

WATERSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 FEB 2021

PRESENT: K. Chesney-Bathie (Treasurer); J. Whyte (Secretary); C. Lilly (Communications)

ALSO: D. McFadden; M. Todd; J. Kennedy; C. Willson; C. Notman

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

APOLOGIES J. Herriot, E. Carlin, S. Wilson, D. Paterson.

- (1) Meeting commenced at 7.35pm. In the absence of J. Herriot, K. Chesney-Bathie successfully chaired the meeting. Thanks to D. McFadden this meeting was possible via Zoom again.
- (2) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** were read; some of the following are matters arising.
- (3) **LIGHTS ON SCHOOL PATH.** F4 AND F5 were reported on 20 November 2020. To date they have not been repaired. Cllr. MacDonald said that this complaint has been passed on to the appropriate department, and they should hopefully be in working order soon.
- (4) **DOG BIN.** There had been a bin at the Club, but for some reason it has been taken away. Cllr. MacDonald is making investigations as to the reason for this.
- (5) **LITTER BIN.** There's a sign indicating the presence of a litter bin at the Caurnie View cottages on Pit Road. However, the bin has long gone. Could it be replaced?
- (6) **DAMAGED WALL AT BERRYKNOWE CAR PARK.** Despite this being reported, nothing has been done to remedy the problem. Again, this has been passed on for attention.
- (7) **ASN PREDETERMINATION MEETING.** Letters have been sent out inviting members of the public who made representations about the ASN school proposal to have their say on 2 March. Spokespeople may have to be selected to present views. (There is to be an earlier meeting to discuss arrangements.) No new arguments can be presented. This meeting precedes the meeting of the Planning Committee at which councillors will make a decision. WCC should get a proportion of this meeting to make our case. Hopefully we will be allowed to make a PowerPoint presentation summarizing our key points. Cllr. MacDonald could see no reason why this would not be allowed and had seen it done in the past. Officers should help with the technology. The suggestion was made that council officers should facilitate the sharing of email addresses for those on the same side of the argument where people agree to it.
- (8) **HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATIONS.** A consultation is currently taking place on historic environment designations, the results of which will feed into the local development plan. This consultation was due to end on 26 February, but the deadline is likely to be extended till end May because of complaints about the lack of notice. As the designations 'Townscape Protection Area' (TPA) and 'Conservation Area' (CA) appear to overlap, a proposal is to remove the TPA category. Those TPAs still deserving protection would become CAs. Under the current proposal, the TPA on Bankhead Road would become a CA. However, the CA area would be expanded to include Berry Dyke, Long Row and the rest of the cottages on Bankhead Road. There may be other areas that should be included too. We should make suggestions. For instance, the Bing industrial heritage may merit a conservation label. The entrance to the Gartshore estate has been a TPA. It is proposed that this be dropped entirely. Similarly, Woodhead Park in Kirkintilloch would lose its Local Gardens and Designed Landscape designation (this related historically to Woodhead House, of which only the gateposts remain). However, Woodhead Park will still be protected by virtue of being Open Space (at the historic designations information meeting with EDC planners, C. Lilly had raised the concern that this same designation had not protected Waterside Park from EDC's plans to build here – in total disregard of the local community's needs, wishes and health). Cheeringly, a Mt. Florida group has managed to save its bowling area from developers.

- (9) **ESTATE MANAGEMENT.** This is up in the air owing to Covid restrictions. Cllr. MacDonald informed us that the village should have twelve grass cuts during the season; last year we only had five. Other areas have been in similar circumstances; hopefully when things get back to normal, these services will be restored.
- (10) **CHILDREN'S & FAMILY ACTIVITIES.** C. Notman explained some of the ideas she and J. Quigley are considering. Their idea is to encourage making the Village cycle-friendly and safe for all ages, and reducing speeding traffic. Orienteering, countryside map reading, pond dipping, insect spotting, den building and foraging would all also be organized, benefiting mental health. (Obviously Covid risk assessments would be required.) Possible tie-in with Luggiewatch. There would be encouragement for children and adults to use bicycles, with guided cycle rides for enjoying and appreciating the countryside around. Banners could be put up ('Give me Space') with a child's picture depicting this. Cycle lanes could be introduced linking to school path etc. Cycling to school could be encouraged too. Cycle maintenance instruction is another useful possibility. The schoolchildren could also be encouraged to litter-pick. Mr. Manley would be consulted/informed beforehand. Tree planting with the owner's permission is another option. (Trees are available from the Woodlands Trust). Funding will be necessary for some of these proposals, and enquiries are ongoing. If there were cycle paths, people from Kirkintilloch could cycle up to the village. JQ, who has experience leading bike rides, has made an application for funding to Cycle Scotland (which has £33m from Scottish Govt.). Council officers would support chasing funding. The path at Burnside could be an ideal cycle path, although some remedial work is needed. The path to the stepping stones is subsiding very badly at the stepping stones (there was discussion about who owns this; Cllr. Murray will speak to A. Kyle or the relevant Paths and Access officer concerning the matter). With work and Tarmacking, this path could be improved, linking with path to the Bing and also to the old railway to Moodiesburn when the Wester Gartshore bridge is replaced. Part of the Heritage Trail. These ideas were welcomed enthusiastically by everyone present.
- (11) **CO-OPTING A NEW MEMBER.** It was suggested that Ian Bowman be co-opted on to WCC as his support and knowledge have been invaluable to us over the years. We appreciate all he has done. This was agreed by those present.
- (12) **LUGGIEWATCH.** M. Todd has been making enquiries about funding for life preservers as these could be a life saver on the Luggie.
- (13) **DEEP POTHOLE.** Bankhead Road is again affected by several deep pot holes, Cllr. MacDonald has spoken to roads dept. They told him they can only do temporary repairs at the moment.
- (14) **WESTER GARTSHORE BRIDGE.** Someone reported metal being removed from this and a claim having been made that demolition was happening that same week, which was not true. However, tenders have been put out for its removal.
- (15) There was no correspondence this meeting.
- (16) Thanks to D. McFadden for allowing us to Zoom the meeting; it is greatly appreciated.
- (17) As there was no other corporate business, the meeting closed 9.00pm.
- (18) Date of next meeting 9 March 2021.