

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE ROYAL BURGH OF LOCHMABEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL**

**Lochmaben Town Hall Library  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 7.00pm**

**Present:**

Colin Davidson (CD)(Chairman), May McKerrell (MMcK)(Vice Chairman),  
Bob Murray (BM) (Treasurer),Kenelma McCrae (KMCC)(Secretary),Jim Davidson(JD),  
Carol Rogerson(CR),Carol McLean(CMcL), Cllr. Carolyne Wilson (CW), Euan Maxwell (Press)  
(EM), PC. Andrew ? (PCA)

Members of the public: B. Forbes (BF), M. McKelvie (MMCKE),  
Eric Armstrong (EA), J. Purdie (JP), M. Watson (MW), R. Suszek (RS), H. Suszek (HS)

**Apologies:**

Charles McKerrell (CMcK), Ian Vidler (IV), A. Rogerson(AR), Cllr. Stephen Thompson (ST),  
Winifred Dickie (WD)

**1.Introduction:**

The meeting was held in the Town Hall Library. All present were reminded that this is a public meeting and as such will be minuted as well as being reported in the Annandale Herald series. Seven members of the Community Council were present ensuring that the meeting was quorate.

**2.Minutes of the Previous Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**

The minutes were proposed as approved by CR and seconded by JD.

**3.Matters arising:**

Mill Loch north footpath: MMcK advised that legal fees would be minimal to take ownership of the path or alternatively it could just be taken over.

JP suggested controls on fishing and camping activities were necessary to reduce the cases of campfires and human excrement. RS enquired as to who would manage this?

BF suggested control could be exercised over e.g. a 12 month period by volunteers issuing notices to offenders. He knew of a local who may consider being a volunteer bailiff.

CD requested a show of hands and of those present, 4 were prepared to volunteer, with some expressing concerns about their personal safety.

CD again expressed concerns about the benefits of ownership e.g.

- As the path is a Right of Way, on what basis could control be implemented?
- Volunteers currently monitor the path without the need for ownership.
- DGC provide warden patrols when requested and currently have responsibilities for the footpath, although their presence and availability is very limited.

PCA advised that any anti-social incidents should be reported to Police Scotland. He took a note of the location for future reference.

Following considerable discussion CD informed that as retiring chairman he would not put the CC in an onerous position to take ownership at this time. However it may be something the new administration would wish to take on.

RS enquired whether it was necessary to take ownership? It was suggested that residents could form a charitable trust similar to Castle Loch.

In light of the resulting confusion and revised opinion regarding ownership it was agreed that further information was needed.

**ACTION: MMcK to seek written firm costs and information regarding the process of ownership.**

**ACTION: CD to contact DGC for advice on CC's role.**

**2.**

High Street Defibrillator: The notice advising users of responsibilities has been fixed adjacent to the defib box.

Mill Loch update: Naturescot have confirmed that progress is being made on the Management Plan. The CC has responded to SEPA's report and requested a site meeting with locals who can provide in-depth knowledge of the local conditions.

Co-op update: The meeting was advised that the Planning Application was approved by DGC on condition that a number of road safety issues were addressed.

The Church Hall Gardens litter bin is expected to be in place end Jan/early February.

Whitehills/ Ravenhill dog fouling was reported to the CCES on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec but BF says the situation is no better.

#### **4. Police Report:**

PC Stephen Glendinning provided the following report:

<b>POLICE SCOTLAND</b> <b>DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT</b>
<b>Community Council:</b> LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 09/01/2023
<b>Officer Attending / Report Prepared By:</b> PC Glendinning V0111 <i>Andrew</i>
<b>Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting</b> N/A
<b>Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)</b>  <u>11/12/2022 – Offensive Weapon</u> An off duty officer contacted on duty colleagues after observing a male dressed in a pink onesie, in possession of a fire extinguisher, near to Castle Street, Lochmaben, around three o'clock in the morning. Officers attended and traced the male, who, upon being searched, was also found to be in possession of a claw hammer. He was arrested and charged with the offence.  <u>20/12/2022 – Concern for Person</u> Police were contacted by Mental Health staff, following them having attended at a property in Lochmaben to detain a male under the Mental Health Act and the male having ran off. A large scale missing person enquiry was thereafter launched with assistance being sought from Dog Units and helicopter. The male was traced several hours later at the home address of a relative and was conveyed to Midpark Hospital by Police.  <u>21/12/2022 – Threatening and Abusive Behaviour</u> One male arrested and charged following his conduct towards Police in High Street, Lochmaben. The male was also found in possession of items suspected to be controlled drugs which are awaiting analysis and he may be charged with further offences should the items be confirmed as controlled drugs.
<b>Community Issues/Initiatives</b>
<b>Matters brought to Police attention by Council</b>

### 3.

#### 5. Treasurers Report:

##### Finance Movements 6/12/22 – 9/1/23

Balance brought forward £12308.30.

##### Income:

ANCBC Annual Grant:	£ 2000.00	
Donation to Senior Citizens Christmas festivities:	£ 30.00	
		<u>£ 2030.00</u>
		£14338.30

##### Expenditure:

Lochmaben Church Hall Warm Hub contribution:	£ 200.00	
Remembrance Day cost:	£ 25.00	
Senior Citizens Voucher Scheme costs:	£ 239.08	
Printer ink:	£ 67.00	
Planters costs for year*:	£ 230.00	
		<u>£ 761.08</u>

Balance carried forward

**£13577.22**

\* This is a one off discretionary payment\*

The balance includes sums set aside for ongoing projects/support and events for 2023.

#### 6. Common Good sub committee update:

MMcK advised that approval had been given to both the Victory Park and Community Garden projects. These will be subject to a lease being drawn up for each and an 8 week consultation being undertaken as part of the lease process i.e. A notice will go up on each site early in the New Year inviting anyone to provide feedback on the proposal. It was agreed to erect a plaque within the Community Garden (Padding pool) site recognising the Colwell family who built the pool and maintained it for many years.

#### 7. Councillors update:

Nothing to report due to the Festive holidays.

#### 9. Any Other Business:

CD advised that Grit bins had been filled by DGC. **Any resident requiring these to be refilled or additional bins to be located should contact DGC direct on 030 33 33 3000 or [contact@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:contact@dumgal.gov.uk)**

DGC have requested public feedback by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan on their 2023-2028 Council Plan. Details can be found on [www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations).

JD advised of pot holes on the B7020 from Townhead to the Barras. **All residents are requested to report such items direct to DGC on 030 33 33 3000 or [contact@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:contact@dumgal.gov.uk)**  
The more reports received will help to prioritise action for each location.

JP advised that materials were being collected for raised beds and various Youth leaders are willing to get involved with the Community Garden.

JP expressed appreciation for The Warm Hub being run by the Church which is proving very successful. CD confirmed the improved relationship now existing between the Church and

CC and that two CC members, Carol Rogerson and Carol McLean, were volunteering at the Warm Hub in addition to fulfilling their CC duties.

#### 4.

BF enquired about Community Centre progress. This was confirmed as detailed at last month's meeting. JD confirmed that relationships had improved and the flooring was levelling out. Roof repairs by DGC will be carried out this year.

MW enquired about the One Way street proposal for Castle St/ Princes St. CD confirmed this had been refused by DGC based on traffic, road safety and budgets. The meeting subsequently agreed that any road proposals for Lochmaben should be based on traffic use and flows rather than population size which should help to prioritise our streets over other larger communities with a smaller population. **ACTION: CD to enquire.**

KMcC enquired whether parking restrictions (except for loading/ unloading) can be placed at junction near Crolla's cafe and the Chip shop?

**ACTION:CD**

KMcC suggested that the CC write to the Well Pharmacy to clarify prescription stock and service levels. The meeting agreed that communications between the pharmacy and public could be better. **ACTION:CD**

KMcC advised that an individual had made ill informed and inaccurate comments on the CC Facebook site regarding the Co-op decision. CD stated that the CC respects alternative viewpoints but will not tolerate unreasonable/ abusive/ inaccurate comments by any individual. It should be noted that the Co-op Planning decision was taken by DGC after a full public consultation and consideration of applicable national and local planning policies.

**Any relevant comments on the outcome of their decision are to be addressed to DGC Planning Dept. 030 33 33 3000 or <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15337/Comment-on-a-planning-application>.**

JP enquired when the public toilets will be re-opened. **ACTION: CW**

#### 9. Date of next meeting:

6<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall library.

**This is 5<sup>th</sup> and final year of the current Community Council. New members are urgently required to ensure continuity. If you would like to become involved please contact us.**

**Contact your Community Council via Facebook or email at [lochmabencc@gmail.com](mailto:lochmabencc@gmail.com)**