

Lochgelly Community Council

Wednesday 9th December 2015

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies: Rab Miller, John King & Jim Haddow

Present: Brian Schulz (BS), George Kinnell (GK), Tam Durham (TD), Jon Magee (JoM) David Hemseed (DH), Alan Gardiner (AG), Jim Mann (JM), Carol Mackie (CM), Jean McDonald (JMc) and Stevie Murray (SM).

Councillors Present: Councillors Linda Erskine (LE) and Mark Hood (MH)

AGM Business

2. Election of Officers

- a. Chairperson – Brian Schulz – Nominated by Stevie Murray, Seconded – David Hemseed
- b. Vice-Chairperson – Nominated by David Hemseed, Seconded – Stevie Murray
- c. Secretary – Stevie Murray – Jon Magee Nominated by Brian Schulz, Seconded – David Hemseed
- d. Treasurer – George Kinnell – Nominated by Stevie Murray, Seconded – Alan Gardiner

3. Accounts 2015

- a. GK explained that the previous Officers had arranged for the accounts to be audited in April to coincide with the financial year. These had then been presented to the Council along with projected expenditure for the year. SM advised that he had no recollection on this being discussed at the CC and asked that clarity to be sought to confirm whether it is acceptable that accounts are not audited for the AGM.
- b. GK advised that once all expenditure has been accounted for, by the end of the financial year the accounts, the General Fund will sit at £397 and Special Projects = £3541.39 (Jubilee Park)
 - i. JMcD asked when the annual funding is and what is the amount? GK advised that it is due in December and will be for £1234. We can only retain 20% of previous funding in our accounts by the end of the financial year.
 - ii. DH asked whether we can increase the special project funds, however we cannot transfer money between accounts in this way.
 - iii. SM proposed that we increase the amount allocated for floral grants as there had been disappointment expressed in the poor floral display this year. Seconded by DH. Agreed that the LCC would make up the Floral grant from £580 to £700. This would reduce bank balance accordingly.
 - iv. Agreed that the accounts should be audited for the AGM's in the future.
- c. Election to external groups
 - i. Public Park Improvement Group – Stevie Murray, David Hemseed, Tam Durham, Rab Millar and Jean McDonald
 - ii. Mossmorran Safety Liaison committee – Jimmy Mann. Brian to confirm whether John King can be a substitute for the group.
 - iii. 4 Winds Trustees – Brian Schulz and Stevie Murray
 - iv. Lomond Hills – George Kinnell.
- d. Standing Orders – SM circulated proposed amendments to the current standing orders and explained that these will bring the Council into line with the standards expected. Seconded by Jimmy Mann
- e. Conflict of Interests – SM had circulated proposed clarification of Councillor roles and responsibilities. Seconded – JMcD

AGM Closed

4. Minutes of previous meeting
Proposed as accurate CM, Seconded DH

5. Matters Arising

Page 1 – DH asked about the Lizzie Brae. LE confirmed that the work had been completed.

JMcD asked about ticket distribution for the pantomime as there were only two tickets for Wilson Bruce Court residents, which is completely unacceptable. BS confirmed that he had distributed the tickets to various groups in the town and that the LCDF had agreed to pass on to the tickets to Wilson Bruce residents. It is extremely disappointing that they hadn't done this. JMcD also advised that the Community Shop were advertising that the tickets were available only for over 70's which is a change.

AG proposed that in future the CC take full responsibility for distributing the tickets and that a proper list is drawn up as this is clearly the only transparent way for this to happen.

Communication – SM advised that we had eventually been provided with details for the Lochgelly Community Council website. We need to discuss whether it is worthwhile retaining this as the amount of time that is needed to maintain it doesn't appear to be worth the effort considering that there were only approximately 300 visits in 7 months. Agreed to look at alternative options (e.g. Facebook) or for someone to take on administering the site.

AG advised that the LCDF used to have open meetings regularly when they were the regeneration forum although he was unaware of any other dates for public meetings or annual meetings. TD advised that he will try and get the date for the annual meeting.

6. Financial Matters

Dealt with earlier.

GK advised that the financial report produced earlier in the year showed what they were expected to spend. However, we need to look at the accounts being audited for the AGM.

The current financial balance is:

- General Account = £1,342.39 subject to expected expenditure
- Special Projects = £3541.39 (Jubilee Park)

7. Communications

- Letter from 4 Winds Development Trust inviting Community Councillors to General Meeting on 2nd February 2016. SM explained that the Trust are required to hold a general meeting every 15 months. The date set is to allow Community Councillors to attend. DH asked whether it is open to the public or not, SM advised that under the 4 winds constitution which was agreed at all Community Councils and endorsed by OSCR 'Members' are defined as Community Councillors. Therefore only members are invited to attend.

8. External Groups which CC attend

a. Public Park Improvement group

SM advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 11th January 2016 followed by General Meeting to be arranged for 25th January. SM explained that in JMcD absence, another member of the group had agreed to look at the bank accounts. Additionally the Community Worker for the area, Margaret King had advised that she would arrange for the accounts to be verified. Despite numerous contact with both parties no responses have been forthcoming.

SM advised that the constitution had been updated and would be circulated to Community Councillors prior to the general meeting. The main change was to look at wider environmental issues across the town. SM reiterated that the focus of the group must be the Public Park.

SM sought opinion from the Councillors on the location of the signage planned for the Park. This would then be discussed with the group. Agreed that the best locations for the larger signs would be at the Hall Street, entrance (North) and between the Pavilion and the lower level Tennis Court (South). Additionally, the group should consider an additional sign at the Avenue entrance

b. Mossmorran Safety Liaison Committee – No representatives

c. 4 Wind Development Trust – SM advised that the members meeting had been arranged. He sought confirmation from the Community Council whether they had requested an ex-Officer to contact Cowdenbeath Community Council about an award made by the Trust. This was in relation to a joint project between Lochgelly HS and Recycle Fife. It appeared that the ex-Officer had an issue with one of the company's directors.

Community Councillors expressed their disappointment that this had occurred and that so far as they were concerned the Trust have their own procedures to go through assessing the award. There had been no discussion with the Community Council about this or any other award.

SM advised that the Trust are hoping that the vacancies which arose due to a range of circumstances can be filled by the other Community Councils. He hoped that recognition be afforded to all people who undertake voluntary activities such as the 4 winds trust and other groups who don't seek any publicity for their input.

d. Lomond Hills Trust

No update

9. *Councillors Report*

Councillor Erskine advised the most recent subject of debate was the closure of Libraries across Fife. LE explained that the review had been ongoing for a number of years and the Cultural Trust board had proposed the closures as outlined in the press coverage. The Executive Committee had considered fully the options and took on board a number of points made by the Cultural Trust Board including the drop in footfall, standard of facilities and overall costs of running the facilities. Ultimately they had agreed to the proposals, however they had committed to working with local groups to consider alternative provisions. This could include Community Ownership, mobile Library coverage.

CE advised that as a consequence of the Scottish Government budget it is likely that a further reduction will be made to Council budgets. In Fife, it is expected a further budget reduction of between £19 - £25 Million, this will have a direct impact on front line services provided by the Council. It is likely to require a need for staffing reductions to meet the level of cuts necessary to meet this budget.

Tots to Teens Togs, LE explained that she had been heavily involved supporting this charitable cause. The Administration will be considering the Fairer Fife Action Plan which will hopefully allow greater targeted support.

Councillor Hood advised that there had been a discussion at the recent Area Committee meeting regarding Common Good Funds. Officers are seeking approval to invest these funds in order to maximise their potential investment in the localities. This has been adopted in other areas of Fife. MH explained that he and LE had responded that they need to discuss the options with the local Community Councils. JMcD proposed that we get more information for the following meeting. Seconded by SM.

MH advised that Cycle Circuit commenced this week and it has been greatly acknowledged across Scotland as a means to tackling health and well-being issues.

MH advised that he had written to the Health Secretary regarding the facilities in the Town. He hoped that the Community Council would help raise a public campaign to improve the facilities. Agreed that

TD, JMCD, CM, JM and BS would form a sub-group to look at this. SM would assist as necessary with press articles etc.

Rockgelly, which is the refurbishment of the old St. Andrews church is on target to start early in 2016. The MUGA court in the Public Park would commence in January.

MH advised that he had contacted the local MSP regarding the impact that the Forth Road Bridge closure was having local people. MH highlighted that the problems had been predicted almost 5 years ago and no action had been taken. Although this is being addressed through the Scottish Parliament, MH advised that the Council's Administration are looking at Fife's infrastructure, including electronic, to see whether a hub could be built locally to allow people to avoid travelling and to deal with this type of situation.

10.AOCB

DH asked whether refugees were going to be moved into the old Town House? LE advised that two locations had been identified across Fife, however Lochgelly wasn't one of those areas.

a. Date of next meeting –

- i. **Wednesday 13th January 2016, 6.00 in the 385 Social Club**