

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

**Lochmaben Town Hall Library
Monday 7th March 2022 – 7.00pm**

Present:

Colin Davidson (CD)(Chairman), May McKerrell (MMcK)(Vice Chairman), Bob Murray (BM) (Treasurer), Jim Davidson(JD), Carol Rogerson (CR), Carol McLean(CMcL),
Members of the public: J.Purdie(JP), A. Rogerson (AR), E. Armstrong (EA), A. Armstrong (AA), J. Dick (JD), P. Barr (PB), T. Alderson (TA), J. Alderson (JA), B. Forbes (BF), C. Lamb (CL),Suki Sandhu (SS), I. Beveridge (IB), J. Hunter (JH), A. Wilson (AW), Dawn P? (DP), M. Watson (MW), R. Humes (RH), A. Humes (AH), J. Macaulay (JM), M.? (M?), Abbey Morton (AM)(Press).

Apologies:

Charles McKerrell (CMcK), Ian Vidler (IV), Kenelma McCrae (KMcC)(Secretary),
Cllr. Stephen Thompson (ST), Cllr. Adam Wilson (AW), Diane Sinclair (DS).

1.Introduction:

The meeting was held in the Town Hall Library with Track and Trace, social distancing and other Covid compliant measures in place. 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. Six members of the Community Council were present ensuring that the meeting was quorate.

2.Minutes of the Previous Meeting 7th February 2022.

Proposed as approved by JD and seconded by CR.

3.Matters arising:

A date in April is proposed for a fund raising coffee morning as the church hall is available. Final details of date, stalls and general organisation are to be confirmed. **ACTION: BM/JD.**

CD confirmed to SS that the potholes outside his shop have been reported to DGC, who will programme repairs.

A positive response following the appeal by the PS Parent Partnership for transport funding has resulted in over £1200 being pledged. Additional funds will be provided by the CC, with Suki Stores also pledging £100 at this meeting.

The 14 Roads, Traffic and 20mph speed limit responses received on the CC facebook page have been reported to the Director of Communities. A reply to Cllr Thompsons previous query to Roads and Planning suggest no action is likely until 2023. However CD stated it was important to maintain pressure about Lochmaben's traffic issues.

A member of LLCAG attended a meeting of Sustrans Key Stakeholders Workshop on 17th Feb to provide input on the Lochmaben/ Lockerbie cycle route.

4. RH Youth Organisation:

RH addressed the meeting: Since the launch of activities for Lochmaben in January numbers have risen from 32 attendees with 3 volunteers to 53 young folk with 6 volunteers, with the addition of a 14 year-old volunteer working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Award. Further volunteers are needed especially to help the 10-17 age group. Sessions will continue until summer but should numbers fall away transport will be arranged for Lochmaben folk to travel to Lockerbie activities.

2.

RH invited CC members and the public to a launch ceremony on 31 March between 5.00 and 7.00 pm.

The CC agreed to provide financial support subject to RH providing details of their needs and future plans. **ACTION: RH/BM**

AW representing Lochmaben Church offered to consider reducing rental rates for the Church Hall to provide additional support. **ACTION: AW**

5. Co-op Update:

CD read out the update received from the Co-op.

They do not monitor the trading performance of other businesses in areas where they locate as they have no access to their trading data. The Co-op remain focussed on being a community retailer, investing heavily in local communities. More information can be found at www.co-operative.coop/media/news-releases/support-for-communities-at-its-highest-says-co-op.

CD had also been advised that whilst 10 of the 14 stages had been completed towards a full planning submission being made, the final decision to go ahead will be made following a full review of designs and costings etc.

Cllr Thompson provided an update by email referring to Roads and Planning's response to possible proposals for a pedestrian crossing. This repeated previous policy decisions taken for Lochmaben and confirmed that there are no plans at present for crossings on the A709. However they suggest that the applicant (the Co-op), wish to take the matter further then these need to submit proposals by way of a pre-application enquiry. They continue by saying that in view of past decisions it is something they could not support at this time.

A lively discussion followed, the main points being:

That Raj from the Top shop believed that Lochmaben's population of 3000 population can be easily served by his business and Suki's Stores.

SS as owner of Suki's Stores stated he was unconcerned about the Co-op and welcomed competition. He does however have concerns about its location on Bruce street.

The location of the store was of concern to CL and BF with the latter claiming the store was on the outskirts of the town so the 'halo' effect claimed by the Co-op of benefiting other businesses would not be realised.

CL queried their commitment to use of local contractors e.g. asbestos is present at the proposed site and there are no licensed asbestos removal firms in Lochmaben.

JP and DP referred to the benefit to local employment opportunities directly arising from the Coops presence.

IB stated that his experience whilst visiting the Kirkcudbright store was that it provided a completely different service to other local stores in that town.

This item was brought to a close with CD again confirming that it will be the responsibility of any individual with a view to make their point direct to DGC Planning Dept., once a submission had been made. The CC will ensure details inc. Planning ref number, case officer etc. are made available to the public.

6. Police Report:

PC John Cowan reported the following and in a response to the question from EA, PC Cowan said that Lochmaben does not tend to suffer from problems compared with other areas. However some issues are connected to the same group of youths moving around our District and visiting different locations.

POLICE SCOTLAND
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT
Community Council: LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Date of Meeting: 07/03/2022
Officer Attending / Report Prepared By: PC Glendinning V0111
Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting
N/A
Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)
<u>11/01/2022 – Vandalism</u> Report of damage having been caused to the windows of a car and a house on Nethermill Road. Enquiries ongoing.
<u>11/01/2022 – Breach of Bail/Police Obstruction</u> One male arrested for breach of bail conditions, due to breaching a curfew by not being within his home address during the specified times. This male was also charged with resisting arrest. During the incident a female also obstructed Police and she was later charged with this offence.
<u>23/01/2022 – Assault</u> Report of an assault whereby one male punched another male several times to the head within Asher Crescent. Enquiries carried out and the male suspect was traced and charged with assault.
<u>28/01/2022 – Communications Offence</u> Once male charged with communications offences for making threats over a phone call.
<u>31/01/2022 – Assault to Severe Injury/Permanent Disfigurement</u> One male arrested and charged following a disturbance at a flat within Lochmaben, whereby a female sustained a laceration to her arm.
<u>01/02/2022 – Breach of Bail</u> One male arrested for breach of bail, following making contact with witnesses when bail conditions were in place preventing him from doing so.
<u>05/02/2022 – Possession of Drugs/Breach of the Peace</u> One male charged following being found in possession of cannabis and thereafter becoming threatening and abusive towards Police.

Community Issues

Police Scotland and our partners do get regular complaints regarding dogs, particularly where they are left alone for lengthy periods while owners are at work. This can often end up in ill feeling and dispute between neighbours. We also get calls regarding dangerous, lost and stray dogs, which can be time consuming. We'd like to draw your attention to a new initiative being launched by The Dogs Trust called 'Happy Dog Happy Home'.

Their new intervention has been designed to educate dog owners and provide them with the necessary tools and information they need to gradually prepare their dogs to be left alone as they return to work. The Dogs Trust cover the whole of Scotland, and do this predominantly through free webinars, lasting approximately 45 minutes

with spaces available to book via Eventbrite. They can do in person events also, dependent upon demand. Details on the attached poster.

7. Treasurers Report:

Finance Movements 7/2/22 - 7/3/22

Balance brought forward	£9173.97
Income:	
Donation re Pupil Parent Partnership swimming transport:	<u>£ 100.00</u> 9273.97
<u>Expenditure:</u>	
Voucher scheme reimbursement to local shops:	- £2325.00
Balance carried forward at 7/3/22	<u>£6948.97</u>

The balance includes sums set aside for ongoing projects/support and events for 2022.

8. Mill Loch update:

AR reported the following:

There has been no response to the action points agreed at the original loch meeting despite the 4 week time period being exceeded. The CC has been informed that the organisations involved tend to move at a slower pace than expected. This is even despite issues subsequently raised regarding loch ownership, sewer/ surface water cross overs and surveys.

Despite this, SEPA advise that the reported sewage entering the loch at the 'top' end was in fact rotting vegetation. Photographic evidence of sewage entering the loch at its outfall by the Play park has been forwarded to SEPA for action.

Interest in the Mill Loch has increased with items appearing in the Press, Solway Radio and a request for an interview from Border TV.

A survey of the loch bed has been offered by Battlestation, a company specialising in such services.

BF enquired about Fishing rights. This is a complicated matter as the banks are in multi ownership with IB stating ownership extends from the bank out to the middle of the loch. This is shown on feu documents prepared when properties on Nethermill Road were originally built. However ownership of the access lane to the loch at the bridge is unknown as the nearby farms do not claim it.

JH enquired whether it would be possible to create an access from the Taylor Wimpey development at the location of the SUDS system. This has been raised previously through the CC where it was suggested contact is made to the factors for permission. It's not thought there were any planning restrictions in place. **ACTION: CD to make previous info available.**
Marc Higgins customercare@greenbelt.co.uk

A meeting is to be arranged with loch residents to make them aware of issues and determine future activities. **ACTION: AR to contact IB.**

10. Councillors update:

George Hunter Trust met recently and agreed to fund:

- Lochmaben Gardens Competition
- Lochmaben Primary School Prize Giving
- Lochmaben Community Council – Mercat Cross improvements

Lochmaben to Lockerbie path:

The Active Travel team would be happy to assist the group in setting up a meeting with relevant Officers from Sustrans to hear first-hand the next steps to develop a bid for funding, possibly through the 'Places for Everyone' Programme. The Council's Sustrans Embedded Senior Project Officer will organise a meeting in the near future.

Drainage issues:

There is a works order in place to attend to the gullies within the Nethermill Road area and either side of the top shop on the B7020. If there are specific gullies causing concerns these should be reported through "report it" on the Council's online fault reporting system. This generates a safety inspection where a technician will have to assess the issue and then action repairs. If there is a re-occurring issue with certain gullies, DGC first empty the gully, monitor, and then carry out a camera survey. Parked cars do impact some works, but if made aware in advance DGC would letter drop surrounding properties and use cones to restrict parking in advance of going in to do the works.

Coop development and Roads department:

Crossing point details awaited by Roads department to be assessed.

30mph:

The old 30mph signs and posts in Lochmaben should be removed, and the Deer/Wild Animal warning signs right next to the national speed limit signs have also been raised for attention.

Halleaths Road:

An inspection is to be carried out ensure defects found are added to a future maintenance programme for action. Any defects which could present a severe risk will be prioritised for repair.

Townhead maintenance: DGC will inspect the area around the monument at Townhead, Lochmaben to establish what repairs are necessary. Paving is the responsibility of the Roads Team so they will attend as required.

Barras road:

The road defects have been inspected on the 7th February 2022 and have been added to a future annual programme of works for repair.

Mental Health funding:

The Dumfries and Galloway Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund went live on 30th November but closed earlier in the year and is being managed through the 3rd sector interface with a Steering group, which Social Work, Education and NHS are part of. Third Sector have recently published a list of successful projects. More information is available here: <https://www.tsdg.org.uk/cmhwf/> The total fund available for Dumfries and Galloway in 2021/22 is £448,796. The same amount is expected in 2022/23. There will be monitoring through the 3rd sector and reported to the Steering group.

10. Any Other Business:

DGC are seeking comments regarding the sale of surplus land to which they hold the title in Blacklocks Vennel (approx. 78sq.m). Details were passed around the meeting with CL suggesting that this could be better utilised as a car parking space to help alleviate High st parking problems. There is also concern regarding the condition of the Library/Masonic hall.
ACTION: CD to feedback comments to DGC.

The CC has agreed to a request from a resident to show support for Ukraine by flying their flag at the Town Hall.

The Platinum Jubilee will be acknowledged by flying a commemorative flag or similar items and encouraging resident organised celebrations.

Repairs/ replacements to Grummel Park play area will be carried out now funding has been confirmed by DGC. A date for the work is requested and whether it includes equipment for the handicapped. **ACTION: CD**

The CC has received a request for funding support towards Lockerbie Academy's Celebration of Achievement. Following discussion it was suggested that any support should be directed to the students rather than a prize giving event. **ACTION: CD to respond to Lockerbie.**

A resident's offer to supply and lay bark chippings at Mill Loch playpark will be subject to DGC's approval. **ACTION: CD**

The Top shop has enquired about siting picnic benches on land adjacent to Mill Loch. They will be referred to DGC for approval. **ACTION:JP.**

BM requested that the Town hall alarm be repaired and advised that the illuminated speed sign at the hospital wasn't working. **ACTION: CD**

An enquiry was made regarding financial support for Lochmaben FC. This will be considered subject to a written request detailing requirements.

The poor condition of the road to Lochmaben Castle was raised. The resident has been encouraged to report this direct to DGC as well as the CC requesting repairs. **ACTION: CD**

CR advised that the CC has contacted the school to re- instate the Art competition. Should this be extended from P5 and 6 to include P7? **ACTION: CR.**

11. Date of next meeting:

This is proposed for 4th April at 7.00pm with the venue or format to be confirmed depending on Covid restrictions.