

WATERSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Online meeting held on Tuesday 8 December 2020

Present: (Chair) J Herriot, (Communications) C Lilly, (Co-opted member) M Todd

Cllrs. S MacDonald, S Murray

Also: C Willson, L Renshaw, D McFadden, D Paterson

Apologies: (Secretary) J Whyte, (Vice-chair) S Wilson, (Treasurer) K Chesney-Bathie, Cllr Jamieson

1) Welcome and introductions

Zoom meeting began at 7.30pm. This meeting was hosted by D McFadden. Thanks very much to him for organising; we appreciate it very much. Chair welcomed everyone and asked them to introduce themselves.

2) Minutes of last meeting & matters arising

Waterside addresses – Cllr MacDonald advised that he was still waiting on a response from officers regarding this issue and hoped he would have a response for the next meeting.

[Subsequent positive response from Grant Mackintosh – info at next meeting.]

Miners Club update

The owner of Hattie's Garage would be willing to sell the garage and land to the community council for £54K. This is something that the Halls Committee will need to take forward if considered the best option. They will also need to find out if there are any grants available to realise this.

Cala is still to be approached to see if they would build the community a hall using Section 75 community gain grant money. Update to be provided at next meeting.

Environment

Cllr MacDonald advised that he was still waiting on a copy of the winter programme from Streetscene. It was highlighted that WCC had requested these programmes at various times over the years but had never received any of them. Cllr MacDonald appreciated and acknowledged this statement. It is hoped that they will be available for the next meeting.

It was requested, as most of the scaffolding had been removed, that EDC do a one-off street and pavement sweep to remove the build-up of moss, which is quite hazardous particularly on dark nights as you cannot see it. Cllr MacDonald will take this forward. He also acknowledged that he hadn't realised how bad it was.

WCC is pleased at the recent rendering works of some of the properties. It has lifted the look of the village. However, some of the tenants' gardens still remain an issue.

Cllr MacDonald advised that first letters had been sent, but he was unaware if any follow-up action had been taken. It was suggested that Grant Mackintosh and Thomas McMenamin attend the next meeting to discuss this and what action has been taken.

Retaining wall at parking area at Berryknowe

Cllr MacDonald advised that this would be repaired.

Damaged ground at Moss Rd and on school path

Cllr MacDonald advised this would be repaired during the growing season.

The previous minutes were proposed by M Todd and seconded by J Herriot.

3) **Aldi presentation**

Steven Livingston (Liberty 1), Andy Doyle (Aldi Property Developer) & Rob Newton (Planning Consultant for Aldi) attended the meeting to give a presentation on a new proposed store on the old McGavigan site.

It will create 30/40 new jobs if approved by EDC planning in Jan 2021. There will be an online consultation on 11.2.21. There will be ample parking (approx. 93 spaces). Furthermore, as they are one of the higher paying retailers it is hoped that it will bring some economic benefits to the area. There will be no access from Loch Rd as the only access will be via the roundabout off Initiative Rd.

4) **ASN and LDP updates**

C. Lilly had written to all ED councillors to make them aware of WCC correspondence with EDC deputy chief executive T. Glen over the sale of a brownfield site at Auchinairn originally described as "feasible and suitable" for the ASN school and only rejected by the council since it couldn't accommodate a single-storey building. As Waterside playing field has been shown not to have room for a single-storey building either, and the plans are now for a 2-storey building there, she had queried where the strong justification was that is required to build on open space and to take away this vital community space, and why Auchinairn was being sold to private developers.

More letters (on planning matters) to go to EDC before the ASN school goes to planning.

Because of the time that has passed since the original plans were presented publicly, CALA Homes are holding a consultation on the new houses to be built behind the Miners Club.

EDC is running a consultation on the proposed new local development plan (LDP2) and additional sites put forward by developers. Deadline for comments: 5pm on 15 January. Of particular interest to Waterside are:

- the proposed site for social housing at the bottom of Moss Rd (in LDP2);
- the cows' field between Pit Road and the Luggie (developer-proposed site); and
- the meadow above the stepping stones (developer-proposed site).

WCC has been advised also to comment on any sites from the 2019 consultation, since these could also return following appeals: horse's field, cornfield, Gartshore estate, bing...

5) **Taig Rd name & parking issues**

WCC discussed the article in various newspapers regarding the street names Taig Rd and Taig Gardens. WCC wholeheartedly supported EDC's decision not to change the names as they were in honour of Cllr. Nathaniel Taig. It was also agreed that a written piece/story surrounding the history of this be placed on the WCC website.

Parking issues were raised again in and around the village; however, it was noted that the bottom of Taig Rd is particularly troublesome at present due to EDC contractors being on site. It was suggested that half of the grassed roundabout be removed and this space used

for parking. A similar project had already been costed in another area of EDC at around £150K for 12 spaces. WCC was advised that there are no funds available for this.

6) Christmas tree

The community council acknowledged the feeling within the village regarding the Christmas tree (which according to expert opinion last spring from a college of agriculture lecturer needed feeding and time to grow; the feeding hadn't happened because of lockdown, but several people have now kindly offered to look after it). It was agreed that until that tree has had time to come on, a temporary Christmas tree will be placed at the side of 4 Berryknowe (an arrangement with the householder which solves the lighting problem while it lasts as EDC will not facilitate mains lighting at the original tree). The Events Team put an illuminated tree (and illuminated reindeer) in place on 5 Dec and filmed a cheery switch-on. It was agreed between the Events Team and WCC that they will split the cost of any tree placed at the secondary site for the next couple of years. A massive thank-you was given to Karen Chesney-Bathie for providing the power source for the lights and to the Events Team for making the light switch-on such a cheerful and uplifting event.

7) Window Wonderland

The delayed project took place on 5th and 6th December 2020, and what a success it was! Huge congratulations were offered to C Notman for all her hard work, determination, enthusiasm and imagination in bringing this project to its fantastic fruition; it was very well received within the village and provided a much-needed morale boost. Thanks too to the Events Team for funding craft materials and to the CRT for funding registration.

Well done to Caroline and the Events Team for all Christmas events. Here's to many more, Covid permitting.

8) Correspondence

WCC had received an email with photos attached showing the condition of the kerbside and road at Cairnview. This has been forwarded to the local Cllrs to discuss with the respective officers within EDC

9) AOCB

None

10) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.