

Old Luce Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held in Glenluce Public Hall at 7.45 pm on Monday 7th February 2022

Present

Fred Murray - Chairman

Ian Paterson - Vice Chairman

Kenny McKinstry - Treasurer

Mick Bird

Elizabeth Innes

Mike Lane

Gordon McKinstry

Joan Miskimmins

Marion Muir

Ean Stewart

PC Gary McCutcheon (part meeting)

In attendance: Jane McDowall, Minute Secretary

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped they had all enjoyed a good Christmas and New Year.

1. Apologies

Derek Sloan, Diane Lowe, Jane Dodds, Councillors Hagmann, McColm and Inglis.

Absent: Susan Maxwell.

2. Police Business

Reported Crimes - 08/01/2022 - Report of a Domestic Incident in Fineview Crescent. Police attended, minor incident involving alcohol. No Police action taken and advice given.

18/01/22 - Fraud. Incident reported to Police from Whitecairn Caravan Park involving the purchase of caravans. Enquiries ongoing by CID.

Ongoing problem with parking on pavements causing obstruction mid Main Street. Police would be visiting vehicle owners again. Advice for residents was to report to 101.

Old Luce Community Councillors remarked upon gardens having been vandalised at the weekend. PC McCutcheon said that it was important that people report incidents on 101 to ensure that they were logged.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (6th December 2021)

All agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and the adoption of the minutes was proposed by Mike Lane and seconded by Gordon McKinstry.

4. Matters Arising not covered on Agenda

None.

5. Finance

Kenny advised that the cheque for Foundation Scotland had now been signed and sent.

The revised Services Agreement between Foundation Scotland and Old Luce Community Council was proposed for acceptance by Mike Lane and seconded by Ella Innes and Kenny McKinstry. The document was duly signed.

The Old Luce Annual Fee calculation, totalling the new reduced fee of £11,109.00 was unanimously approved. Foundation Scotland had advised that they would not be applying the general administration fee of £1,000 for this fund year due to low administration charges over past 12 months.

6. Updates on Local Issues raised at Previous Meetings

- **Lady Stair Park - Path Link to make circuit - (November 2021)** - Add to March agenda. *Agenda*

6. Updates on Local Issues raised at Previous Meetings (continued)

- **Underpass lights at Stairhaven junction (July 2020)** - Update received on 8th December from Calum Edgar, D&G Council Street Lighting Team Leader.

"I have obtained an update from Amey who are currently designing a whole new lighting system for the underpass on behalf of Transport Scotland. Once the Council approve the design Amey will be installing the new lights and we will then take over the future maintenance. Due to current lead times and supply shortages of the equipment involved, I estimate that it will be towards the end of February before the new lights are in place. Up until that point the lights remain under Amey for any potential maintenance. I trust the above answers your enquiry but if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch."

Jane to request an update.

Jane

- **Biodegradable dog waste bags and dispensers (March 2020)** - Derek to be asked to deliver dispensers to Fred for installation. Mike agreed to replenish dispensers once installed.
- **Vehicles causing obstruction on pavement on Main Street, Glenluce** - Discussed under Police Business (item 2).
- **Disabled Parking Bays (March and June 2021)**. Still not removed. Jane to follow up.
- **Crumbling Wall next to Back Burn** - Previously reported to CCES. Fred will contact Stuart McCreadie. Jane to contact CCES. Offer to reimburse for matters for repair work previously carried out by David Gracie agreed. Gordon will speak to David.

*Fred
Jane
Gordon*

Nothing further to report or raise at present.

7. Paths and Core Paths Maintenance

Identification of paths in the local area plus amount and frequency of maintenance required has still not been completed.

Mick advised that the Auchenmalg to Stairhaven path has recently been cleared (within last three weeks) with chainsaws plus strimmed by Findlay's to a width of approximately two metres.

It was agreed that Jane should write on behalf of OLCC to thank the Access Officer for work carried out on Stairhaven - Auchenmalg coastal path and check what ongoing maintenance will take place.

Jane

As previously agreed, the £7,000 saving on Foundation Scotland fee to be ring-fenced for maintenance of paths. Mike had spoken to the Development Trust about taking on the management of the contract for path maintenance, some of whom had expressed concerns about liability.

A letter from the Community Council to be sent asking the Trust to manage the maintenance contract along with a list of landowners with a legitimate interest. Paths suggested to be maintained include St Helena, Dunragit, Bents and Back Burn.

Jane

8. Planters

Half barrels to be emptied of soil and any still able to be used to be given to school. Marion will make enquiries about use of a trailer to uplift soil and take to Stranraer Academy for use in rural skills course garden.

Marion

A local resident had offered to sponsor a planter and Fred will speak to them.

Fred

9. Councillors Update

None present. Councillor Hagmann had supplied written report (attached).

10. Planning

Former Glenbay House Hotel - DGHP staff members had made two presentations in Glenluce Public Hall on 2nd February and been available to answer questions. The chairman had attended and although very few had attended the sessions they had been very informative. It was all to be social housing with two car park spaces per house. There was a potential issue of additional on street parking. Fred had discussed this with DGHP representatives.

Community Asset Transfer - Lorry Park - Mike advised that this was still being held up within Dumfries & Galloway Council's legal department. In addition, since the CAT had been agreed a Council Officer had re-drawn the boundary against the Area Committee's agreement and without community consultation. Dumfries & Galloway Council refuses to carry out soil testing to check for contaminated land. Councillor Hagmann has done her best to assist and move things on with the Council but has been rebuffed.

It was agreed that the Community Council would write to D&G Council's Chief Executive Derek Crichton and the MSP to raise concerns about the delay and the re-drawing of the boundary after agreement of CAT.

Jane

Camrie Forest Scoping Letter - previously circulated.

Airyhemming Forest - Ian advised that timber extraction will be via Home Farm road to Dunragit.

Former Judge's Keep - scaffolding - No update.

11. Correspondence

Feasibility Study for an on road cycle route from Portpatrick to Eyemouth for Ebike Visitors - Link to be circulated.

Jane

Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership Week is taking place from 14th to 18th February 2022.

Could You Be A Community Activator? Dumfries and Galloway Council is looking for enthusiastic, community-minded, caring people who would be willing to train to become Community Activators in rural communities.

PLANNING - Scottish Government update.

Regionwide Coastal Development Fund.

Historic Environment Scotland - national programme of high-level masonry inspection for Properties in their Care which includes Glenluce Abbey. Visitor access will be restricted as a precautionary measure for safety reasons.

12. A.O.C.B.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations combined with postponed VE Day Celebrations - It was agreed to investigate the possibility of holding a street party on Saturday 4th June 2022 for all Old Luce community residents.

The event would bring the community together, celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, officially recognise the opening of the Village Square as well as the postponed VE Day Celebrations.

Jane to investigate costs of closing road.

Jane

Planting trees - to be discussed.

Agenda

Beacons - Ean Stewart will organise.

Ean

12. A.O.C.B. (continued)

A budget of £12,500 was agreed and an application would be submitted. Any unspent monies would be returned.

A joint meeting between Old Luce Community Council, Old Luce Development trust, Church, school and any other local groups to discuss arrangements would be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 28th February 2022.

Fred will speak to the Minister.

Fred

A75 diversion route along A747 Port William to Glenluce - Ean raised the damage caused to surface by most recent diversion which is unsuitable for the volume of vehicles, including LGVs usually using the A75 and asked if AMEY repaired. It was believed that this was unlikely. To be raised with MSP.

Jane

Dog Waste Bin at Dunragit end of Railway Path - Joan enquired about the possibilities of a bin for dog waste at this location. Jane to contact Council.

Jane

The OLCC laptop, which was now 5 years old, was returned to the chairman due to being very slow to switch on and whilst connecting to internet. It was agreed not to spend any more money on attempting to repair.

13. Date of Next Meeting

7.45 pm on Monday 7th March 2022 in Glenluce Public Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Fred thanked everyone for their participation and assistance.

Future meetings: 4th April, 2nd May, 6th June, 4th July and 5th September 2022.

Budget - The Budget is to be published next week (15.02.22) ahead of full council on the 22.2.22

It was reported at Finance, Procurement & Transformation committee (<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=552&Mid=5397>) that the funding Gap/Savings required was £11.706m however after additional funds (£3.440m) from Scottish Government has been received we are now looking at the gap of £8.266m, still a significant level of saving required.

Chief Executive - As you may be aware Gavin Stevenson has retired from D&G council as the Chief executive and as such we have been advertising for the vacant post. Derek Crichton has been appointed interim CEO. The advert has now closed and members will begin the appointment process commencing with the short listing taking place 17th March

Wigtownshire Education Trust – 02.02.22

Annual Accounts approved and there was £3,336 within the fund available for applications. While this is a very small pot of funding, it is available to all within Wigtownshire -

<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16756/Wigtownshire-Educational-Trust>

Communities committee - 03.02.22

<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=148&Mid=5394>

Committee discussions included; Welfare Update including a “COVID-19 – Tenant Grant Fund” which is still open to anyone struggling

<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36233/Welfare%20and%20Benefits%20-%20Appendix%207.pdf>

- Update on the Regional Coastal Benefit Fund including addition “out of Sync funding” of £635,115.85 with the yearly allocation expected to be around £600,000 in June for distribution

- Development of a regional parking strategy

Upcoming Committee-

8th Feb – Audit Risk and Scrutiny

9th Feb – Review of Standing Orders, RRR committee

15th Feb – Economy & Resources

17th Feb – Employment & Appeals Committee (See note above re.CEO)

22nd Feb – Full council (Budget setting)

2nd March – Wigtown Area Committee

Upcoming dates for the diary

Wednesday 9th Feb – online community conversations regarding the regional Active Travel Strategy (please let me know if you’ve not been sent an invite)

Wednesday 23rd Feb – Whithorn - South Of Scotland Enterprise (Phase 2) engagement tour

Monday 9th March – Newton Stewart - South Of Scotland Enterprise (Phase 2) engagement tour

- <https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/events>

Please let me know if there is any casework you would like me to follow up with,

Best wishes, Katie