedented and challenging situation. Our people are working long hours, volunteering to be redeployed or to be given extra duties, and cancelling leave to maintain response levels and keep our communities safe. Policing, like all of society, will be impacted by this virus. We have seen an increase in absence but we have started to move our officers and staff around to mitigate the impact of any absences.

We are maximising resources for local policing divisions and other critical areas of frontline policing to keep people safe. This includes cancelling non-essential training and redeploying officers from back office functions, from some custody and court duties and from border security and airports. We are considering mechanisms to give our new recruits core training that might allow us to deploy them earlier than we would normally. We have asked employers to consider providing paid leave to members of their staff who are special constables to allow them to support the national effort to tackle the coronavirus. We have prioritised frontline response and are continuing to provide a policing service right across the country. Having a single force to respond to a national emergency means we can make decisions very quickly. We can quickly move people to where they are needed to respond to any given situation and also to address gaps opening up elsewhere due to illness or extra demands of local circumstances. In terms of potentially bringing back retired officers, it's something we've looked at but at this stage we don't believe it's necessary.

We have a duty to keep our workforce safe and are providing advice to officers and staff, based on the guidance from the UK and Scottish Governments. There is no doubt that our officers and other emergency service colleagues play a crucial role at this time to protect our communities. However, any of our officers or staff who show symptoms of coronavirus or who fit the other criteria for isolating will be required to follow the guidance. Officers and staff have been advised to follow health hygiene guidelines, including washing hands correctly with warm water and soap, to help mitigate any risk.

At this time we are being flexible and putting in measures in place to support our workforce, including working from home where we are able to. We are continually reviewing these measures and are examining additional ways of ensuring we can get people back to work as quickly as possible if they don't need to be off.

There are, and will continue to be financial implications, in respect of our response to COVID-19. This is being tracked and collated.

We have been working continuously to procure the best quality and fastest deals for our staff ever since the challenges of the COVID-19 outbreak became clear. Purchasing safety equipment is complex and the service has repeatedly simplified and streamlined processes to meet this urgent need head on. A large training programme is also under way to ensure that our officers are fully briefed on the correct use of the equipment which is being supplied. Training for the entire Flexible Response Unit and Operational Support Unit is complete and we have now begun rolling out training for use of the full kit across local policing divisions. With 1,400 people having completed their training so far, we are currently training 130 officers a day and hope to increase this number in the near future.

The kit includes protective suits, disposable goggles, boot covers and gloves, as well as disposal bags, FFP3 face masks, which require face-fitting. Risk assessments carried out specifically for the police have identified the FFP3 mask as the one which gives the required level of protection but face-fitting, a requirement set by the Health and Safety Executive, must be undertaken correctly to ensure optimal protection for both officers and members of the public. Officers and staff who will be receiving FFP3 masks will be contacted directly in order to be face fitted and tested. All officers being fitted with FFP3 masks will need to be clean shaven for the fitting appointment and are required to remain so as we continue to respond to the impact of coronavirus.

We are committed to making sure that every one of Scotland's citizens is looked after. Our primary responsibility is to leave victims of crime feeling safe and we will continue to make sure that those who are living alone, the elderly,

the vulnerable are given full protection. We are in the process of accelerating the roll-out of our Contact Assessment Model of triaging and responding to calls from the public. The enhanced decision-making model of threat, risk and harm has already been introduced in a number of local divisions. We hope to accelerate the roll-out of this model, so that the whole of the country benefits more quickly and we will be able to do even more to protect the vulnerable and ensure every individual gets the right response when they contact us. These changes will allow us to maximise resources for frontline policing to keep people safe.

If someone reports a crime, it will still be dealt with but perhaps in different ways as we increasingly prioritise our demand to reflect the exceptional needs of this pandemic. People reporting a minor crime may find it being dealt with by officers on the phone. We will always aim, where at all possible, to find ways to assist those who are particularly vulnerable in our communities. Recent changes to the Lord Advocate's Guidelines will help ease the pressure on the justice system at this critical time. There are very clear priorities set out for the investigation and prosecution of crimes, and those breaking the law will be dealt with to ensure the public is kept safe from risk and harm. Offenders who are bailed can be subject to rigorous restrictions, but if public safety is best served by remanding them in custody, we will do all we can in partnership with the Crown to make sure that happens. Police Scotland is able to take action in a decisive manner about how best to use resources and move them around while avoiding the inevitable delays from making decisions by committee. We have a single service, and the value of that is clearly shown at critical times like the present.

Police Scotland is working closely with the Crown Office and the wider justice system to protect people from crime and the threat of COVID-19, while also upholding people's human rights. Our priority is, as always, to ensure the people of Scotland are protected and policed effectively. Those breaking the law will be dealt with appropriately to ensure the public is kept safe from risk and harm through rigorous conditions for release and, where necessary, holding people in custody for court.

101 is not an information line for COVID-19. Please act responsibly and help Police Scotland deliver the best possible response to those who really need it. Visit nhsinform.scot/coronavirus and gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/ for the latest guidance on COVID-19.

We are aware that there is an increased risk of domestic abuse as people observe isolation and social distancing guidance. We will continue to respond to all calls domestic incidents. We issued the following advice on our social media channels at the weekend (21/3/20). Domestic abuse is not just physical or sexual abuse, it includes abusive behaviours, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial abuse and can be committed anywhere including online. It is about power and control, with abusers using controlling behaviours to frighten, humiliate and isolate victims from those who can offer them support.

No-one should live in fear of abuse. We want people to feel safe in their communities. We want to prevent harm by identifying people who may be at risk. Domestic abuse is everyone's business. Domestic abuse is not acceptable, and it's not inevitable. If you, or anyone you know, are being abused or are at risk of abuse, please contact Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Or if you need support please contact Scotland's domestic abuse and forced marriage helpline on 0800 027 1234, where support is available 24/7.

There will be no change to how we respond to child protection issues. Protecting children and reducing harm remains a priority for Police Scotland. We will always respond to calls suggesting a child may be at risk. Scotland has robust child protection measures in place with a well co-ordinated, and committed multi-agency approach in place to identify, support and protect children who may be at risk.

How can vulnerable protect themselves from fraudsters in terms of doorstep crime and online? With social distancing and self-isolation more of us are at home than is usual. Scammers know this. People may find strangers on their doorstep offering bogus help or services. Or they may be contacted by telephone or on social media. We have just launched a new campaign (24 Mar) Shut Out Scammers, advising people to be cautious – don't let the scammers fool you. Our advice is please be cautious - don't let them fool you. Look after yourself, look after each other and look after your family.

For more information visit: www.scotland.police.uk

Police Scotland has opened a Multi-Agency Coordination Centre to allow partners from other emergency services, the NHS, local authorities and other organisations to respond to the impact of coronavirus on Scotland's communities. The centre, based in a Police Scotland control room at Bilston Glen, Midlothian, but operating virtually, will allow members of the Scottish Resilience Partnership to coordinate a joint response to this major incident. We have been planning and preparing for this outbreak for some time and standing up the Multi-Agency Coordination Centre will help to coordinate the response to issues arising from the impact of coronavirus. Deputy Chief Constable Malcolm Graham has tasked Assistant Chief Constable Mark Williams with chairing Strategic Coordination Group meetings on behalf of partners as we move forward with our response to coronavirus. These are exceptional circumstances and we are confident that the partnership will continue to work together successfully, as it has done on numerous occasions previously. Working alongside our partners, we are ready and able to respond to ensure the safety of the public during these unprecedented times.