

Waterside Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 12th July 2022 in Archie's Shed (thanks, Lisa!)

Present: J. Whyte (Secretary), C. Lilly (Communications Coordinator), K. Chesney-Bathie (Treasurer).

Also in Attendance: Cllr. S. MacDonald, C. Notman, D. McFadden, J. Marks, F. Gilmour, D. Paterson.

Apologies: PC Addyman, J. Herriot (Chair), I. Bowman, E. Carlin, M. Todd, C. Willson, A. Thomson.

- (1) **Meeting commenced** at 7.40 pm. C. Lilly chaired the meeting in the absence of J. Herriot.
- (2) **Police report:** Bing area is still being monitored. Kirkintilloch Police are intending doing a ('Safer Ways') project monitoring open spaces, canal paths etc. There will be a random police presence in hi-vis vests, and CCTV cameras may be in operation in some areas. Paths are being observed where quad and off-road bikes have been presenting problems. No crimes reported in Waterside.
- (3) **Minutes of previous meeting** were read, and proposed and seconded by K. Chesney-Bathie and D. McFadden respectively.
- (4) **Zebra crossings:** Cllr. MacDonald commented that when he'd said there were no zebra crossings in East Dunbartonshire (ED), he should have said on 'roads' in ED, since there are zebra crossings in supermarket car parks.
- (5) **Electric scooters:** Concerns were raised about the number of these racing around the village and presenting a danger both to the youngsters on them and to other road users.
- (6) **Fence damaged by vehicle** on Bankhead Road should have been replaced or repaired by now. Cllr. MacDonald had been in touch with Thos. McMenamin, but will contact him again as a matter of urgency. The police had told D. McFadden the case had been closed.
- (7) **New bin, replacement grit bin:** Requests for a poo bin at the top of the Dam Braes path and a replacement grit bin opposite Archie's had borne fruit. Thanks to all concerned.
- (8) **Local Development Plan:** The government reporters had had their say on EDC's draft LDP2 and only recommended minor changes in wording. Therefore no additional sites proposed by developers will be zoned for development this time round (this means the horse's field, cornfield, and the meadow between the stepping stones and Chryston Road are safe for the moment, additional housing not being needed; the field between Pit Road and the Luggie will remain undeveloped too – developers hadn't appealed its status). On the other hand, the reporters had not objected to EDC's proposal to build housing at the bottom of Moss Rd. So this will eventually happen, though it may be a matter of years. No expansion of the Pit Rd industrial site will happen in LDP2. It was commented that the bing owner had wondered about setting up a BMX bike course, but nothing further had been heard.
- (9) **The Greenspace meeting with J. McCulloch and J. Gillespie had been** attended by C. Notman, C. Lilly, F. Gilmour and J. Whyte. There is to be a path upgrade between Moss Road and Alexander Place and a feature wall. Unfortunately the Luggie path is outwith their remit as it isn't council-owned. A possible community growing space was discussed. The site of the derelict dovecotes was thought to be too swampy and too isolated as well as potentially bad for the racing pigeons. Other possible sites for raised beds etc. could be the site of the old rent office on Alexander Place, an area near Hattie's garage, and, once the new play park has been built, the site of the current small children's play park. The new (fenced in) play park will hopefully go ahead on the Taig Road green if residents agree.
- (10) **Community growing space grant:** C. Notman had secured a £500 grant for the growing space venture. Probably too late for the growing season this year. The idea is to plant vegetables and fruit, and to make the produce available, say once a week. This project could also be used to pass on growing skills. An information-gathering trip to Rosebank allotment

is taking place at 2pm on 15 July. It was pointed out that, because of the lack of parking spaces, the Alexander Place grass area is often used for parking.

- (11) **Begonias and baskets:** Jackie Gillespie had donated begonias, which F. Gilmour had been planting in baskets and tubs throughout the village. Bankhead Road was looking particularly lovely as a result, making a very welcome sight for those entering the village. F. Gilmour had spent £75 on hanging baskets and compost for this project, while C. Lilly had spent £66 on four big planters and four bags of compost. This would come out of the CRT pre-pandemic grant for the village beautification project. (WCC's application had been for funds for planters, railing baskets, benches and tools). There is still money left, so it was agreed that another £100 to £200 would be spent on similar, which should leave some money for the other items and for the community growing space. Account information needed, though.
- (12) **Overhanging trees on Bankhead Road obscuring sight lines:** Cllr. MacDonald taking this up with EDC. [update: trimming will be carried out, but may take time as there's a backlog].
- (13) **Christmas tree:** It was asked whether there might be enough money left in the CRT pot for a temporary tree in a container in the same place as in the last two years. And could it be live rather than a cut tree? It was suggested we instead ask a garden centre to sponsor a tree. Karen Chesney-Bathie is still willing to supply the electricity for the tree.
- (14) **Wall at Berryknowe:** Although this has been rendered, there were still no coping stones and the bottom had not been painted, and was flaking. Cllr. MacDonald taking this up. K. Chesney-Bathie's adopted garden looking lovely.
- (15) **Temporary traffic lights** on Bankhead Road were still there despite the date for removal noted on the signs having passed. Cllr. MacDonald making enquiries. [Update: traffic lights to be removed by 15th July and dates corrected meantime.]
- (16) **New members:** Some attending were considering becoming members of the community council, so C. Lilly explained the role of a community council (liaison between the village and the council; keeping up to date with anything affecting the village; informing about such matters (via meetings; website; Facebook; leafleting; noticeboard); fighting for what's important locally; promoting community wellbeing; events). Cllr. MacDonald provided an example of what can happen if a community council doesn't check the weekly planning list. Subgroups were discussed too (flowers group; events group; social history group; environmental group); some needed reviving. The hall group project had been taken over by the Waterside Miners' Charitable Society. F. Gilmour expressed her wish to join WCC.
- (17) **Treasurer:** K. Chesney-Bathie had formally stepped down as treasurer because of other commitments. C. Notman might consider taking on this role from September.
- (18) **Luggiewatch litter pick** D. McFadden reported that hairdressing salon basins and chairs had been fly-tipped near the container. A camera could be a preventive measure. He suggested cutting back the overgrown hedges to make the area look more cared for and watched over. C. Lilly said there had been a discussion with J. Gillespie about removing building rubble from the area behind the car park wall. J. Gillespie had warned against doing this without having first had a wildlife check as otters might be using dumped materials for holts. She would take a look.
- (19) **Walking group:** K. Chesney-Bathie had started leading walks (within a ten-mile radius). There had been a bluebell walk, and a Summer solstice one up the bing had been a huge success. Other walks might include bat walks (normally Luggiewatch), Merkland Nature Reserve, Barr Hill, Luggie Park. Walks would be advertised on Facebook and the WCC website events page.
- (20) As there was no further business, C. Lilly thanked everyone for attending.
- (21) Date of next meeting: 9th August.