

WATERSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of 20 June 2017

Present:

B. Lapping (chair), D. Scott (vice-chair), C. Lilly (website coord.), E. Carlin (int. tenant),

K. Chesney-Bathie (fundraiser)

D. Carmichael, J. Carmichael, L. Campbell, C. Willson, T. Willson, J. Kirkwood, M. Zimmerman

And special guest Sandra Sutton from Twechar Community Action

Apologies: Cllr. MacDonald, J. Whyte (secretary), J. Herriot (treasurer)

- (1) Meeting started at 7.35pm.
- (2) Minutes of last meeting read and comments raised on matters of continued relevance.
DS referred to point 13 from minutes of 23 May (13- 23/05/17), noting that that nothing has been done about the overgrowth of trees and bushes along Bankhead Road hindering driver vision. He pointed out that we have now raised this issue at numerous WCC meetings, and that despite feedback being given to EDC, no action has been taken. KC-B said that since the last meeting she had spoken to Cllr. MacDonald, who says the matter will be attended to during verge cutting in July. There is a complication because of Japanese knotweed in the area.
- (3) CL referred to point 11-23/05/17 and suggested that the status of Waterside Village Events (WVE) group needed to be agreed and minuted urgently. She commented that at an informal meeting that included three members of WCC before the fun day, WVE (then Lynne Campbell, Emma Wilson and Lisa Giffen) were asked to consider becoming a subcommittee of WCC, which they thought acceptable, but this has still not been ratified at a WCC meeting. This has left WVE in limbo, unsure whether they have our full support if any difficulties arise (as in a recent and now resolved dispute about pre-fun day bush clearance), while WCC has been given credit for WVE's hard work (in the *Kirkintilloch Herald*, for instance). With the agreement of WCC members, CL has listed WVE members as a subcommittee on WCC's website. And WVE status will have priority at the July WCC meeting. Attendees said what a wonderful boost the fun day had given Waterside, with a huge turnout and lots of attractions – the best event for years, thanks to the tireless efforts of Lynne, Emma and Lisa. Sadly, Lisa has since resigned from the WVE, so it is currently down to two members.
- (4) Re inappropriate comments on Facebook (issue 8-23/05/17), LC has changed permissions on WVE Facebook page, meaning all comments now need to be authorized before going live.
- (5) Re points 9&10-23/05/17, CL reported that a joiner (Andy Macmillan of Macmillan Joinery) has examined the existing bench outside Hattie's Garage. Although it initially appeared easy to repair (planks on a concrete structure), it isn't, because of the way it is rustily bolted together/to the wall. He recommended removing rather than repairing. KC-B has looked at benches at St Agatha's (7-23/05/17) and asked Cllr. MacDonald to organize retrieval of the one good one. Following discussion with someone from Trails and Tales, she is now also to meet Andrew Lynch about a donation of benches made on a Low Moss project. We will also have the brand-new bench the council is organizing for us, to be erected outside Hattie's Garage. Waterside can look forward to a number of seats around the village at last.
- (6) Litter pick (point 6-23/05/17) now organized for Saturday 24 June.

- (7) Wild flowers have been sown on Waterside turning circle (point 12-23/05/17). CL to suggest to EDC that Waterside would also be interested in a community orchard and soft fruit area – EDC has been surveying community food-growing interest.
- (8) Main part of meeting was devoted to Sandra Sutton's informative and inspiring report on Twechar's regeneration experience and her tips for Waterside's acquiring funding for hall facilities. Copies of Twechar's *Community Action Plan* were handed out.

In Twechar (pop. around 1300), Twechar Community Action took over a council facility that was to be closed. They now operate a non-profit organization and provide lots of services (full-time pharmacy, satellite GP surgery, café, sports hall and meeting rooms and a vast range of activities) as well as opportunities for training of volunteers that will help them improve work prospects.

Sandra says now is a good time for community empowerment, with grants available and the Community Empowerment Act putting us in a strong position over transfer of local assets.

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust would fund and produce an action plan like Twechar's.

We'll need a Waterside steering group consisting of around 12 people, and members will need to survey local opinion. We must get the community interested. It would be useful to have a separate youth committee, as some funds are available solely for youth projects. A youth bank is a good idea – excellent training both for those involved in assessing and making decisions and for those applying to it for small grants towards new equipment etc. JC to liaise further with Sandra.

Bodies, acts etc that were mentioned in Sandra's talk:

- **Coalfields Regeneration Trust** <http://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/>
Contact Pauline Grandison (Pauline.grandison@coalfields-regen.org.uk)
Sandra has already mentioned us to Pauline, who'd be happy to meet us. Contacting her could be a first move.
 - **Development Trust Association** <http://www.dtascot.org.uk/content/about-dta-scotland> (Has team of people who can assess situation)
 - **Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation Trust** <http://www.ciswo.org.uk/>
Contact Ian McAlpine (ian.mcalpine@ciswo.org.uk – JC has been in touch before.
 - **Community Empowerment Act**
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage/CommEmpowerBill>
We should look into St Agatha's situation with a view to asset transfer.
 - **Twechar Community Action**
<http://www.dtascot.org.uk/content/directory-of-members/twechar-community-action>
 - **Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre**
<http://twecharhlec.org.uk/>
- (9) Correspondence: Annual Tenant Event on Wed, 27 September; *Rural Scotland*; letter from council about proposed parking restrictions outside Gartconner during school opening and closing times. Feedback (if any) on the latter required by 30 June.
- (10) As there were no further issues, the meeting closed at 9.00pm. Round of applause for Sandra.
- (11) Next meeting: 18 July 2017.