

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

**Lochmaben Town Hall Library
Monday 5th December 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), Carol McLean (CMcL), PC S. Glendinning (SG).
Members of the public: A. Rogerson (AR), B. Forbes (BF), M. McKelvie (MMCKE),
Eric Armstrong (EA), H. McGhie (HMcG), S. Aitken (SA), E. Kennedy (EK), I. Kennedy (IK)

Apologies:

Charles McKerrell (CMcK), Ian Vidler (IV),
Cllr. Carolyne Wilson (CW), Cllr. Stephen Thompson (ST), Winifred Dickie (WD)

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

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

The minutes were proposed as approved by CMcL and seconded by BM.

3. Matters arising:

Mill Loch north footpath: BF suggested that the future of this path should be secured by it being taken into CC ownership. Ownership may also help to protect and control activities at the loch edge. This was despite concerns previously raised about this option regarding the CC's liability and maintenance responsibilities. HMcG recommended that the conditions of the current public liability provided through DGC should be confirmed. EA questioned the ownership situation of the footpath around the southern edge of the Loch.

ACTION: MMcK to confirm the process of taking ownership and the legal costs involved.

CD informed that at the recent meeting with O. Mundell and Ian Bray of Naturescot it was agreed that the latter would prepare a Management plan for the community to put into action. They will also advise of any applicable funding sources. Naturescot will also liaise closely with SEPA.

Community Centre:

CD read out a progress update provided by DGC. The gas supply has been restored but the boiler required replacement parts. Heating was restored on 17th November. This will allow the floor to dry out and gradually return to a level surface. CD confirmed that despite this RH Youth Group had moved from the centre to premises at The Kings Arms and that QoS customer interaction needs to be improved.

QoS have applied for lottery funding citing a partnership with the Luncheon Club. The Luncheon club are being provided with a free Christmas lunch and festivities by QoS at Palmerston Park.

High Street Defibrillator:

The surgery have agreed to take on Guardianship of the equipment with replacement parts etc. being funded through the CC. A notice advising users of responsibilities will be fixed adjacent to the defib box.

2.

Christmas Event:

All vouchers have been distributed and the CC has received numerous expressions of thanks from recipients. The CC acknowledge the generous support provided by H McGhie, W Edwards and Lochmaben FC without whose help the scheme would be severely limited.

Gala Lights:

It was confirmed that £500 was donated to the Gala Light committee to support their Christmas appeal.

4. Police Report:

PC Stephen Glendinning provided the following report:

OFFICIAL

POLICE SCOTLAND

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT

Community Council: LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Date of Meeting: 05/12/2022
Officer Attending / Report Prepared By: PC Glendinning V0111

Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting

N/A

Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)

07/11/2022 – Fraud
Enquiries ongoing following a male having been the victim of a fraud. Male was contacted by telephone by a person purporting to be from Curry's and thereafter entered into an agreement to purchase a new mobile phone, paying £60 into an account via his online banking and providing his bank details to set up a direct debit. Money has since been taken from his account without his knowledge or permission.

09/11/2022 – Drink Driving
One male arrested and charged with drink driving following a road traffic collision in Lochmaben.

13/11/2022 – Fireraising
Enquiries ongoing following a bin having been removed from outside a house in Asher Crescent' Lochmaben, and thereafter set alight in the area of Mill Loch Park.

17/11/2022 – Drug Driving
One female arrested and charged with drug driving following a road traffic collision where she had collided with two parked cars. Held in custody for court appearance.

Community Issues/Initiatives

The Police Scotland Festive Drink and Drug Driving campaign is currently ongoing and will run until 02nd January 2022. Officers will be carrying out static road checks throughout the region to detect/deter any offences. Any information about suspected drink or drug drivers should be reported to Police.

Police Scotland are aware of a recent scam that some people have fallen victim to. The scam is disguised as a text message from an unknown number claiming to be a relative with a new phone number. A conversation starts with generic questioning and then they say that they need money and ask you to transfer it to their account. Our advice is that if you receive a text message of this nature, check with them in person or with other

3.

JD informed of vandalism to his property during the recent Rotary Santa tour. Whilst this was not reported at the time PC Glendinning took a note of the damage in Princes St and Queen St.

5. Treasurers Report:

Finance Movements 8/11/22 – 5/12/22

Balance brought forward £11153.90.

Income:

Lochmaben FC contribution to Senior Citizens

Christmas festivities: £ 500.00

Other donations to Senior Citizens Christmas festivities: £ 1300.00

£ 1800.00

£12953.90

Expenditure:

Travel costs to Edinburgh Parliament meeting

re The Mill Loch ongoing problems: £ 70.60

Lochmaben Children's Gala contribution

towards Christmas Lights running costs: £ 500.00

Lochmaben Medical Group re Defib costs: £ 55.00

DGC re Annual Small lotteries Licence: £ 20.00

£ 645.60

Balance carried forward

£12308.30

The balance includes sums set aside for ongoing projects/support and events for 2022/23.

6. LLCAG update:

HMcG and SA advised of the following:

The Lochmaben-Lockerbie Community Activity Group is up and running again and will be making a future application for this route in partnership with DGC. The 'Access path' will link the 3 CC areas of Lockerbie, Royal Four Towns and Lochmaben and provide all inclusive access. LLCAG will build up further support to take the concept forward and eventually carry out a Feasibility study.

Whilst applications are currently being invited the group has agreed to look and learn from such examples to ensure that their planned application for the next funding round will be thorough. It's important that a strong partnership is formed with the public and CC's to take it forward and a survey will go out in Jan/ Feb time to gauge support.

CD requested CC members to confirm commitment to supporting the project which was carried by a unanimous vote. Royal Four Towns CC have also committed to the cause and it's hoped Lockerbie will follow at their meeting next week.

7. Mill Loch update:

Subsequent emails have been received from both Naturescot and SEPA regarding progress, No response has been received as yet from SEPA by AR to her reply seeking further details. It was agreed that the CC will also respond.

ACTION: CD

4.

8. Councillors update:

CD informed of the following provided by Cllr ST:

Community Centre

Gas pipe repair to the external of the building was completed successfully shortly after council officer attended the recent community council meeting. This restored gas supply back to the centre however Queen of the South did advise the boiler was unable to fire initially. Queen of the South have had a gas safe engineer out on two occasions since to look at the boiler as it required some further work and additional parts and at last update the boiler was in working and full heating was restored, this will enable the expanded floor to settle over the next week as normal temperatures are restored.

Common Good

Paddling Pool area and community garden proposal to be heard at Lochmaben Common Good meeting on Tuesday. Victory Park play equipment proposal to be heard at Lochmaben Common Good meeting on Tuesday. Kirk Loch caravan park update on income from site to be heard at Lochmaben Common Good meeting on Tuesday.

Road works

U68a Lochmaben Castle road - Works Programmed Q4 CC 25/08/22 - Members agreed to the addition of this scheme.

C21a Lochbank Farm, Lochmaben Design & Work Programmed Q3 CC 25/08/22 - Members agreed to the addition of this scheme.

Flagstones on High Street

Work to address the flag stones on the High Street was partially achieved in the summer. However, the work had to be pulled due to resources required for surface dressing. The remaining work outstanding will look to be achieved at the earliest opportunity available. Currently unable to provide exact timescales when this will take place with resources possibly being prioritised for winter operations as and when required.

AR queried the generally bad condition of road surfaces and suggested Lockerbie manufacturer Macrebur should be more widely used for repairs etc.

9. Any Other Business:

AR raised concerns about the generally poor condition of The Annandale Way near to Castlemains Farm. This has been reported but will be chased up via the CC if there is no response.

MMcKE expressed concern that no access to the toilets within the Town Hall was given during the Christmas light event. It was explained that this was not the responsibility of the CC however they will suggest to the Heritage Centre that clarification of toilet availability should be provided to anyone using the hall for public events.

EK wished it noted that the Luncheon Club express their thanks to the CC for their help and support in trying to resolve the issues at the Community Centre.

KMcC confirmed the offer from local resident Robert Togneri to assist and advise with the proposed Community website. This follows on from the support and progress offered via DGC and the Scottish Tech Army.

5.

CR and CMcL confirmed that the Church have accepted their offer to volunteer at the Warm Hub. CD read out an update about the hub's successful opening and confirmed that a notice regarding future events will be posted on fb.

As the hub will be a benefit to the whole community, it was agreed that the CC would donate £200 towards its running costs. **ACTION:BM**

CD advised that no information was forthcoming from DGC Planning Dept. regards the Co-Op application. **NOTE:** An email received after the meeting informed that it will be put to the Planning Committee on 14th December 2022.

MMCKE requested provision of a litter bin at the Church Hall Gardens. CD confirmed a bin is be provided as part of the makeover and will progress its installation by DGC. **ACTION:CD**

BM suggested a litter pick to help improve the High Street. After discussion it was agreed to make it a community 'Spring Clean' event involving families and children. An fb notice will be posted seeking the support by the public for such an event nearer the time.

AR offered to get eco warriors to discuss littering at the school.

BF reported persistent dog fouling in the Mill Road/ Whitehills Avenue area. The public are encouraged to report incidents to DGC dog warden for action. The CC will also report this incident. **ACTION:CD**

11. Date of next meeting:

9th January 2023 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall library.

This is 5th and final year of the current Community Council. New members are urgently required to ensure continuity. If you would like to become involved please contact us.

Contact your Community Council via Facebook or email at lochmabencc@gmail.com