

WATERSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021

PRESENT: Chair J. Herriot; Secretary J. Whyte; Comms Coordinator C. Lilly;
Co-opted member M. Todd; Zoom host D. McFadden.

Also present: Cllrs. S. MacDonald, S. Murray and J. Jamieson; D. Paterson, L. Renshaw, M. Renshaw.
Apologies: K. Chesney-Bathie (Treasurer); E. Carlin (Interested Tenant); D. Carmichael; J. Carmichael;
C. Willson.

- 1 Zoom meeting commenced at 7.35pm. Chair extended seasonal wishes to everyone.
- 2 Minutes of previous meeting were read. These were the subjects raised:
 - 2.1 **Miners Club:** No news on this or any other plans for a community hub at present. Hattie's Garage was again discussed but thought possibly to be unsuitable because of lack of parking, and the need to cross the road for access (near bend). Suggestion that an extension be added to the changing rooms - to be discussed in the coming months.
 - 2.2 **Environmental issues:** Moss on pavements still causing problems.
Park Street hedges growing over pavements, making pedestrians walk on the road.
Alexander Place looking poor in general. Not all the problems caused by council tenants.
 - 2.3 *Gritting* felt to be inadequate in various parts of the village, Alexander Pl, Moss Rd, Park St...
It was reported that one resident had slipped on the ice and broken her leg in ungritted Gray St. A responding paramedic had also fallen. It was suggested that the council cannot grit everywhere.
General: Owing to the Covid situation and restrictions, Waterside problems seemed to be going unaddressed; no update on scheduling of jobs was forthcoming from EDC. JH had contacted T. McMenamin about this and been unsatisfied with the response.
Bins (on Gray Street) and food bins too had gone unemptied.
Berryknowe wall: No update on the repairs as yet.
Light on school path: J. Whyte reported this fault in November but no repair as yet. The lamps in question are F4 and F5; Cllr. MacDonald pursuing the matter.
Damage by bin lorry to grass at Cairnview: Still no update. Cllr. MacDonald pursuing.
 - 2.4 **Grit bins:** A request for more grit bins had been turned down. Some thought the grit bin on Bankhead Rd should be made more equidistant from the areas it serves (It was pointed out that it serves Pit Rd and Wallace Cott's./Caurnie View too). Large areas of Waterside are too far from a bin.
 - 2.5 **Dog poo bins:** Suggested that more poo bins are needed, particularly on the Luggie path. Could one be provided near the stepping stones?
 - 2.6 **Council officers.** EDC officers are not allowed to use EDC equipment for Zoom meetings so cannot attend WCC meetings as long as we use Zoom. Cllr. MacDonald will ask if EDC could host a Microsoft Teams meeting for us, enabling T. McMenamin and G. Mackintosh perhaps to come to the next one. [update via Cllr. MacDonald: Dep. Chief Exec says council officers cannot attend meetings for the moment, but will respond to issues raised with them.]
 - 2.7 **The minutes** were proposed by C. Lilly and seconded by D. McFadden.
- 3 **Orienteering, cycling etc:** Caroline Notman and James Quigley are proposing healthy outdoor activities for village children (Covid permitting): orienteering (very well received at Village Fest in 2019), treasure hunts, den building, foraging in the countryside, insect spotting, tree planting, litter-picking with Luggiewatch. Places for activities could include Gartshore Estate and area round the bing. A full list of the activities would be circulated through the village. C. and J. to be invited to next meeting to discuss this further. The response of meeting attendees was very enthusiastic as such activities would be beneficial (and fit in with aims expressed in the

community action plan). Suggestion that a scheme is needed to make this a cycle-safe village – with the signage to back it up.

- 4 **Water from Pit Road and fields:** J. Brown had reported issue with water cascading off Pit Rd and adjoining fields into their property on Bankhead Rd, causing damage to fencing, lane, etc. Cllr. MacDonald to raise issue with environmental officer. However, as Pit Rd is an unadopted road, he suggested taking up the issue with Gartshore Estates (factor in Livingston?) as they might have a legal case. Land for the industrial estate is leased from them. He suggested the water problem had been caused by the tarmacking of the road (with inadequate drainage and no aggregate) by the previous owner of the Springwell Inn. C. Lilly reported that William Surgeon (1880-1951), a Waterside miner and verse writer, had referred to the brae there as “spoot brae”, suggesting the spring has always been powerful. She wondered if it might be worth raising the issue with SEPA. D. McFadden suggested the council had some responsibility if the water reached the property via any council land.
- 5 **Waterside address issue:** G. Mackintosh had responded positively to C. Lilly’s further complaint on behalf of WCC about EDC’s taking ‘Waterside’ off village addresses in correspondence:

The Housing Service has taken on board all comments and concerns raised by you and the Waterside CC in relation to this matter and have worked closely over the last few weeks with the GIS Coordinator to see how this matter can be rectified.

It was proposed that a new locality of 'Waterside' would be created and added to the Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG) and the streets included in the pdf attachments with 'Waterside' added to their address for both the Housing System and the CAG. At this time this is not possible, therefore what is proposed is that the Council feels that in this instance 'Waterside', as a community village, should be recognised as such and the Housing system will be updated to include the name of Waterside in its address listings. The GIS Coordinator is in discussions with the Post Office to establish if they can alter their records and if this can progress, the Corporate Address Gazetteer will also be altered during 2021.

There is no guarantee of this being finalised but attempts are being made to rectify this issue.

- 6 LDP2 consultation. C. Lilly was thanked for all her work responding on behalf of WCC. This effort was greatly appreciated. Closing date for this: 5pm, Friday 15 January, though she had asked for (and been granted) a week’s grace period for residents, given our inability to use public meetings to raise awareness. [Post-meeting update: another LDP2-related consultation (historic environment designations – affecting Bankhead Rd and Gartshore) to end on 26 February.]
- 7 ASN School. A predetermination meeting is to take place [2 March] to give those who have put in representations the opportunity to make their points in person. Spokespersons might have to be appointed. [Update: there will be a prior meeting with those respondents who want to take part to discuss arrangements. They need to respond to their invitation by 10 February.]
- 8 There was no correspondence this meeting and no further corporate business, so the meeting closed at 9.00pm. D. McFadden was thanked for hosting it on Zoom.
- 9 Date of next meeting: 9th February