

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

**Lochmaben Town Hall Library
Monday 7th November 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),Cllr. Carolyne Wilson (CW), Euan Maxwell (EM) (Press),
Lee Seaton (LS)(DGC).

Members of the public: J.Purdie(JP), A. Rogerson(AR),T.Oliver (TO), B. Forbes (BF), M. McKelvie (MMCKE), R. Humes(RH), Stuart Gray (SG), Maurice Green (MG), Winifred Dickie (WD), Eric Armstrong (EA),

Apologies:

Kenelma McCrae (KMCC)(Secretary), Charles McKerrell (CMcK), Ian Vidler (IV),
Cllr. Stephen Thompson (ST).

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. Six members of the Community Council were present ensuring that the meeting was quorate.

2.Minutes of the Previous Meeting 5th September 2022.

It was noted that the Balance carried forward date under Item 5 Treasurers Report was incorrect. The amended minutes were subsequently proposed as approved by BM and seconded by MMcK.

3.Matters arising:

Lochmaben Hospital: MMcK confirmed that having contacted Tesco they were prepared to offer a box of chocolates to each patient. MMcK then enquired if the CC would offer support? CD confirmed via BM that a sum of £200 was paid to the Hospital in September as a donation towards their Christmas celebration.

Dentist: JP and JD confirmed that the new dentist was open and existing patients will be notified about arrangements, however no new patients will be taken on.

Mill Loch: Confirmation was made of our planned attendance at the meeting of O. Mundell with Naturescot at Holyrood on 10th November.

MMcK confirmed that the footpath is a right of way but not Common Good and apparently has no owner. There are two options to protect this route

1. It's taken on by the CC at no cost but maintenance, safety and management would be their responsibility.
2. Leave the footpath as it is with volunteers looking after it on an informal basis.

It was agreed that further discussion needs to take place before any decision is made.

ACTION: CC members

2.

4. Police Report:

PC Stephen Glendinning provided the following report:

POLICE SCOTLAND	
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT	
Community Council:	LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Date of Meeting:	07/11/2022
Officer Attending / Report Prepared By:	PC Glendinning V0111
Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting	
N/A	
Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)	
<u>07/10/2022 – Fraud</u> Online fraud whereby male has paid for goods on Gumtree which have subsequently failed to be delivered. Enquiries ongoing.	
<u>16/10/2022 – Theft by Shoplifting</u> Male suspect entered Costcutter and stole several packets of tobacco. Enquiries ongoing.	
<u>18/10/2022 – Theft by Shoplifting</u> Two male youths entered Costcutter and stole several vape devices. Both have been traced and charged with the offence.	
<u>25/10/2022 – Online Extortion</u> Male victim has been speaking with a female online and during this time has performed a sexual act on the webcam. This has been recorded and the male has thereafter been advised to provide £8000 or the images would be sent to his family. Male has agreed to pay £1000 and has done so, before deciding to contact Police. Enquiries ongoing.	
<u>04/11/2022 – Drug Driving</u> One female arrested and charged for drug driving. Vehicle was observed by an off duty officer on Bruce Street, Lochmaben to be driving erratically, before hitting a kerb and coming to a stop. Police contacted and traced the female driver nearby, clearly under the influence.	

Further to an earlier CC enquiry regarding a drug related incident, It was confirmed that no incidents of needle throwing had been reported. The meeting was advised that any such incidents or information should be reported to the Police for investigation.

Police Scotland are carrying out a public survey regarding Policing matters. Information can be found at <https://www.scotland.police.uk/> and everyone is encouraged to respond.

3.

5. Treasurers Report:

Finance Movements 4/10/22 – 7/11/22

Balance brought forward	£10952.20.
<u>Income:</u>	
D&G Council Annual Discretionary payment to cover admin costs:	£ <u>596.60</u>
	£11188.80
<u>Expenditure:</u>	
Remembrance Day Wreath:	£34.90
Balance carried forward	<u>£11153.90</u>

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

MG advised the meeting that Lochmaben FC were donating £500 towards the costs of the Christmas event and the cheque will be presented to members at the club at 1.30pm on 12th November. The Community Council duly acknowledged this kind gesture.

6. Community Centre update:

Lee Seton, Leisure, Culture and Wellbeing Manager of DGC was welcomed to the meeting and provided the following information:

The Community Centre is and will remain in the ownership of DGC.

The current 'Licensed To Occupy' arrangement with QoS runs for 3 years, started in 2019 and whilst expiring in summer 2022 will continue until a different arrangement is in place. QoS run the centre as a charitable trust.

The arrangement makes the operator (QoS) responsible for failures in the building, however the problem with the gas supply is being jointly repaired by DGC and QoS. The supply is currently under test and is expected to be fully rectified shortly.

The roof repairs have been previously identified as a latent defect in the building, the repairs for which are the responsibility of DGC. Sections of the roof require to be replaced with the work being put out to tender with a contractor being appointed by spring 2023. It's likely that the centre will have to be closed whilst work is carried out.

QoS have tried to repair the damaged floor but the recent heating issues have hindered progress. With the restoration of gas supply its hoped the floor can be properly reinstated.

BF enquired whether the problem could be the result of rising damp.

It was reported that the QoS manager is applying for grant funding to help reduce the burden of hall charges being placed on service users.

RH said it was disappointing that the above actions only came about following the extensive press coverage of the problems.

LS was very interested to hear of these concerns first hand but the current arrangement is a solution to enable DGC to maintain facilities during a time of serious funding shortfalls.

CD enquired whether public knowledge of the service levels written into the arrangement would help the community manage expectations. Apart from building fabric issues, customer service levels are being questioned.

LS explained that a number of options exist for the Community Centre:

- QoS are retained under a continuing Licenced Operator agreement,
- DGC take back the operation and management of the centre,
- A Community Asset Transfer takes place whereby the community take on the centre.

The meeting agreed that the last point needs to be fully considered before taking any action.

LS confirmed that continual updates on progress will be provided and CD thanked him for his efforts in trying to resolve matters.

4.

7. High Street Defibrillator:

CD read out a letter received from Andrew Boyd, who donated the equipment and is the current Guardian. Due to his changing circumstances he requested that the CC take on Guardianship of the equipment to ensure its position and availability in the High Street. Following discussion it was agreed that this would not be possible as the availability of and age range of council members could not ensure continuity. However members agreed that funding could be provided to cover costs of batteries and replacement pads.

It was agreed that the CC would write to High Street businesses including the Chemist, Dentist, Surgery and Jaybees to see if they were prepared to take on Guardianship of the defibrillator. **ACTION: CD.**

SG suggested that The British Heart Foundation may provide guidance on the subject.

8. Councillors update:

CW informed of the following provided by Cllr ST:

George Hunter Trust

Met for first time since Council election in May and supported applications from Lochmaben FC, Lochmaben Tennis Club, Soccer Bees Winter Project, Lochmaben Heritage Community Trust

Barras – Mossvale path and fence

Wheatley Group will arrange for the area to be cleared and shrubs/bushes cut back as soon as possible.

Barras - Common Good

Council Streetscene Team will carry out weed treatment and then spread new gravel on the areas which should hopefully alleviate the trip hazards

Townhead Paving Repair

Council Streetscene Team to carry out repairs to the area around the memorial within the next two weeks.

Cycle Path progress

Positive news. The Council Ward Officer is working with Council's Economic Development and Roads Service to progress this project with an aim to meeting with the group again in Mid-November and submitting an application to Sustrans in December.

Town Hall

Legal Services are employing a Medieval Latin Translator to translate the Title for the Town Hall so that Voluntary Registration can place.

Community Centre

Meetings have taken place and Council Property Services are working with QoS to make improvements to the asset.

5.

9. Any Other Business:

Christmas event: This is confirmed as being a voucher scheme similar to last year which proved very popular with both recipients and local businesses. The decision was made on the basis that a suitable or large enough venue could not be found and it was agreed that it would prove helpful during the current cost of living crisis. Registration for the event will be promoted via the press and Town Hall notice board. Names are to be submitted by 24th November.

The support of local businesses and organisations for the event is always appreciated and the CC will approach those willing to help. **ACTION: JD and CD**

Warm Hub: WD confirmed that the Church will open the Church Hall as a Warm Hub venue initially on a Monday.

MMCKE enquired about the Christmas lights switch on, the CC explained this was undertaken by Lochmaben Gala committee.

CD confirmed the Remembrance Day arrangements:

10.45 Participants meet at Town Hall, 11.00 Parade to War Memorial, 11.10 Service of Remembrance followed by laying of wreaths, 11.30 Church Service.

CD advised of the next Common Good Sub Committee meeting on 6th Dec. where the CC's Victory Park and Community Garden proposals will be discussed. The CC will be represented by MMcK **ACTION: MMcK**

MMcK raised a concern from a resident that a gate had been positioned across the pedestrian access from Princes St to the dairy. It was subsequently believed that as this was private property there were no legal implications.

CD advised that the CC will attend the forthcoming meeting of Annandale and Eskdale Federation of Community Councils, the first since the pandemic.

11. Date of next meeting:

5th December 2022 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall library.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Contact us on facebook or by e-mail at lochmabenc@gmail.com

