

Lochgelly Community Council
Wednesday 13th September 2016

1. **Present:**, Brian Schulz (BS), Tam Durham (TD), David Hemseed (DH), Alan Gardiner (AG), Jimmy Mann (JM), Raymond Wilson (RW), George Kinnell (GK), Carol Mackie (CM) and Jon Magee (JMa)

Apologies: Jim Haddow and Billy Baxter.

Councillors Present: Councillor Mark Hood & Councillor Linda Erskine

Presentation –

Police Scotland

PC Gavin Keith and PC Britney Primeau attended and provided an update on local activities. From August 2016 there have been 20 reported incidents, 12 of which have been detected so far. There is an increase in the level of vandalism surrounding Lochgelly Centre which they have been tackling. They have also been conducting school visits to engage young people with the work which they are carrying out.

Questions/ issues raised by Community Councillors

Parking problems throughout the town and speeding along Auchterderran road – PC Primeau advised that parking was a local authority issue and should be raised with them. However, they would liaise with the traffic police regarding the speeding problems and would raise the problem of parking with them as well.

Confirmation sought that CCTV cameras weren't operating in the town. PC Primeau confirmed that they are operating.

Fife Council

SM advised that Hazel Cross hoped to attend this evening however due to other commitments she had been unable to. She had provided an update for the Community Council on the main areas of work across the town centre.

Rockgelly – work commencing on the building and they plan to be completed by spring summer next year. There will be a lot of work needed on the extension which the contractors would be hoping to resolve.

Fab-Tek Buildings – Following previous complaints from the community council, work has continued on options for development of the area. The remedial work for the area is significant, however they would be approaching the Scottish Government about specific funding to assist with this work.

Town House/ High Street – work is almost completed on the new builds and the town house development and have significantly improved the area.

Ore Valley Housing – the new building in the old stables area is progressing well and is on target for completion.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

Proposed as accurate - DH, Seconded JM

3. **Matters Arising**



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a. Floral Grant 2016 –SM asked GK for clarification regarding the ability of the Community Council to pass on the floral grants to external groups should they wish. At the previous meeting GK had suggested that this wasn't permissible. SM advised that he was unaware of such restrictions. GK advised that he had spoken with the Growing in Lochgelly group about the donation from the Community Council, however they had responded that they didn't want the money due to some personality problems with the Community Council. The money would in turn go to Fife Council who had provided floral decorations across the town.

4. Financial Matters

GK advised

- General Account = £2,583.83
- Special Projects = £3541.39 (Jubilee Park)

SM advised that the special project fund had been allocated to development of the Jubilee Park a number of years ago and the residents from New Farm Vale and Grace Street are currently developing plans for the area.

5. Communications



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Sender	Substance	Action needed
Fife Council	Weekly Planning Applications	Circulated as necessary, particularly when there are any plans submitted which may require statutory consultation or are of specific interest to Lochgelly
Drew Murray (St.Patricks PS)	Response to request for Primary School participation in planting when the new Sensory Garden is ready.	Passed to Public Park Group
Lorraine Low (Improvement Services)	Information relating to Community Choices Fund	Circulated to Community Councillors
William Shand (Fife Council)	Confirmation of Planning Committee meeting regarding proposed golf course acknowledging the Community Councils response.	No additional input requested.
Kevin Sayer (Fife Council)	Information regarding promotion of 'OOR BIT' funding stream	Jimmy Mann to provide an update
Peter Duncan	Response to complaint about cars/ vans attempting to continue accessing plots on public footpath. PD to communicate with plot holders	Passed onto Public Park Group
Zurich Insurance	Confirmation of Community Council renewal to cover period up to 31 st March 2017	Forwarded onto George Kinnell
Beth Flynn (Fife Council)	Update to Bus Service Changes	Circulated to Community Councillors
Ben Ellis (Fife Council)	Fife Development Plan	Circulated to Community Councillors
Margaret King (Fife Council)	Launch event of the Community Action Plan	Circulated to Community Councillors
Lesley Craig (Fife Council)	Confirmation of Area Committee decision regarding parking restriction proposals and notification of objection period.	Circulated to Community Councillors
Lorraine Low (Improvement Services)	Information regarding launch of Independent Living Equipment campaign	Noted
Gordon Robertson (Edinburgh Airport)	Information relating to Airspace Change consultation and promotion of interactive website.	Added to website.
Ian Mate (Edinburgh Airport Watch)	Information relating to motion being presented to the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Green Party to suspend current consultation on changes to air space.	Circulated to Community Councillors



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Willie McCool (Fife Council)	Confirmation of Lochgelly Community Council website provided through Digital Fife. Domain name www.Lochgellycc.org.uk	Added to facebook page
Gail Watson (Fife Council)	Invite to Fife Access forum annual seminar on Tuesday 27 th September 9-1pm, Christ's Kirk Church, Pitcoudie, Glenrothes	Seek nomination from Council members
FOI team (Fife Council)	FOI request wanting copies of information sent and received between Fife Council Officers and Stevie Murray (Secretary) and Brian Schulz (Chair) using their works email addresses relating to community council business.	No information held, response provided.
Cllr Mark Hood	Response to request relating to cost and volume of FOI requests.	Community Council need to consider the continual volume of FOI requests made about Lochgelly Community Council, its sub-groups and Community Councillor activities. Specifically section 14 of the FOI and FOISA guidance relating to the purpose of the complaints.
Mary Bennett (Fife Council)	Invitation to Community Councils regarding the review of the Scottish Planning System. Monday 26 th September 2016 4-8pm Fife House	Seek nomination from Council members
Scottish Government	Consultation on Child Poverty Bill being carried out by Scottish Government between 8 th August to 30 th September https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/social-justice/consultation-on-a-child-poverty-bill-for-scotland	Circulated to Community Councillors Added to website and facebook pages
FOI team (Fife Council)	Another FOI request seeking information relating to various issues surrounding the Public Park Improvement group.	Confirmed information available on Lochgelly Community Council website.
Lorraine Low (Fife Council)	Confirmation that Rona Laing has been appointed as the chair of Fife's Health and Social Care Partnership board	For information
Pat Greenhough	Information about public event regarding security within your home	Circulated to Community Councillors



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Laura Campbell	Information regarding Lochgelly Musical Fundraising event 2 nd & 3 rd September	Circulated to Community Councillors and added to facebook and website.
Alison Bradley	Requesting opportunity to discuss concerns relating to the safety of horse riders in the area.	Advised that there is an opportunity for members of the public to raise matter at the meeting.
Zurich Insurance	Information relating to policy schedule.	Passed to George Kinnell

BS asked if there were any questions relating to the communications received.

DH advised that there was no direct bus route from Lochgelly to Kirkcaldy Crem. The number 33 had been redirected. Councillor Erskine agreed to investigate this further

BS highlighted that he received requests about his employment email address, which he doesn't use and hasn't given out as a point of contact. It was evident that someone else had passed that address out which was completely wrong.

TD highlighted that the number of repeat FOI requests about the same subject or from the same sources were simply wasting people's time and abusing the legislation. They have been about accessing minutes, which were publicly available.

SM agreed and added that it is important that information is available about public bodies. The costs associated with the FOI request since 2012 had been provided by Councillor Hood and amounted to £18,000, which was dealing with requests from the one group. This money could've been better used elsewhere to support the community, e.g. funding for providing hot meals to school children during the holiday periods.

Community Council's are not covered by the legislation, however we have responded previously to assist where possible. SM proposed that we write to Fife Council advising that we believe that these continual requests are covered by section 14 of the FOISA. Additionally, we wouldn't respond to any future requests under that legislation. Seconded by CM. Agreed

6. Groups which CC attend

a. **Health Centre**

SM advised that the group had been invited to meet with the NHS staff and he had circulated a report following on from the meeting. From the discussions it had been clear that there was no specific funding earmarked for Lochgelly, there was agreement that the facility is antiquated and that by building a new health centre we could look at more joined up health care.

SM to reissue the report and prepare a press article accordingly.

BS to arrange a meeting of the group.



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b. Public Park Improvement group

SM advised that the next meeting of the group was scheduled for Monday 19th. The work had commenced on the Red Ash surface, which according to Council Officers should allow sufficient time for the grass to take in time for the gala in 2017.

The Sensory Garden work had been delayed as a result of the Council's procurement processes, however they would be completed by spring 2017 as intended. The skate park development was still being planned, the area suggested for the skate park is the ground between the MUGA court and the old dog walking area. The hanging baskets were put in place and although there had been problems with the wild flower beds on the north facing slope, the ones next to the Melville street had bloomed well. The ash bushes were also taking well next to the derelict land on the north slope and would eventually create a good barrier. The lower level tennis court would be grassed over and eventually transformed into an older children's play area. This would offer another enhancement to the area.

AG asked about broken branches on the avenue being removed and that some trees had been damaged in the wooded area next to the park and industrial estate. SM to liaise with the Council about this.

c. Mossmorran Safety Liaison Committee

JM advised that they had received notification about the planned close down which would result in flaring over a number of days. JM had highlighted concerns about the health impact that this flaring has on the surrounding communities and had sought assurances from the company. They had responded that there was no added health problems which could be directly attributed to the plant.

The last meeting of the safety committee had discussed how Mossmorran had wanted to support local groups with funding. Pantomime tickets would be issued this year as well.

d. 4 Wind Development Trust

SM reported that the next meeting of the Trust was scheduled for 26th September. The accounts for 2015/16 had been audited and submitted to OSCR in the format they required. For information the Trust spent £6000 more on grants than they had received from the wind farm over the previous 12 months. Once the accounts have been passed by OSCR they can be circulated to community councils.

DH asked about the recent press articles about the Trust, which had criticised its administration. SM responded that the Trust had responded to complaints from OSCR earlier this year and had reported their findings in the press and at the community council meeting. It was surprising that an article had appeared some months later but nevertheless the Trust had responded again. More surprising was that one of the points in the article was about the Trust acting without the correct number of Trustees (4 instead of 5) and were therefore acting unconstitutionally. Despite this being of significant concern to the author of the article, their own group had requested and had been granted financial support which they accepted.



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SM added that the Trust had accepted that there were areas needing improved and had taken steps to address them, namely Minutes from meetings are fuller than they had been, a members meeting had been held, new trustees had been appointed from the Community Councils and the template format had been completed.

e. Living Lomond Hills Trust -No meeting

7. Councillors Report

Lochgelly Going Forward – Launch, the launch was well attended and the groups involved are well ahead with their individual works programmes. Some of the already finished projects, Public Park improvements, MUGA Court complete. Growing in Lochgelly awarded Bronze in the Beautiful Fife Awards. There is to be a review of school breakfast clubs in the area and how to best use the money agreed in the budget for 2016/17.

Report on school holiday play scheme 2016 - At Cardenden Play Scheme there were 19 children attended 11 of whom attend Cardenden Primary and 8 who attend St Ninian's Primary School. Children were offered breakfast on arrival, with play and learning activities taking place till lunch time when children were given healthy lunches. The cost of the scheme over the 6 weeks of the holidays was just under £6K. A full report on all the schemes in the Cowdenbeath area will be considered at the next Cowdenbeath Area Committee. The evaluation will allow us to ensure the effectiveness of the schemes, hopefully a roll out across the Ward.

Local Assets - Ongoing work on the asset management papers a report will be considered at the next Area meeting. Meeting took place with all management committee last week to look at agreements, constitutions. Mark Hood, Linda Erskine and Kevin Sayer met with officers of FCT to look at operating model. Still waiting feedback.

Bowhill Swimming Pool – Update on the outstanding works. Confirmation of 2nd tender price was more expensive than the first. FSLT are awaiting an instruction to proceed with the installation of the Steam Room and Sauna as proposed, following confirmation that the additional funding required was in place. - To follow up again

Seeking an audit of play parks and equipment in the ward. Limited replacement budget.

Appointments Sub Committee 2 primary - Head teachers.

Discussions were ongoing about the future use of the Town Hall with the Fife's Cultural Trust.

Questions

DH asked about the drains in Auchterderran road and the Lizzie Brae which have been needing cleared. SM to contact Transportation.

RW asked about the Town Hall and whether the opportunity for Community Ownership would be something that the Council would consider. MH said that all options should be explored and that the Council should look at supporting organisations wishing to explore this route. SM asked that whatever option was to be explored then there needs to full and proper business cases presented which safeguard the future of the building. If Community Ownership is an option being considered then we have to learn from previous lessons.

8. AOCB

- a.** BS advised that there were no questions from the members of the public?



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- b. SM advised that we should seek nominations for Citizen and Young Citizen of the year awards and proposed the following process –
- i. Nominations from either individuals or groups (for the Young Citizen the age restriction is up to 16)
 - ii. Nominations should be in writing to the Secretary of the Community Council by Friday 28th October 2016
 - iii. The nominations should explain why they are being nominated
 - iv. The Secretary will contact the Nominees and confirm they wish to be considered.
 - v. Nominations will be considered by the Community Council at their November meeting.
 - vi. Presentations will be made prior to the AGM in December.
- c. JM raised concerns about the possible increase in fly tipping if the proposals to change commercial access to civic amenity sites went ahead. Councillor Hood advised that the plans had been delayed as the elected members hadn't been consulted on the proposals. This would need to be investigated further.
- d. GK asked that the Community Council consider supporting the development of a Community Garden on land adjacent to the Brucefield Plots. DH raised some concerns about the location and previous experience when school children had looked to develop plots. SM suggested that this was a reasonable proposal although there were problems with the location (e.g. Parking, lighting, allegedly discarded drug paraphernalia) we should though get more detail about the proposals and invite the group to attend the October meeting
- e. Date of next meeting – **Wednesday 11th October 2016, 6.00 in the 385 Social Club**



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