

Waterside Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 11th January 2022

Present: J. Herriot (Chair); J. Whyte (Secretary); C. Lilly (Comms. Coordinator); M. Todd;
I. Bowman.

Cllrs. S. Murray. S. MacDonald.

Also in attendance: D. Paterson, C. Willson, J. Kennedy.

Apologies: Cllr. J. Jamieson; K. Chesney-Bathie (Treasurer); E. Carlin. (Int. Tenant).

- (1) **Meeting opened at 7.30pm** with New Year greetings.
- (2) **Minutes of previous meeting** were read and proposed by I. Bowman, seconded by C. Willson.
- (3) **Matters arising:**
 - i) **Christmas tree and lights:** Cllr. Murray said efforts to achieve electricity supply were a work in progress.
 - ii) **The slippery leaves** on the pavement on Waterside road had now been cleared.
 - iii) **Mud on Bankhead Road:** this is unfortunate and will be an ongoing problem; the road cleaner is working hard to alleviate the problem.
 - iv) **Potholes.** Cllr Murray (and Cllr. MacDonald) had reported potholes and trench on Waterside Road (and corner of Bankhead Road) as far as Oxgang. T. McMenamin had given assurance that the potholes would be inspected and filled in. Internal discussions re Covid-related delays to roads programme and getting external contractors ongoing.
- (4) **Question asked about kitchen and bathroom replacement prog. for council properties in Waterside.** Replacement depends on when last done. Recommended the tenant ask Housing.
- (5) **Police report:** 'After a busy Christmas and New Year period Waterside continues to have very low crime rates. Only incident of note involved a male giving the builders at the school a hard time...nothing for the wider community to be alarmed by.
'The speed camera continues to be deployed on Waterside Road to target speeders.'
- (6) **McLaughlin & Harvey:** J. Whyte and C. Lilly had been on-site to thank for generous gifts for village kids at Christmas and for Halloween and Window Wanderland support. Info arising:
 - i) **The car park at the school will be outside fence** and available for use outwith school hours (football matches, for instance).
 - ii) **Two new replacement paths** will be constructed, one to replace the Snaky up to the bus stop (split into direct steep access to Waterside Road and zigzag disabled access) and a second between Bankhead Road and Gray Street.
 - iii) **The Waterside sign** will be removed and stored temporarily for road widening.
 - iv) **The planter will be replaced.** McL&H are discussing planter arrangements with Janice McBride, who has planted and beautifully tended the under-sign planter from the start.
 - v) **McL&H have offered use of boardroom for meetings** as a temporary measure. There is a steep stair which might prove difficult.
 - vi) **A shelter for Raina the horse** will be built. Question asked about delay. [A spokesperson for McL&H has since said (14 January 2022): 'I had a conversation with [Raina's owner] last year and she gave us some pointers on the specifics for the shelter, so we will be getting a plan in place and getting started in the coming months. We will keep you updated on progress.']
 - vii) **WCC can be raise requests direct with McL&H,** and they will try to accommodate.
- (7) **Locality plan:** Waterside currently not included in locality consultation despite being shown as amber on Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). Cllr. Murray will ask for info.

- (8) **Event plans for 2022.** J. Herriot will discuss these with L. Bateman. Duck Race in the planning for Easter Sunday or Monday (17 or 18 April). J. Herriot will ask what help is needed.
- (9) **Miners club.** Thanks go to Cllr. Murray for her help and advice. Currently at a sensitive stage, but a special meeting is likely to be called in the next couple of months. I. Bowman has spoken to OSCR and other agencies.
- (10) **WCC future:** the current five-year community council term ends September. Recruitment campaign, posters, leaflets to be considered. I Bowman offered to be part of leafleting op and suggested asking for B. Sewell's help. EDC can help publicize WCC election. M. Todd will ask D. Malcolm to help design poster. It was suggested information about the community council, subgroups, litter picks be included in a tenants' welcome pack. Cllr. MacDonald making enquiries.
- (11) **Some potential WCC meeting attendees reluctant to attend on Zoom.** J. Herriot asked if hybrid meetings a possibility. It was suggested that there are some logistical problems to this unless we have access to expensive equipment.
- (12) **WCC constitution** needs updating. Still working with 1970s one (though a later draft exists that may be useful). Cllr. MacDonald recommended contacting EDC's Martin Cunningham as it's a legal document. It might be possible to have a replacement constitution accepted without the Woodilee boundary issue having been resolved. [Action: CL to pass info to JH, and JH to contact MC.]
- (13) **Debbie & Jim.** Debbie and Jim Carmichael are moving house. Invitation to meeting to be made to thank them for the very many things they have done for the village, not only through WCC but Luggiewatch too. They have instigated or been heavily involved in putting on drama, campaigning, litter picks, wildlife preservation, working with schools, creating calendars and things too numerous to mention. They will be a massive loss and hugely missed. The chair wanted an anchor to anchor them to the village.
- (14) **CRT improvement fund.** Plans for improvements need revisiting. And new recruits to improvements/wildflowers group needed, especially in view of the loss of Debbie and Jim. Planters at the feature that they tended will kindly be adopted by Janice Whyte and Jack Gartshore, who will continue to look after the main village feature as always. [Janice McBride has offered to take on the planters at Hattie's garage that D and J also looked after.]
- (15) **Walkabout of 8 September 2021.** Updates to be sought.
- (16) **Consultations, and treatment of Waterside:** it was mentioned that there is no longer any interest locally in completing EDC consultations because of the perception the council treats them as a tick-box exercise and does what it wants anyway. With only three councillors out of 23, we carry little weight. How to raise profile? There was some discussion about council officers no longer attending meetings. (Our use of Zoom hasn't helped.) On the other hand, McLaughlin and Harvey are doing a very good job of communicating and listening.
- (17) **ASN Progress.** Fraser Robb had been in touch and promised further updates.
- (18) **D. Paterson suggested a sweepstake** could be introduced to encourage young people of the village and community spirit. This would involve weekly payment collections and prizes.
- (19) **J. Herriot** had suggested a scheme for a bus to take kids to the cinema, picnics, places of interest and education. Part of CRT Health and Wellbeing project? Can this be revived?
- (20) **I. Bowman mentioned plans for Phoenix** Youth club, but no facilities yet available.
- (21) As there was no correspondence and no other corporate business, date of next meeting was agreed: **Tuesday 8th February 2022.**
- (22) Chair thanked all who attended Zoom meeting.