

## **Lochgelly Community Council**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

1. **Present:**, Brian Schulz (BS), George Kinnell (GK), Tam Durham (TD), David Hemseed (DH), Alan Gardiner (AG), Jon Magee and Stevie Murray (SM).

**Apologies:** Rab Miller, Jim Mann,

**Councillors Present:** Councillor Mark Hood (MH) and Councillor Erskine (LE)

2. Minutes of previous meeting  
Proposed as accurate DH, Seconded GK

3. Matters Arising

SM advised that whilst attempting to upgrade the site details he had inadvertently deleted it. However, it hadn't proven a useful communication tool as there were very few 'hits' on it. Agreed to look at setting up a facebook page instead.

Lochgelly Health Centre sub-group met and the 24<sup>th</sup> February has been set for the public meeting in St. Serf's Church.

- BS to arrange another group meeting
- Letters have been completed and will be issued
- Poster to be distributed to shops and public offices
- Newspaper article to be arranged

Common Good Fund – SM asked that a fuller written explanation of how the investment would operate be provided as we had been unable to get an officer to attend the meeting. MH to pursue.

Accessing the Public Park from Auchterderran Road – MH to raise this with transportation as it hadn't been actioned previously.

4. Post Office Services

SM advised that he had taken the opportunity to speak to people when he has been down the street seeking their opinions on the Service. The feedback is mixed although there were repeated concerns about the shortage of money and general amenities required (i.e. stamps). Cllr Hood advised that he had also had various complaints about the post office and would pass on the contact details to SM.

5. Financial Matters

The annual award had been received of £1244. This resulted in the current financial balance being:

- General Account = £1620
- Special Projects = £3541.39 (Jubilee Park)

GK advised that the CC need reduce the balance from 2015 so that we don't carry forward anymore than 20% of the previous years' grant.

Floral Grant for 2016 has been cut to £429. SM advised that he had spoken to Council Officers who had advised that this was due to budget pressures across the Council and each area was equally cut. General discussion took place about this and disappointment at the level of the reduction.

GK confirmed the 'Growing up in Lochgelly' environmental group had received £1500 which had to spent on the entrances and main streets through the town. However, they were not in a position to

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confirm where they would be looking to put planters. They couldn't though use the funds on existing areas. They had discussions with Council Officers and would be looking at

- Planters on the pavements to stop parking on double yellow lines
- Planters outside shops
- Getting land to grow and store cuttings

SM advised that it would have been better if there was clarity on what the project were planning as this would avoid duplication of efforts.

DH and MH expressed some concerns that planters being placed on pavements would cause a hazard to wheelchair users and those who use motorised scooters. GK advised that the Council Officer who they had been dealing with had approved their plan.

SM proposed that we increase the funds available to £700, this would require the LCC to input £271. Seconded by DH. Agreed

DH advised that the LCC should look at the tubs at the entrance of Moffat Crescent and the Fire Station, the Cross and Auchterderran Road. We need to confirm who is responsible for the planter at the Centre as it is sponsored.

## 6. Communications

Bill Welsh	Parent Kinship Day Music and Bike festival. 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2016, Dalgety Bay Sports Centre. Invitation and offer of 2 tickets for our disposal.
Fife Council	Weekly Planning Applications
Pauline Grandison	Coalfields Regeneration Trust meeting
Bill Welsh	Climate Challenge Fund. Advising of fund available to support climate challenge events
Bill Welsh	Digital CC workshop report
Lesley Craig	Traffic Regulation Proposals
Debbie Cassells	Renewal of Insurance Policy
Mary Bennet	Q&A relating to Statutory Consultee process

General discussion took place regarding the email from Lesley Craig regarding Traffic Regulations. The following was agreed:

- Confirm whether consultation has taken place with Housing tenants in the properties above the shops in Main Street,
- Confirm whether there has been any parking problems associated with this area,
- Confirm whether there has been an increase in company cars parked outside the business centre,
- Confirm whether there needs to be an assessment on the removal of the double yellow lines on Cartmore Road. This may have an impact on the safety of the School children.

Rab Millar, Community Councillor had submitted his resignation from the Council due to ill health. The Council commended Rab for his work on the council and agreed to write and acknowledge his contribution.

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## 7. Groups which CC attend

### a. Public Park Improvement group

SM advised that there had been good publicity recently regarding the Public Park. It had also apparently been one of the top priorities for the Lochgelly Going Forward consultation exercise. We had arranged a public meeting for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February as advised by Council Officers. The next group meeting has been arranged for Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

DH advised that it was important that group members who had wanted to participate in the group prioritised it. DH was concerned that the group may not continue if no-one attended the meetings. SM confirmed that when the Administration had committed the funds the group formed to oversee its spending was the 'Public Realms Work group'. This group was predominantly made up of Council Officers, however the Community Council had a position on it. He had argued successfully that the control of the money should be at a local level and that the Community Council would form a group to oversee the project. That group included interested parties from the town, if those members were unable to commit to the work of the group then we would look for new members, failing that the likelihood would be that the responsibility would revert to the Community Council.

The location of the signs had been confirmed and trees have been agreed for the North side of the Park. These will include varieties of Rowan (different colours of berries) and Hawthorn. There would also be wild flower beds spread along the area.

General discussion then took place about the Red Ash surface and the Council agreed that there needs to be development down to increase its visual impact and usability.

SM to circulate the audited accounts to the Community Council and relevant Officers.

- b. Mossmorran Safety Liaison Committee – Jim Mann has been confirmed as the rep for the group. BS explained that he will arrange to meet with the PR Officer from Mossmorran as he was concerned that a lot of damage has been done to the relationship by ex-representatives on the group.
- c. 4 Wind Development Trust – SM advised that the Member meeting had been attended by representative from the 4 different community councils. This had resulted in another two volunteering to become trustees. The Community Councillors in attendance all commended the work done by the Trustees to ensure that the funds were being distributed.

The accounts for the Trust were approved at this meeting and have been forwarded to OSCR.

BS had attended Auchtertool CC to talk about the work of the Trust and had been warmly received.

SM advised that we had arranged a meeting for next week with the Trustees and OSCR to talk about the role of the Trust and increasing participation. Johnny Kennedy from Kennedy Renewables was also going to attend.

GK asked about the Liaison group that used to take place with representatives from Little Raith. SM advised that the 4 winds trust are a separate body to Little Raith Wind Farm and were formed to distribute the community benefit funds. The Liaison forum was arranged by Kennedy Renewables and was open to various interested people, but is not the responsibility of the 4 Winds Trust. SM advised GK to contact Kennedy directly if they wanted a meeting, he would advise Johnny Kennedy next week about the request as well. GK advised that he wasn't looking for a meeting to be arranged.

### d. Living Lomond Hills Trust

Awaiting minutes to be distributed although he hadn't attended the meeting.

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## 8. Councillors Report

LE advised that she has been appointed as the Spokesperson for Health & Well-Being which covers integrated health and social care and joint board membership amongst other related matters. Cultural trust, community use schools and Asset review are also part of her remit. The Council have commenced a full review of Halls and Centres to assess whether the facility is financially viable or not.

The Council Budget setting has taken up the most of her work over the last few weeks. This was discussed at the previous meeting in depth, however LE reiterated that the level of cuts facing the Council are unprecedented and will have significant detrimental effects not only on staff numbers but also communities.

LE advised that the Executive Committee have been dealing with the added budget consequences of the equal pay settlements, also concerns about the lack of control over energy costs across the Council. Senior Councillors have met with all heads of service to look at the impact of the budget on service delivery. Including the spans of control across management levels.

LE advised that there has been a delay in the new care home starting due to asbestos being found in the locality. Also that residents from Den Court in Cardenden may need to be decanted to Wilson Bruce Court in Lochgelly.

The Area Committee have agreed to look at funding the lunch clubs for children across the wards. This has proven highly successful, however LE expressed disbelief that the Council are being forced to provide Gaelic education where there is no demand for it as well as ensuring that all literature is provided in Gaelic whilst young children are unable to get a proper meal provided for them during holiday periods.

LE advised that there is an event in Lochgelly Centre on the 20<sup>th</sup> February for the Jennie Lee project.

MH confirmed that there had been additional training provided to staff from the Library and Local Office. This will result in increased accessibility to services as more staff will be able to deal with complaints.

MH advised that he had been contacted by Hazel Cross regarding the Rochgelly project. They are looking to attend the next meeting to provide an update on the project and community council participation in the scheme. Agreed Hazel would attend the next Community Council.

MH advised that there had been a survey commissioned by the ward committee to look at the state of the war memorials across the area. This will result in works being carried out on Lochgelly's to bring it up to a safe standard.

The Cycling Development Officer had commenced in their post and is currently working with nursery children to increase cycling proficiency amongst that age group.

82% of children who had taken up the free swimming opportunities had continued following the initial exercise. Work is ongoing to find out why the other 18% dropped out and whether there was any financial barriers to their involvement.

## 9. AOCB

- a. Town Clock – No update provided. LE to contact Cllr Chisholm who had been looking into this subject
- b. Town House Bell – Indicative costs have been provided (similar to costs associated with Benarty). It is in storage just now and once funding is confirmed we can decide on its placement. JH asked about the whereabouts of the air raid siren that was on top of the Town House. LE to investigate further.

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- c. Flag Pole – BS advised that he had been in contact with the Council about a replacement flag pole and they were looking at the possibility of a free standing pole behind the war memorial.
- d. Tree replacement – GK complained that the trees hadn't been replaced at the Golf Course. MH advised that apparently they have up to three years to replace them according to the officer he been dealing with.
- e. Casual Vacancies – The Council need to agree to fill the vacancy created, agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. SM advised that Community Councillor James Arnott hadn't attended any of the recent six Community Council meetings. This would normally result in the Council agreeing that they had vacated the position. However, in the first instance he proposed that we write to him and to ascertain whether he wishes to continue in the role.
- f. Date of next meeting –
  - i. **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016, 6.00 in the 385 Social Club**

**Please note that representatives from Fife Council and Rockgelly will give a presentation at the start of the next meeting.**