

WATERSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2019

PRESENT: (Vice-Chair) S. Wilson, (Secretary) J. Whyte, (Communications) C. Lilly,
(Treasurer) K. Chesney-Bathie.
Cllrs. S. Murray, S MacDonald.

PC J. Fitzsimmons.

Guests: G. Easton (Owner of Wester Gartshore Pit Bing.)

P. Profili.

In Attendance: C. Willson, D. McFadden.

Apologies: J. Herriot, E. Carlin.

- 1) Meeting commenced at 7.40pm. This meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Scott Wilson in the absence of Chair Janice Herriot. The meeting was held in the Waterside Miners Lounge.
- 2) POLICE REPORT AS FOLLOWS.
During the period between 10 November and 10 December there have been seven incidents in the Waterside area, nuisance and neighbour disputes, vandalism to the Miners annexe. Incident occurred on the corner of Bankhead Road involving a vehicle hitting lamp standard on 7 December. Police were in pursuit; driver was later arrested.
- 3) FESTIVE SEASON.
Warning about not leaving keys in the ignition (unattended) while defrosting windscreens: police encountered three cases of this in Cairnview. Thirteen cars stolen in the Woodilee area. The police are taking various preventive measures over the winter/Christmas period. There were four collisions on the Waterside Road between the High School and Twechar. No injury was sustained. There were several reports about two speeding cars in the Village. Altercation between driver of one of them and cyclist in front of cyclist's young son.
- 4) ASN PROPOSAL.
Workshop had taken place on 5 December with Barton Willmore on design and planning aspects of the ASN school. Next one taking place on 9 January on the subject of traffic and transport. There will be a Traffic survey report then.
- 5) Workshop on green space usage had taken place with EDC on 4 December. Janice Whyte, Cordy Lilly, and Jim and Debbie Carmichael had attended.
- 6) Local development plan (LDP) and main issues report (MIR) consultation feedback had been due in by 5pm on 10 December. WCC had submitted feedback.
- 7) CHRISTMAS MARKET
This was held on Saturday 30 November in Miners Lounge/Darts room. There were lots of stalls selling a variety of items all looking very attractive. Edward Z Smith kindly took photos and also acted as Santa. Teas & coffees and soft drinks were served in darts room by Janice Whyte, assisted by Cordy Lilly, when CL was not taking photos. Archie's had a stall selling steak pies, tarts etc.; they were very popular. Thanks to the Waterside Village team for putting on the market and to all those who assisted; very much appreciated by all.
- 8) AGM.
No date has been set for this at this stage. Tenants and Residents Association have to have our books so they can know how much grant we are entitled to if any.
- 9) DEFIBRILLATOR GRANT.
A grant of £200 had been awarded to WCC by EDC Community Grants Scheme to help with the cost of the £400 casing, Cordy Lilly having applied for it a few weeks before.
- 10) DOG FOULING.
This is still an ongoing problem throughout the Village and School Path. Dog warden to be informed of the problem. The dog bin has not yet been moved from the grass area on Moss Road to the railings. Scott Wilson following up.

11) FENCE AT MOSS GOAT BURN.

Despite the danger to the school children and other walkers the Council had not been intending to replace this in the foreseeable future. However, councillors agreed WCC should raise issue of Gartconner children walking unaccompanied past it to get to school (and send photos of danger spot, copying email to S Murray and S MacDonald).

12) DMcF commented that Waterside Village Events had done well in 2019, and everyone agreed.

13) CHRISTMAS TREE.

There had been a few grumbles regarding the condition of the tree; however, it has grown considerably since last year and is now in its growing period so should improve its appearance given time. It was agreed it would be wise to remove the Christmas lights after New Year, unlike in previous years to avoid stunting limb growth. If it is listing, CL will contact Jackie Gillespie in new year to see if anything can be done

14) LUGGIEWATCH CALENDARS.

These are still available (£6 each or £10 for two), though Karen has sold some 90.

15) WESTER GARTSHORE PIT BING.

P. Profilli and the owner, Geraldine Easton, wanted to explore the options. GE had mentioned some concerns last year. She said she wanted to alleviate safety problems (subsidence and bikes, drinking). She also said the spoil was a resource (aggregates can be used for roads, embankments) so companies would be interested in removing it. She thought there could be an opportunity to improve the environment while removing aggregate. She believed some of it could be developed as part of a bigger industrial estate; the rest could be improved and linked into path network. Looking for support of WCC. Obviously she would need to look at how to transport it. S MacDonald said Pit Road would need to be brought up to standard (currently unadopted road) as part of any business plan. K. Chesney-Bathie said lots of people use the bing for walking and climbing. Great views, which we wouldn't want to lose. GE mentioned antisocial behaviour (bikers, who pull down gates to get in). She said she wanted to keep it safe. Kids using kilns, starting fires, drinking. It was mentioned that it would be nice to keep some of the bing heritage (last coal bing in ED) and to have better core paths going up there. Bridge needs reinstating. At the moment MIR suggests leaving the bing alone. History of attempts to remove aggregate unofficially, and council had had to put a stop to it. She mentioned it would be a year and a half till comments went to the government. It was pointed out there would be a very big concern about removing aggregate through the village because of damage to roads and cottages, etc. Not to mention dust. Different exit routes discussed. [NB A similar project was considered some 30 years ago, but no means had been found to remove the spoil.]

GE said they would bring ideas for next WCC meeting and go from there. She said she would like to get something positive into the proposed local development plan, the council's considered opinion, which would go to community consultation. S. MacDonald suggested she talk to EDC's Thomas Glen (deputy chief executive) and Alan Bauer (head of infrastructure).

16) The meeting closed at 9.05pm (following consumption of Janice Whyte's mince pies), with Scott Wilson thanking everyone for their attendance.

17) Date of January meeting to be advised.