

# DRAFT Minutes Lochmaben Community Council

Lochmaben Town Hall 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 7pm

Present:- Chair Kenelma McCrae (KMc) Vice Chair May Mckerrell of Hillhouse(MMcKoH) secretary Carys Mainprize (CM) Treasurer Bob Murray (BM) minute Secretary Jennifer Robertson (JR) Jane Purdie (JP) Jim Davidson (JD) Cllr Carolyn Wilson(CW) Cllr Stephen Thompson (ST) Reporter from Annandale Herald and 5 members of the public

No apologies

2 Minutes from previous meeting proposed JD seconded JR

3.Matters from members of the public :- serious concerns raised over the seemingly inefficient running of Well Pharmacy Lochmaben which appears to be an ongoing problem despite previous letters to Well from the community council

JP has now contacted The Pharmaceutical council and has logged her complaint and requires other members of the public to contact them too; details are being placed on the Lochmaben Life facebook page. CW will raise with health board and local MSPs.

MMCKoH has also offered to contact Dr Brown about clarity over the time delay for prescriptions (48 hrs).

Complaint raised about speed of tractors driving through the town especially princess Street. KMc has suggested writing to South West branch of the national farmers union to raise awareness . CW is going to enquire about installing “slow down” signs on the route and double yellow line on one side of road.

4. Matters arising CW to contact Queen of the South re lunch club cost of hall hire. CW to chase the repair of paddy wall and mill loch path. Lochmaben medical group responded to community council’s letter (See attached).

5. Police Report

6. Treasurers Report. Accounts have gone to be independently examined.

7. Councillors update ST reported that road lining work is to be done around Lochmaben and the road to Halleaths is to have patching work carried out. Also a reply has been received re Lochmaben Castle and the unstable tower section - they report all assessments have been made satisfactorily. ST to pass on contact details to CM to take forward if condition changes.

8. C C Members update :-

JP is in receipt of King Charles portrait and will liaise with MMcKoH re the date for siting the portrait.

9. AOB

Victory Park :- slide is to be replaced by 2 other items of equipment as the slide was not as promised (set into the hill so could be accessed without steps). Excellent feedback from community about new park, some suggestions for equipment for youngest children (the design of Victory Park was undertaken in the primary school which is why it is geared towards that age group). Possibility to fund the installation of one or two more pieces for youngest – activity boards, for example.

A plaque will be put up to thank all the contributors towards Victory Park – CM to liaise with BM's contact.

Report of the path between park and Tennis court is very muddy CW to investigate. CW to raise the removal of the path lip at the top of the park which blocks access to the wheelchair accessible bench.

Local Development Plan Consultation – 12<sup>th</sup> June 10-11.30 on the high street. Opportunity to feed back about what we want to see more of in Lochmaben – can be a good opportunity for public to raise about more play equipment for youngest children as well as other matters.

Lochmaben Community Garden - the community council have agreed to sign the lease on the paddy for 1 year during which time it is agreed that the garden group will form themselves into a constituted group and take over the running and lease of the paddy. CW to ask for Lease to be updated with correct dates before it is signed.

Community Council Ordinary Elections - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024.  
Community Councils can only run if they have enough members and it is always important for the public to support their community council before this becomes a serious concern. While LCC has more members than needed to continue running currently, this may not be true in the future. If you're interested and want to know more about what being on the CC means, please get in touch with Carys at [secretary@lochmaben.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lochmaben.org.uk)

Church Hall Curbs – CM to enquire with CCES on if the curb can be dropped by the entrance to the church hall to make it more accessible.

Princes St Car Park – CM to contact CCES about the untidiness to see if it can be maintained better.

Merlin Trial – MMcKOH reports they have successfully obtained funding for a feasibility study and are looking to do a study in Lochmaben. It was suggested that Robin return to update and explain his plans before the community council support a Lochmaben feasibility study.

JP raised that a member of public had reported concerns over the parking of a caravan nearby to her house but location was not confirmed so ST could not advise.

10 date of next meeting :-

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 7pm. AGM.

**LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Finance Movements 9/4/24 - 13/5/24**

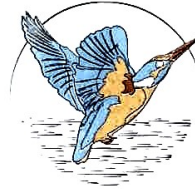
Balance brought forward		31,592.23
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Coffee Morning Proceeds		<u>492.5</u>
		32,085.73
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Church Hall Hire re Coffee Morning	40	
Defibrillator Pads replacements	<u>60</u>	
		<u>-100</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>£31,985.73</u>

Future Expenditure due includes the Victory Park Project, work on which should be finalised this Month, the Community Gardens, and other smaller Community projects.

Website Sponsors so far are :

RJW Electrics, Crown Hotel, Rostrum Sportswear, Braw Beauty, Aggie Bash, A. Crolla & Sons, Barony Foods, Loc of Hair and The kings Arms.

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**LOCHMABEN**  
MEDICAL GROUP

DR. F JEFFORD  
DR. N BROWN  
DR. J CALLANDER  
DR. J WARD  
DR. D GIBSON  
MR. R DENSTON

**Dr F M Jefford  
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25<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Ms Mainprize  
Lochmaben Community Council  
Lochmaben Town Hall  
3 High Street  
Lochmaben  
DG11 1NQ

Dear Ms. Mainprize,

Thank you for your email with questions from council members regarding the service at Lochmaben Medical Group. We will endeavour to answer these below.

1) Could you detail how residents can access the service if they are unable to call the practice at 8AM?

Lochmaben Medical Practice operates a telephone triage service to deal with the majority of health complaints. This service enables us to ensure that the patient is allocated to the correct clinician in a timeframe that is appropriate for their medical complaint. Patients can call at any time of the day to request a callback from one of our team, however there are a limited (albeit considerable) number of telephone appointments that can be offered each day. We are aware of access issues on Monday and Tuesday mornings especially, where the call waiting queue can be excessively long. We have maximised the number of incoming telephone lines and increased reception staff numbers at these times to deal with this volume. We would strongly recommend patients who have non-urgent problems to avoid contacting the surgery on those days. We can assure your members that if they are contacting the practice with a serious or urgent complaint, this will be managed expediently and appropriately. There is no capacity at present to be able to return to a "pre-bookable" model as the demand is simply too great, with too little available resources.

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At the present time there is considerable financial pressure on General Practice in Scotland, so increasing our medical or administrative capacity at the beginning of the week is impossible. Lochmaben Medical Group is currently in a favourable position compared to similarly sized practices across the region, in that we have a full complement of GPs, as well as Advanced Nurse Practitioners and doctors in training.

2) Is there any support for residents who must travel further afield for NHS appointments but cannot access public transport?

The provision of midwifery and other community services is the responsibility of NHS Dumfries and Galloway, not Lochmaben Medical Group. In an attempt to cut costs, many services have been centralised, either within the district of Annandale and Eskdale, or regionally to Dumfries. We would encourage you to direct this question to the Health Board.

3) Can multiple symptoms and concerns be raised within one appointment?

This is entirely dependent on the nature of the appointment and the demand on the service on a given day. It is likely that a patient requesting an emergency appointment due to an urgent medical problem, that only that problem would be dealt with in that appointment. If you have a routine call back with a clinician for a non-urgent matter, it would be reasonable to mention at the beginning of the consultation that you have more than one issue to discuss – this can then be negotiated with the clinician as to how much can be safely dealt with in one appointment.

We hope this has clarified matters somewhat. We appreciate the support that the Community Council offers our practice, as we strive to maintain a high-quality primary care service in very challenging times.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Brown', written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. N. Brown

On behalf of the Partners, Lochmaben Medical Group