

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

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

Present:

Colin Davidson (CD)(Chairman), May McKerrell (MMcK)(Vice Chairman), Bob Murray (BM) (Treasurer), Jim Davidson(JD), Cllr. Stephen Thompson (ST), Carol Rogerson (CR), Carol McLean(CMcL), Ben Harvey (BH)(Sansec).

Members of the public: J.Purdie(JP), A. Rogerson (AR), D. Sinclair(DS), E. Armstrong (EA), J. Dick (JD), T. Hancock (TH), P. Linton (PL), P. Barr (PB), T. Alderson (TA), J. Alderson (JA), B. Forbes (BF), C. Warner (CW), I. Warner (IW), Abbey Morton (AM)(Press).

Apologies:

Charles McKerrell (CMcK), Ian Vidler (IV), Kenelma McCrae (KMCC)(Secretary), Cllr. Adam Wilson (AW),

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. The order of the agenda was changed to accommodate visiting participants with the Co-op proposals first up.

2. Co-op latest proposals by Sansec.

BH confirmed progress to date:

Information has been submitted to DGC planning Dept. and the technical aspects have been broadly accepted. A response is still awaited from Highways regarding improving walkways and pavements at the entrance. The number of parking spaces has been increased by 3.

Extended discussion took place regarding the suggestion to provide a pedestrian crossing across the A709 Dumfries Road. Pedestrian safety was warmly welcomed however concerns were raised in respect of its effects on residential parking and traffic tailing back at The Bruce corner. ST stated that provision of a crossing outwith the development boundary is the responsibility of DGC so clarification is required from both parties regarding if/how this will be provided.

BH stated that the Co-op development would not increase traffic at this point compared with the previous use of the site as a filling station and car wash.

TH stated that DGC has not previously agreed to locate a pedestrian crossing within Lochmaben despite officially recorded traffic rates of 8400 vehicle movements. MMcK and CD stated the CC would back proposals for a crossing if traffic issues can be resolved.

JP and BF raised environmental concerns regarding the developments effect on the Kirk Loch. These were raised again later in the meeting by IW in respect of foul and surface water drainage. BH confirmed that the proposal would connect into the mains drainage running along the A709.

BF queried the effect the proposals would have on the existing local businesses and whether the Co-op had information of this effect from other developments. AR suggested that a limited product range may help to reduce any potential loss of business to local shops. BH agreed to investigate these effects based on other developments e.g. Moffat although CW suggested this wasn't a like for like comparison.

CD expressed disappointment that no representatives from local businesses that may be affected were present at the meeting. It is important to hear their views.

2.

In a response to a question regarding employment opportunities, BH stated that Local contractors would be used during construction and between 15-18 full and part time jobs would be created.

The programme is to provide more information to the CC in the next two weeks, continue with DGC discussions regarding technical aspects, finalise architectural details with the intention of making a formal planning application by the end of February. The planning process may take 3-4 months to be determined.

CD requested a show of hands to see if the CC should take a clear position in respect of the development. 8 votes were noted from the 19 eligible attendees. CD committed the CC to remaining neutral but would keep the community informed of matters. It was made clear of the importance of individuals to make their own representations for or against the planning application direct to DGC during the consultation period.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 6th December 2021.

As it had not been possible to approve the Minutes at the informal January meeting, the minutes were subsequently proposed by CR and seconded by CMCL.

4. Feedback from January 2022 meeting notes.

The War memorial award was presented to Carol Rogerson on 1st February 2022. Its hoped to display this for a limited period within the library.

Our appreciation goes to resident I. Beveridge and friends for repairing and reinstating the damaged sign at the Mill Loch play park.

The state of the pavements in the High St was highlighted through press coverage. Its understood that the work is in hand.

Road repairs behind the Town Hall (Case ref 5283713) and on Broomhill Farm (case ref 5283724) have been reported to DGC and form part of future repairs. Their condition is being regularly monitored.

The Post box has been cleaned and repainted following a request to Lockerbie Royal Mail. Their prompt response is appreciated.

Re surfacing of Well Vennel is taking place this week, with other repairs continuing around Lochmaben over the next two months or so.

5. Matters arising:

Community Centre: A response is still awaited regarding rental rates for charitable organisations. Is Mental Health funding available to help in this respect?

6. Lochmaben PS Parent Partnership:

The meeting welcomed Joanna Dick who highlighted issues facing their organisation in respect of curriculum swimming. Transport funding has previously been provided by DGC but this has been cut, threatening the continuation of swimming lessons through the school. Alternate sources of funding have been considered inc. parent contributions, business sponsorship and school funding but have not proved possible for a variety of reasons such as policy, financial ability etc.

Around 34-36 pupils will be affected if total transport costs of £1200-2000 for the 3 week duration can't be met. JD enquired if the CC can contribute via ANCBC funds.

ST suggested that the Partnership may also consider Sports funding via AEDC grants.

A vote of those CC members present resulted in all 6 agreeing to provide support with a final figure to be agreed at an early date and the Partnership being notified by the end of February. **ACTION: All CC Members.**

3.

7. Police Report:

No Police report was available for the meeting.

8. Treasurers Report:

Finance Movements 11/1/22 - 7/2/22

Balance brought forward at 11/1/22	£9180.25
Income:	0.00
<u>Expenditure:</u>	
Postage and stationery	£ 6.28
Balance carried forward at 7/2/22	<u>£9173.97</u>

Please note that about £2400 will be paid out to local shopkeepers who have participated in the Christmas voucher scheme. The balance also includes sums set aside for ongoing projects/support and events for 2021/22.

9. Mill Loch update:

AR reported the following:

A meeting was held at Mill Loch Playpark on 20th January involving Oliver Mundell, and representatives from SEPA, Nature Scot, The Barony, DGC, the Community Council and residents.

It was agreed that an action plan would be considered with initial comments being fed back within 4 weeks. The plans would include a short and long term solution to the Fringe lily issues, investigation into local drains/sewer routes to determine 'cross over' which may lead to sewerage entering the loch and other matters required to improve the water quality. Any proposals will also take into account adjoining fenland, lochs and water courses. It was agreed that it will be necessary to involve community volunteers and co-operate with landowners adjoining the loch. The Barony are interested in using the loch for research and training. There is also uncertainty surrounding loch ownership.

This meeting has led to increased awareness of the Mill loch resulting in features on Radio Solway and DGWGO.

JD suggested that the school may be interested in arranging field trips to the loch.

10. Councillors update:

ST confirmed he will follow up the CCES enquiries which have recently fallen behind due to demand for DGC services. However progress is expected to improve from March.

ST also advised of the following:

He requested that he be notified direct of any specific Timber transport issues arising through the town. **ACTION: All.**

An additional street light is being considered at the junction of Mill Loch and Nethermill Road. ST has raised the Lochmaben-Lockerbie Cycle route suggestion with Swestrans as its hoped some feasibility funding may be available through 'Levelling up funds'. This would be applied for by Swestrans who have an Active Travel Team in place. However it will be important for local volunteers and members of the Access Group to reaffirm their commitment to ensure progress. **ACTION : CD to advise LLCAG.**

DS requested repairs to the handrail along the Annandale Crescent path.

11. Any Other Business:

CD extended congratulations to DGC Communities Team for being shortlisted under the Communities Resilience category of the COSLA Excellence Awards. This team comprises of local councillors and ward officers who support the CC.

CD advised that a grant application has been made for improvements to the Mercat Cross and gardens adjacent to the Church Hall. These are to include litter bin provision.

BM suggested the CC could raise additional funds for projects by reinstating a Coffee morning for around March. **ACTION: BM**

CD read out items provided by Ian Vidler regarding road repairs and road markings. These are to be registered on the CCES system. **ACTION: CD**

MMcK requested that the Kirk Loch is considered when weed/ algae treatments are carried out at Mill Loch.

JD again raised the repairs needed at the Townhead memorial where the slabs are deteriorating very quickly.

EA thanked DGC for ' the high standard of repairs' being carried out in Well Vennel.

DS raised ongoing concerns about the road surface around Halleaths. Also weed treatment is required on the access road between Queen Street and the Council depot adjacent to The Coal Company Yard. **ACTION: ST to investigate.**

12. Date of next meeting:

This is proposed for 7th March at 7.00pm with the venue or format to be confirmed depending on Covid restrictions.