

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE ROYAL BURGH OF LOCHMABEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Lochmaben Town Hall Library
Tuesday 2nd May 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), Cllr. Carolyne Wilson (CW), Cllr. Stephen Thompson (ST),
Members of the public: E. Armstrong (EA), M. McKelvie (MM), B. Forbes (BF), J. Purdie (JP),
Andrew Rogerson (AR), C. Mainprize (CM), L. Davidson (LD), Jenni Robertson (JR),
Christie Breen (Press)(CB),

Apologies:

C. McKerrell (CMcK), I. Vidler (IV), C.McLean (CMcL), Zena Forbes (ZF), PC Cowan (PCC).

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. The meeting was quorate with six members of the Community Council being present.

2.Minutes of the Previous Meeting 3rd April 2023.

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

3.Matters arising:

Tesco update: The developer has confirmed that apart from minor amendments to the shop front, the existing planning approval and associated conditions apply including environmental matters.

Tesco will be providing an ATM.

Casual Vacancy Election: Today was the closing date for nominations. Its not yet known if or how many have been received by DGC. The members who have tendered their resignation will remain on the CC until the close of the June 2023 monthly meeting.

Nethermill Road traffic concerns: CD advised that according to the planning approval the improvements to the road will only be made at the junction of the new housing development. Details from the planning consent were passed around the meeting.

Coronation proposals: It was confirmed that over 400 commemorative packets of Sunflower seeds have been distributed to the School, Nurseries, Community groups and Community Garden. It was not felt suitable for these to be planted at the Castle Loch as previously suggested for Wildflower seeds.

Footballing activity S1-S6: The CC has written to DGC requesting consideration of a MUGA or similar facilities.

CCES Enquiry 87929: The wall at the Town Hall flower bed will be reinstated before or during flower planting. The missing bench in front of the Town Hall was removed as it was irreparable following vandalism. The condition of the remaining bench is being monitored.

Lochmaben Medical Group concerns: CD read out the concerns raised with LMG followed by their very detailed response which clarified the situation. A copy of LMG's letter is available to anyone requesting this but LMG are prepared to fully discuss specific concerns with individual patients who are encouraged to make contact as necessary.

2.

4. Police Report:

CD read out the following:

POLICE SCOTLAND
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

Community Council: LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 02/05/2023

Officer Attending / Report Prepared By: PC John Cowan V0524

Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting

N/A

Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)

08/04/2023 – Police responded to reports of a disturbance outside a Licensed Premises where a number of people fighting in the street. Enquiries ongoing to establish full circumstances.

16/04/2023 – Male charged with vandalism to front door of house in Campbell Court.

27/04/2023 – Sneak-in theft reported from house in Barras. Reminder to all to lock doors overnight and as a matter of course.

28/04/2023 – SFRS responded to grass fire near to Ravenhill. Initial investigations suggest it was set deliberately.

Community Issues/Initiatives

Summer Drink Drive campaign continues with regular early morning checks across the region.

Several local Community Councils have expressed interest in purchasing Rural Watch and Neighbourhood Watch signage. These can be bought directly from the website at the following link.

I have confirmed purchase cost of £21.12 plus p&p.

The signs are excellent quality composite metal and 42x30cm to cable tie to lamp posts.

[Neighbourhood Watch Scotland | Composite Sign - Neighbourhood Watch Scotland](#)

3.

5. Treasurers Report:

BM reported on the success of the recent Coffee Morning and thanked all involved including CC members and the many volunteers, without whose help it would not have been possible. The assistance provided by the Church for the use of the hall was also acknowledged as was the support of businesses providing Raffle prizes etc.

Coffee Morning 29th April 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Details of income</u>		
Door and donations:	£234.00	£194.00
Raffle proceeds:	£204.00	£194.00
Bric-a-brac:	£176.00	£102.00
Home Baking:	£127.00	£ 50.00
Plants (donation):	£ 45.00	£ 74.00
Books:	£ 26.00	£ 27.00
Tombola:	<u>£ 50.75</u>	<u>£ 63.00</u>
	£ 862.75	£ 704.00
Less costs, various food etc.:	<u>-£ 108.30</u>	<u>-£ 80.00</u>
Profit:	<u>£754.45</u>	<u>£624.00</u>

There could well be some small donations to follow from some people who couldn't make it on the day.

Finance Movements 4/4/23 – 2/5/23

Balance brought forward		£11870.02
<u>Income:</u>		
Grange Quarry donation to Victory Park:	£ 200.00	
Coffee morning:	<u>£ 754.45</u>	
		<u>£ 954.45</u>
		£12824.47
<hr/>		
<u>Expenditure:</u>		
Coronation seed packs for School and Nursery:	£ 288.00	
Lochmaben Bowling Club Low wall restoration:	£ 500.00	
Lochmaben – Lockerbie Community Access Group:	£ 250.00	
Restoration and cleaning of War Memorial:	£ 480.00	
Postage:	£ 19.00	
		<u>£ 1537.00</u>
Balance carried forward		<u>£11287.47</u>

Future expenditure due includes the Community Gardens and the Victory Park project.

4.

6. Councillors update:

ST informed of the following;

The recent public meeting held by LLCAG (Community Access Group) in Lochmaben was well attended with the project being progressed in partnership with DGC.

The recent Common Good Sub Committee meeting approved the use of the Paddling Pool for the Community Garden on the basis of a rolling lease which will be regularly reviewed. This was a balanced decision taking into account both the levels of support and objection to the proposal.

Applications are invited for the current round of funding offered by The George Hunter Trust who have £4500 to dispense.

Progress is starting to be made on the footpath and paving at the small War Memorial, re-marking of Disabled parking spaces and Bus stop cleaning.

MM requested Ward councillors take up the issue of a lack of local housing for the disabled.

AR enquired about funding and improvements for the A709 Strategic Timber route where it passes through Lochmaben. ST confirmed it was the busiest non trunk route throughout D and G and continual lobbying is required to improve the link via Transport Scotland. Responsibility for the road falls to DGC due to its lower designation, this makes funding an issue. It's hoped the forthcoming 20mph speed limit may reduce the effect of heavy traffic using the road as a link between the west and M74 northbound.

7. Any Other Business:

CD informed that the Town Hall chambers will be hosting Dawn Roberts Chief Exec of DGC during her Ward visit on 17th May with two CC representatives being invited.

CD advised of the forthcoming programme for road repairs, patching and maintenance in and around Lochmaben.

KMcC addressed the meeting with an update on the CC website development. It's proposed to pick up from the previous Initiative website and make use of the domain names which will incur some minimal costs. The previous no cost option provided by STA was found to be impractical and unsuitable. CC members voted unanimously to proceed.

MMcK advised that the Community Garden approval granted by the Common Good sub committee was generally favoured by residents. However there were some objections as it was felt this removed a safe, hard standing area for cycle practice from Lochmaben. The meeting suggested that future consideration be given to a cycle park area.

JP provided a positive update on the recent Information event organised by RH Youth Organisation, highlighting the groups being run in Lochmaben.

CR acknowledged the generous donations received from local businesses in response to a Victory Park funding appeal. These include: Tesco: £500, Grange Quarries: £200 and

A.W.Jenkinson's offer of products to the value of £500. These figures, coupled with current grant applications, CC reserves funding and anticipated funding make it very likely that the CC will be able to match fund with DGC's commitment to enable the project to proceed.

JP acknowledged the support and effort provided by the CC for projects including the War Memorial and Victory Park and requested these be continued by the next administration.

5.

BF advised that the CLLCT suggest that the cottage is increasingly used for teaching children due to the poor condition of the outside log 'classroom' area.

CR, KMcC and JP pointed out that the log area was preferred by the Nursery as the location for Outdoor Education. It was also stated that the cottage was further away from the school with access being via the busy A709 route. It was subsequently agreed that this should be discussed direct with the CLLCT Trustees.

BF, responding to concerns about the lack of dog litter bins around Castle Loch advised that this is the result of disposal difficulties. Bin contents would have to be manually transported to areas accessible by the DGC Waste Removal service. The Trust are actively seeking new volunteers.

ST reported that the Lochmaben Burgh Charter has been translated, with details being passed to the Lochmaben Heritage Group.

EA expressed concern regarding the future of The King's Arms. Should this close and be developed in a similar manner to the Bruce Arms it would result in reduced amenities for Lochmaben and major alterations to a building within the Lochmaben Conservation Area. CD advised that similar concerns were previously raised with DGC Planning regarding another building in the High Street. They advised that these buildings would not have any 'permitted development' rights for alterations or extension to be undertaken without the need for planning permission. Should any such work be witnessed it should be reported to the Planning Enforcement Team via planningenforcementteam@dumgal.gov.uk.

JD informed the meeting that the Lunch Club would be relocating to the Church Hall whilst the planned repair work was ongoing at the Community Centre.

11.Date of next meeting:

Monday 5th June 2023 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall library.