

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

**Lochmaben Town Hall Library  
Monday 4th April 2022 – 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), Members of the public: J.Purdie(JP), Diane Sinclair (DS), Alistair Brown (AB), Mark McKelvie (MM), B. Forbes (BF), Aimee Duffy (AD)(Press).

**Apologies:**

Charles McKerrell (CMcK), Ian Vidler (IV), Carol McLean(CMcL), A. Rogerson (AR), Cllr. Stephen Thompson (ST).

**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 March 2022.**

Proposed as approved by CR and seconded by BM.

**3.Matters arising:**

RH Youth Organisation:

It was reported that following the launch ceremony on 31<sup>st</sup> March, RH Youth Organisation desperately need volunteers. Current events will be limited to the one age group until volunteers come forward.

CD informed that the CC is still awaiting details of the financial support requested by RH before any decision can be made.

AB informed that the Church is taking a favourable view on offering a reduced rent to the group. This is awaiting formal approval by the Church board.

Mill Loch:

Details of the factors for the Taylor Wimpey estate have been provided (Greenbelt Ltd) for residents to approach regarding forming access to Mill Loch from the estate.

Surplus land, Blacklocks Vennel:

Feedback was provided to DGC, to which there's been no further response or information.

Grummel Park:

Following a request from a nearby resident/ parent the CC requested our Ward Councillor to apply pressure for more prompt action. DGC have reaffirmed their commitment but have not offered any dates for the work to be carried out.

DS enquired if St Margaret's play park can be considered for improvements and repair.

Lockerbie Academy support:

The CC provided an alternative option to their request for funding towards a celebration. This took the form of an award and small cash prize to any Lochmaben pupil demonstrating a commitment to community activities. Whilst well received by the School, no further information has been forthcoming. It was agreed to progress arranging the award to present to the school. **ACTION: CD**



2.

Mill Loch playpark:

The offer by a resident to supply and lay bark chippings was not taken up by DGC as it claimed these required to be of a specific type etc. Chippings have since been laid but these appear to be no different to those which were kindly offered.

Lochmaben CC support:

No request for funding has been received from the Club but it was agreed to contact them to determine any details.

Road repairs, Lochmaben Castle:

The CC has raised a request for necessary repairs to the section which is the responsibility of DGC. See CCES Ref: 5313582, a response is expected by 21.04.22.

Art Competition:

CR informed that Mrs N Foggo is currently undertaking the judging of entries.

4. Police Report:

JP enquired about the behavioural concerns of a youth previously reported. PC McGoldrick informed that the Police are trying to bring in an Intervention Action to provide support to the youth.

Drug use by children has been reported at Mill Loch play park.

AB reported a number of incidents involving children on bikes without lights and concerns for their safety.

CD advised that a resident contacted the CC regarding ASB by youths at his home. He was advised to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme with other nearby residents he claims to be affected.

In response to the above issues it was confirmed that the Police will react promptly but it is important that all non emergency incidents are reported via 101 incident line or the Police Scotland 'Contact Us' webpage. It is not necessary to provide personal details but reporting is important to ensure recent intelligence is provided to assist them with progressing actions. Patrols are always made wherever possible but an Officer is always on shift to receive calls etc. Report appears below:

POLICE SCOTLAND	
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT	
Community Council:	LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	04/04/2022
Officer Attending / Report Prepared By:	PC McGoldrick V0491 / PC Glendinning V0111
Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting	N/A
Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)	<p>13/03/2022 – Road Traffic Collision Report of a two vehicle road traffic collision on the B7020 near to Lochmaben. One of the drivers was charged with careless driving.</p> <p>13/03/2022 – Domestic Incident Female contacted Police to report a male having sent a video containing an intimate image of her to others. Enquiries ongoing.</p> <p>03/04/2022 – Fatal Road Traffic Collision A one vehicle fatal road traffic crash occurred around 0340hrs on 3/4/2022 on A709 near to Dryfesdale Cemetery. The driver, a 34 year old man, was pronounced dead at the scene. Police are appealing for any information.</p>
Community Issues	
Matters brought to Police attention by Council	
Response given to above points at the meeting	



### 3.

#### 5. Treasurers Report:

##### Finance Movements 8/3/22 – 4/4/22

Balance brought forward	£6948.97	
Income:		
ANBC Covid Recovery Grant	<u>£2000.00</u>	£8948.97
Expenditure:		
Lochmaben SWI donation towards running costs:	£ 250.00	
Lochmaben PS Pupil Parent Partnership (PPP), swimming transport costs:	£1000.00	
PPP grant towards future Nursery project:	£ 500.00	
Mercat Cross gardens upgrade, Landscaping and plants**:	<u>£1016.70</u>	<u>-£2766.70</u>

Balance carried forward at 4/4/22

**£6182.27**

\*\* The Community Council will receive a grant of £1630 from The George Hunter Trust towards the costs of this project.

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

CD read out the letter of thanks received from the President of Lochmaben SWI.

#### 6. Mill Loch Update:

With AR being unable to attend, JP and CD provided the following information:  
The level of interest in the conditions of the Loch is very high. However firm details on possible actions are still awaited from organisations including SEPA, NatureScot and Scottish Water. The Barony has been proactive and its hoped to further build on the positive relationship. DGC are including these issues as part of their local Visitor Hub group which involves councillors, community safety, police and fire officers.  
A meeting with loch side residents will be arranged once more information is available.

**ACTION:AR.**

MMcK advised of similar issues affecting The Kirk Loch and provided signage regarding protection of Mute swans. It was agreed to post this on fb, the Town Hall notice board and if possible on signs around the lochs. Similar signage could be made from posters published by The Scottish Outdoor Access code. A selection of these is to be circulated to determine their suitability. **ACTION: JP/MMcK/ CD.**

#### 7. Coffee morning arrangements:

The date is confirmed as Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and it will be in the Church Hall. Entry will be £2.00 adults, 50p children.

BM advised that publicity will be via posters in shops, the Annandale Herald, social media etc.

JD advised that he was collecting raffle prizes from local and Dumfries shops but more volunteers are required especially on the day. CR confirmed her offer to run the bric a brac stall, KMcC has offered to do face painting and baking etc. Set up will be from 6.30pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April.



#### 4.

### **8. Councillors update:**

Cllr Stephen Thompson provided the following information:

#### Playpark improvements:

Council confirm that both parks are set to receive some of the Scottish Government Funding for play parks. DGC have received £286k of funding for play parks, which will go towards bringing parks up to a good standard. Mill Loch Park will be getting a new multiplay unit to replace the one that had to be removed last year.

Grummel Park will be having the surfacing defects sorted and will be getting the slide replaced as well as another piece of equipment to replace the spinning pole that was removed previously. Although the multiplay unit looks a bit dilapidated in the photographs it is structurally sound enough and is expected, by the independent play inspector, to have approx. 5 years left in it. The team will also see if funds will stretch to replace the bench.

#### 20mph limit:

The feedback from Lochmaben's community facebook page was acknowledged after the last meeting and the Council response was to say that Lochmaben is ranked 14th on the Council's Communities Programme, based on the population size priority listing, so at this stage they would plan to consult with Ward Members and the Community Council in 2023. The A709 through Lochmaben has been listed as part of the 20mph considerations that the Road Network Strategy and Road Safety Team are looking at. They are not only looking at 20mph speed limits but also other methods of traffic management to reduce speeds such as Vehicle Activated Speed signage etc.

#### Lochmaben to Lockerbie path:

The Active Travel team are able to assist the local 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.

#### Roads (Various):

B7020 The Barras and the requirement for road repairs - the B7020 was last inspected on 29th March 2022 and the defects have been added to a programme of works for repair.

#### Street Cleaning:

After the last meeting I asked for Lochmaben streets be given some attention by the Council team to weed/clean High Street and just off Princes St, Castle St and up to Nethermill Road, as residents have been getting in touch directly asking if this could be done. The Council team have now advised that these areas of concern will be addressed as soon as possible.

### **9. Any Other Business:**

JP requested anyone knowing of a site suitable for a Community Garden to contact her. Suggestions included Common Good ground, land behind Whitehills Ave adjacent to Football pitch. The Community Garden would be run by volunteers but its hoped to involve The Barony college if possible.

The CC acknowledged with thanks, the quick response by DGC in carrying out repairs to the Town Hall notice board.

CD brought the meeting's attention to the Strategic Transport review consultation and suggested residents submit comments by the closing date of 15<sup>th</sup> April.



## 5.

It was confirmed that the Lochmaben War memorial has been entered into the National War Memorial competition following the success achieved in the regional event.

It was agreed that the CC will take up the offer of DGC to use their website template. KMCC has agreed to progress this to ensure a smooth transfer of information from the Initiative website. Over the longer term, the site would ideally be edited by a webmaster from the younger generation, however no further information has yet been received following our request to partner with Lockerbie Academy. **ACTION:KMCC**

CD read out an email received from Sansec Ltd ref the Co-op development. This stated that outstanding approvals to progress matters were still awaited from the Co-op themselves. However plans have been updated following constructive feedback from neighbours adjacent to the site.

Sponsors of the various street planters are to be contacted to determine their continuing support. CD is to circulate the list for CC members to follow up. **ACTION:CD**

CR updated the meeting on progress with the Victory Park play and activity area. Following a site survey by Wicksteed, budget costs of £45-50,000 to supply and install 6 items. This being a large project the meeting was asked to consider the options of:

1. Reduce the equipment levels to offer a more manageable budget.
2. Consider phasing the development over a set period of time.
3. Abandon the idea as being too ambitious.

JB and MM firmly stated that the project should go ahead.

JD suggested gaining support from local businesses.

The general opinion was positive and it was agreed to progress carefully with further resident consultations, consider funding sources and opportunities and to seek input from DGC ref any planning/ Common Good implications. **ACTION: CR/CD**

### 10. Date of next meeting:

Due to the Mayday holiday, this is proposed for 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm with the venue or format to be confirmed depending on Covid restrictions.

**GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

Contact us on facebook or by e-mail at [lochmabenc@gmail.com](mailto:lochmabenc@gmail.com)