

WATERSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 JULY 2021

PRESENT: J. Whyte (Secretary); C. Lilly (Communications Coordinator); K. Chesney-Bathie (Treasurer); I. Bowman (Co-opted Member).

Cllrs. J. Jamieson, S. MacDonald, S. Murray.

Also Present: D. McFadden, M. Renshaw, L. Renshaw, C. Notman, C. Willson.

Apologies: J. Herriot (Chair); E. Carlin; D. Paterson; J. Kennedy; M. Todd; S. Wilson.

- (1) In the absence of J. Herriot, C. Lilly chaired this evening's Zoom meeting, commencing at 7.35pm. Apologies were as above.
- (2) **Minutes** of previous meeting were read and approved.
- (3) **Matters** arising from these minutes were as follows (points 4-9).
- (4) **Abandoned containers** at the end of Taig Road have still not been moved, much to the distress of tenants having to look out on them constantly. It would appear they have a twelve-month permit to stay there despite all work in the village having been completed [apart from the clearly forgotten wall at Berryknowe]. C. Lilly asked how come a permit to use a small green in a residential area as a storage space was even considered now that the contractors were no longer operating in Waterside; it appeared to show a complete disrespect for residents, and doubtless would never have been allowed if Waterside were one of those ED areas referred to as "prestige areas". One of the residents had been anxious about the effect on selling her house, but fortunately the buyer had accepted that the containers were temporary (they were supposed to have been taken away before last Christmas). At the time the sale was agreed no one in the village had known about EDC's decision to prolong the situation. C. Lilly suggested the containers could perhaps be moved to W. Hunter's proposed storage yard on Old Duntiblae Road. Alternatively she suggested residents looking out on this building site should have their council tax waived until it was removed. Cllr. MacDonald agreed to attempt to get the containers relocated. It was proposed that copies of minutes with this repeated complaint should be sent to G. Cornes for his attention.
- (5) **Electrical cables** lying in field at top of school path had still not been removed despite the cabling work having been completed; the path had been further damaged probably by youths in the early hours of Sunday morning; lots of the stones were removed by J. Whyte to prevent injury to horses using the path; this matter was taken up by the councillors, who will instigate an estate walkabout round the area to record issues.
- (6) **Wall at Berryknowe** had still not been rendered despite many requests at community council meetings to have this done.
- (7) **Path at Calfmuir Rd** is officially no longer a right of way, having been superseded by a more direct path.
- (8) **Pit Road flooding**. In the absence of progress, residents will chase up the matter themselves and report back.
- (9) **ASN school funding from Scottish Government**. Cllr. MacDonald had not received the relevant briefing note. We will know more once the EDC minutes of the committee meeting of 29 June 2021 are published.
- (10) **ASN school updates**

- a) As everyone knows, the Scottish Government had not called in the planning application for the school. According to a letter from MSPs, this was because it was not an issue of “national significance” and they were sending it back to EDC to determine. Cllr. MacDonald asked for a copy of said letter [which has since been forwarded to him].
- b) The burdens issue referred to in posters appearing round the playing field turns out to be about a change of use from housing to a school (rather than about a change of use from community good) and about fence heights, so this does not help Waterside.
- c) Preparatory work to start in early August. Project completion around April/May 2023.
- d) Work on new pitch to start November 2021 and to be completed by the following year (including establishment).
- e) Public consultation process to start in August on the Proposed Greenspace Improvement Plan and mitigation measures. EDC’s Jackie Gillespie (Streetscene) and Jennifer Wiggins (Biodiversity and Greenspace) are coming to Waterside for a preliminary talk and walk with WCC members. Concerns were raised about the pot of £150K supposedly being shared between Waterside and Rosebank for mitigation measures relating to the loss of playing field despite Rosebank’s already having a super new play park, a nature park and scoring highly on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation unlike Waterside.
- f) Waterside Community Council has asked to be part of a steering group to ensure EDC’s promises are kept. For instance we had been promised use of the car park out of hours, What about supervised use of the MUGA? Would any room be available for meetings? Concerns were expressed about access and play space during construction.
- g) C.Lilly asked whether the address of the school was to be Waterside, as requested by Cllr. MacDonald. (On the planning documents the school proposal is almost always referred to as being in Kirkintilloch.) This was not yet known. There might be a consultation on the name of the school. She mentioned the upset and bitter disappointment caused by residents’ not being allowed to state their address as Waterside on their new baby’s birth certificate. Cllr. MacDonald said he would chase this up with Grant Mackintosh, who had been trying to resolve the address issues.

- (11) **Local Place Plan.** Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new right for communities to produce a Local Place Plan with scope for these to be included in the Local Development Plan. D McFadden pointed out that our Waterside Community Action Plan 2019-2024 (produced with the support of the CRT) had been ignored by EDC.
- (12) **Waterside attributes.** D. McFadden raised the fact that Waterside is supposed to be blessed by having nice walks along the Luggie path and up the bing. However he pointed out that we don’t own any of it, so it could be taken away. For instance, the much-loved and much-used area around the Wee (Bluebell) Wood will soon be desecrated. The plans include a four-storey apartment block insensitively placed right at the foot of the mound. Cllr. MacDonald mentioned the importance of the World War II bunker at Fauldhead – one of the very few remaining. The cow field on Pit Rd is under threat because developers have proposed building on it and could appeal the LDP decision not to allow development there. The same is true of the meadow above the stepping stones. Despite all, some minor good things are happening with Trails & Tales.
- (13) **Football pitch.** Contractors were busy digging up the area for an archaeological survey (despite its being the school holidays when children need the park even more, and despite the deadline for opposition to the burdens change not being till the end of August). No lets are being given for matches at the moment, but the pitch had been being used unofficially for training by Waterside Football team. The fact that the pitch at Luggiepark is to be ripped up soon along with Cleddens, Tintock and Harestanes means there will be a significant

reduction in football facilities, which will have a very negative effect on football in the area. Sport Scotland had accepted the assurances of EDC that adequate substitute football pitches would be ready in time, but this was patently false. C. Lilly reminded attendees that EDC had promised use of 3G/4G pitches **at the same price as** grass pitches to ensure local teams don't have to disband. One proposal is that the Luggiepark blaes pitch is to be replaced by grass. Cllr. Murray said Luggiepark grass pitch was available but I. Bowman pointed out that it was never playable after August.

- (14) **Environmental issues.** A request had been made for weedkiller not to be used on edges of green circles and alongside railings. Bumblebees are dying needlessly. Bodies seen. C. Lilly to raise issue of **dead cherry tree branch** (Bankhead Road) with Jackie Gillespie.
- (15) **Police report** had been sent in by PC Craig Addyman, who had said (in passing) that Waterside was a very nice, quiet place with no trouble, perhaps because we were so secluded with such a strong sense of community. Police were being vigilant about drugs, youth bad behaviour and vandalism. Since that report, the Miners Club windows had been smashed.
- (16) **CISWO.** C. Lilly had emailed CISWO to ask what should be done about securing the building. There had been no response as yet. She reported that S. Moffat was very kindly willing to board up the windows, and she suggested WCC should be prepared to pay up to £50 in materials to do this, as if someone set fire to the building via the open windows, this could represent a danger to the neighbouring properties, and the fumes could pose a health risk for all in the area; the community could also lose out if the building were lost. I. Bowman seconded.
- (17) **Games equipment.** C. Lilly proposed that WCC games equipment should be lent to families for parties (with address details, deposit and tiny fee – the latter to cover wear and tear). It includes sacks for sack races, egg and spoon, hoops, skittles, skipping ropes. Ian Bowman seconded.
- (18) **Summer activities.** K. Chesney-Bathie proposed a scarecrow competition. This was enthusiastically agreed. Caroline Notman will help (having put on the wonderful Window Wanderland). C. Notman and J. Quigley plan to put on orienteering: it was very well received two years ago, and we have the equipment thanks to the CRT. C. Lilly mentioned a possible community video to be made at Duntiblae.
- (19) **Community grants.** C. Notman asked about a community grant scheme for children's activities. Cllr. Murray to make enquiries. Probably too late for this year.
- (20) **New planter.** It had been proposed that a new oblong planter be made for behind the bench. S Moffatt is very kindly prepared to do this. An initial amount of £50 was proposed (though more money can be made available from our CRT improvement pot as we have not yet been able to complete this project).
- (21) **The cheque for £62,000** sent in error by EDC is being returned on Thursday. K. Chesney-Bathie is dealing with this.
- (22) **Comments on the ALDI planning application** need to be in by Friday.
- (23) **YouTube piece.** I. Bowman asked whether D. Malcolm was willing to do the voiceover for a YouTube piece. To be confirmed.
- (24) **Meeting ended at 9.15pm. Next meeting: 10 August.**