

WATERSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of 11 December 2018

Present: J. Herriot (Chair); E. Carlin (Int. Tenant); K Chesney-Bathie (Treasurer); C. Lilly (Web Coord.)

Also in Attendance: D. Carmichael; J. Carmichael; G. Easton; E. Easton; Cllr. J. Jamieson;

J. Kennedy; Cllr. S. MacDonald; E. Mathieson; D. McFadden; Cllr. S. Murray; J. Quigley; D. Scott;

E. Wilkinson; C. Willson; T. Willson; S. Wilson

Apologies: B. Lapping; J. Whyte; PC Stewart Kerrigan

1. Chair welcomed everyone, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.
2. GE said she now owned the bing (23 acres), having bought it from her parents. She had no plans for it but wanted to hear local thoughts. There had been interest in buying it; a previous owner had proposed making it a golf course but hadn't obtained access rights. GE had safety concerns about motorcyclists using it and had complained to the police. Any gates put up were torn down. There was agreement that the motorcyclists were a nuisance (revving up in Waterside, tearing up trail), but the problem would go elsewhere if they were stopped. Discussion ensued about the value of bing material for aggregate; the risk of the bing starting to burn; its environmental value; and its Local Nature Conservation Site status. No contamination issues had been found. DMcF explained the Trails and Tales project. He suggested GE seek advice from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT).
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were read, questions asked about progress and updates given.
4. JC reported that the shipping container shared between Luggiewatch, WCC and Waterside Village Events has now been cleaned.
5. EW said that the builders' debris (from council roughcasting) left at the Taig Rd circle had been cleared. [SW has since reported that pieces of metal still need to be removed and grass replaced.]
6. A first draft of the Coalfields Community Futures action plan had been produced. Photos still to be chosen. **[Action: steering group to edit, write preface, choose photos and present draft at February meeting prior to March launch.]**
7. A problem hedge on Cairnview was still obstructing vision for vehicles exiting Cairnview on to Back o'Dykes. **[Action: councillors to follow up.]**
8. It was reported that parking on Bankhead Rd was too near the bend by the cottages, obstructing the view for cars coming into the village and causing a hazard. SM has raised the possibility with the council of converting the garden at the rear and side of the tenement on Bankhead Rd into parking to ease the parking situation in Waterside.
9. JH had met Stephen Macintyre of Hillhead Housing Association to discuss money that might come to Waterside and the Miners Club from CALA Homes. (CALA can't build housing close to rear of Miners Club unless the Miners Club has been soundproofed.) No news as yet. **[Action: JC could ask CALA for news.]**
10. It was noted that a new boiler had now been installed in the Miners Club hall and that the radiators were working. This followed action by Nicky Wilson of the NUM in obtaining a grant.
11. EC proposed that the minutes be approved, and CL seconded.
12. KC-B (treasurer) had to leave early.
13. The treasurer being absent, there was no full treasurer's report; however the chair reported that all CRT monies due to WCC had been received and some already paid out to projects.

14. Chair said huge thanks were due to the events group for all their hard work with the Christmas Market, light switch-on, and the forthcoming pantomime and Christmas party. She expressed the hope that the pantomime and party would be very successful.
15. Chair also thanked Brian Sewell for getting us the shipping container; Jim Carmichael for all his work on the call-in submission; Cordy Lilly for lots of work relating to the ASN school.
16. It was confirmed that the plans for the proposed Trails and Tales sculpture were now on the WCC website and comments were being sought. The proposal would be discussed at the January meeting. DS expressed dislike for the design and said the connection with the Spider Bridge was unclear; he thought it would spoil the flower bed if put there and he would prefer it to be erected elsewhere. He asked whether there was proof that a steel girder found in the Bothlin Burn and included in the design had come from the Spider Bridge. EW said it was documented that much of the bridge had gone into the burn. She suggested it was not enough to put information about the plans on the website, since not everyone had access to it. **[Action: DS and others to send in their comments. Everyone to tell friends and neighbours about the proposal and to ask for opinions.]**
17. EW said there was too much reliance on the website and FB for communications, that many did not know enough about the ASN school proposal, that WCC did not represent the community, and was, in her opinion, a clique that only represented itself. EM said that the lack of introductions in the days before JH was chair had been intimidating. JH pointed out that meetings were open, people were free to attend and that introductions did now take place. WCC members did not have time to leaflet houses individually except in exceptional cases such as the ASN school, when mass leafleting happened twice. EW asked how individuals became WCC members, and JH explained that community councils were statutory bodies, that WCC had seven positions, and that those wishing to volunteer their time in this way put their names forward to the council at 5-yearly intervals coinciding with the EDC elections. If more than seven applied, there would be a public ballot. SMacD explained that there was a general problem getting enough people to take up community council seats; he said WCC was a very active community council that punched above its weight. Two hundred people had come to public meetings about the school. It was always the case that large numbers only attended when there was a problem. EW said that she had visited 196 residences in the lead-up to the ASN school consultation meeting and that as 200 attended and she recognized them all, WCC members should do the maths. It was pointed out that WCC had leafleted the whole village as well as parts of Rosebank. SMacD suggested that the way EW saw things mightn't be the case. DC said she didn't see how we could work harder. Posters had also been put up. JH also stated that the CC volunteers work in partnership with the community and with every partnership everyone needs to play their part to ensure that we work effectively and efficiently as possible. It is not only responsibility of the CC volunteers, but everyone who attends the meetings, to cascade/relate any information that comes out of them to their neighbours, family and other community residents.
18. EW said JH had said there would be a meeting about what community councils were last February, but there had only been a handout that didn't answer her questions. JH responded that this was an official Scottish Government document and if she had any further questions then she would be happy to answer them. However whilst recognising this was the intention, JH explained that due to the proposal of the ASN School this took precedence of the topic of what a community council is and it is essential that we prioritise our issues.

19. EW reminded JH that she had asked her and CL for details of the strategy group [on 15 November after the council meeting] but was still awaiting an answer. JH said that she, CL and JC had been very busy with the government submission; people with the relevant skills would be asked to form the next strategy group dealing with planning, which she thought JQ might well end up leading. [CL subsequently obtained permission from those involved in the strategy meetings to forward their names to EW, and did so.]
20. SMcD said WCC was leading the way when it came to community councils. Lots had been achieved with regard to the CRT and the ASN school. Kirkintilloch Community Council was much less active than WCC. It was suggested that if people were told that WCC was a clique it would not be surprising if they did not attend meetings. EC pointed out that attendance at WCC meetings had grown a lot. DC said she wanted to reassure EW about interaction with the community. She, JC and CL had knocked at every door over the CRT survey. EW said Waterside people were still asking what was happening with the field. JH said WCC was a statutory body working in partnership with local people; WCC did its best to put information out through the only medium we had; everyone had the opportunity to speak at community council meetings. DC said feedback to the CRT survey suggested a newsletter would be popular. However there were practicalities over costs and the mechanism for delivery. Another issue would be that it would quickly be out of date. It was suggested there might be a possibility of piggybacking on the Tenants and Residents Newsletter. DMcF said he thought all information put out was excellent. JH said that from her experience of other community councils she thought WCC was doing exceptionally well and that we should remember all the things we had done since news of the ASN school proposal in March. Some things had had to go on the back burner: environmental checks, for instance.
21. CL said that she had originally promised to make WCC's submission to the government public but hadn't done so following concerns this would give EDC useful advance information. SMacD said as the matter was now in the hands of the government, this wouldn't matter. CL reported that feedback from Stuart Mulgrew on the submission had been very positive: one of the best he'd seen, and well done to those responsible. **[Action: CL to put submission on website – DONE]**
22. It was stated that minutes of WCC meetings went to the council and to the library, so interested parties should be able to find out what was happening from these. DS said he had tried asking at the library, but no one knew where they were. **[Action: information to be sought from library on when and where minutes can be consulted. Electronic copies to be offered henceforth. CL to make sure all latest minutes are on the WCC website.]**
23. EC asked about security at the ASN school if it came to Waterside. She referred to an incident at Campsie View that had led to a child being expelled.
24. EW asked about air-quality monitoring (referring to a point in the November minutes). She wondered what the point of monitoring traffic was before any school was built. JJ and others said it was about establishing a baseline. JQ said he had found out that WCC did not need to spend money doing its own air-quality survey since we would have access to EDC ones.
25. EW said she thought WCC had made a tactical error in going on about the loss of the football pitch when we stood to lose green space and an area for exercise too. Others commented that the open space and green belt aspects had been referred to in WCC's consultation response, in communications with councillors and the government submission. However the need to give us a football pitch would probably be the most difficult hurdle for the council to get over. SMacD, SM and JJ will be holding EDC to its commitment to provide a full-size football pitch when it comes to planning. SW said it needed to be of comparable or better standard than the current one. CL added that WCC had also been promised that it would be

of a size to hold galas on too. JH said that in spite of previous promises, TG had said at the meeting of 15 November that pitches came in different shapes and sizes.

26. JC said parents and staff had been given an impression that the school would be going into a semirural area, but that this was seriously misleading as there were plans to build all round, and it was likely that the Wimpey-owned field between Gartconner and the playing field would be built on once the school went ahead.
27. JH said she had asked council officers to let her see the illustrative plans they had brought to a WCC meeting she had missed. Fraser Robb had refused, saying the consultation was now closed (even though the main consultation documents are still on the EDC website). JH said that if TG wished WCC to work with EDC, there had to be a transparent and open approach. This seemed to be a completely one-sided relationship, which wasn't acceptable.
28. Date of next meeting: 8 January 2019.