

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

**Lochmaben Town Hall Library
Monday 3rd October 2022 – 7.00pm**

Present:

Colin Davidson (CD)(Chairman), May McKerrell (MMcK)(Vice Chairman),
Bob Murray (BM) (Treasurer), Jim Davidson(JD),Carol Rogerson(CR), Cllr. Carolyne Wilson
(CW).

Members of the public: J.Purdie(JP), A. Rogerson(AR), J.Kerr(JK), T.Oliver (TO),
E.Kennedy (EK), T.Russell (TR), B.Forbes (BF), M.McKelvie (MMCKE), R.Humes(RH).

Apologies:

Kenelma McCrae (KMcC)(Secretary), Charles McKerrell (CMcK), Ian Vidler (IV),
Carol McLean(CMcL), Alison Rogerson (AR), Cllr. Stephen Thompson (ST), H. Suszek (HS), R.
Suszek (RS),

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

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

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

3.Matters arising:

CD referred to the passing of HM The Queen since the last meeting and advised that the Lochmaben and District Book of Condolence made available to the public will be placed on permanent display within the Town Hall.

Grummel Park and Mill Loch play parks: DGC advise that equipment is on order but subject to delays from the manufacturers. CW reported that it was hoped to have equipment in place within the next 2 months.

Victory Park: A further meeting via TEAMS has been arranged with DGC for 10th October to discuss progress.

CCES 5379850: DGC has carried out weeding to Princes St car park/Townhead areas.

CCES 5379857: The Roads Dept. response to the request for consideration of a one way system was very detailed but was effectively a 'NO'. CD replied that the CC would have to further consult with the community and the meeting agreed that further evidence of traffic issues in this area would be collected over the next 12 months prior to proposed new traffic controls being implemented in Lochmaben.

Castle St toilets/ Garages: Our Ward Officer is investigating the situation in respect of these Common Good assets to see what can be done.

Christmas Lights: Information has been provided to the Gala Committee regarding DGC contacts for funding etc. CR advised that 2 local businessmen have offered support and have been referred to the Gala committee.

2.

4. Police Report:

The following report was read out to the meeting:

POLICE SCOTLAND
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT
Community Council: LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Date of Meeting: 27/09/2022
Officer Attending / Report Prepared By: PC Glendinning V0111
Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting N/A
Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends) <u>08/06/2022 – Hate Crime</u> One male youth charged with Breach of the Peace following an incident at the Chinese Takeaway in Lochmaben. <u>12/06/2022 – Theft of Motor Vehicle</u> A car was stolen from outside an address in Mossvale and found in a crashed condition a few miles away. Enquiries are ongoing and samples have been sent for forensic examination. <u>21/06/2022 – Theft</u> Quantity of diesel stolen from a business premises in Lochmaben by a named employee. Enquiries ongoing. <u>22/06/2022 – Fraud</u> Enquiries ongoing following an incident where the reporter paid £5000 online to purchase a mini digger which was advertised for sale. This was never delivered and the seller has since failed to answer any correspondence. <u>25/06/2022 – Vandalism</u> The wing mirrors of a car were damaged whilst it was parked in Barras. Enquiries ongoing. <u>24/07/2022 – Vandalism</u> Window smashed at the Kings Arms. One female charged. <u>27/07/2022 – Threatening and Abusive Behaviour</u> Male and female issued with recorded police warnings following a disturbance at Barras. <u>13/08/2022 – Vandalism</u> Window smashed at an address in Mayfield Court, enquiries ongoing. <u>27/08/2022 – Threatening and Abusive Behaviour/Vandalism (Domestic)</u>

Male arrested and charged following a domestic incident at an address in Blaemeadow Avenue.

3.

5. Treasurers Report:

Finance Movements 6/9/22 – 3/10/22

Balance brought forward	£12699.46
<u>Income:</u>	
Nil	£ _____ 0
	£12699.46
<u>Expenditure:</u>	
Castle Loch Community Trust maintenance equipment:	£ 750.00
Lochmaben Tennis Club Court and Shed upgrade:	£ 500.00
Lochmaben Luncheon Club:	£ 300.00
Lochmaben Friendship Club:	£ 300.00
Lochmaben Hospital Christmas events and celebrations:	£ 200.00
Queen Elizabeth II passing costs:	£ 39.30
Cleaning equipment (War memorial):	£ 17.96
	<u>£2107.26</u>
Balance carried forward at 4/10/22	<u>£10592.20</u>

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

MMcK enquired if there was duplication when supporting the hospital as Tesco had previously provided presents etc. to the Hospital. Should the CC approach Tesco? TO explained that funding for this was previously provided by the Action Group. It was agreed that approaching Tesco was for the Hospital or individuals to action.

ACTION: MMcK/JD

6. Community Garden/Mill Loch update:

Community Garden:

CW/JP will be meeting again with the Ward officer to discuss progress with a view to the proposal being considered at the December Common Good sub Committee meeting. A layout plan would be helpful to show all parties the proposals.

TR advised that allotments had previously been considered, located at the end of Whitehills Ave and Raven Hill. This may be an option for the future.

Mill Loch:

Over 250 signatures have been collected to date on the petition set up to 'SAVE OUR MILL LOCH' and put pressure on respective organisations for action.

O. Mundell has invited a member of the community to his meeting at Holyrood with Naturescot on 16th November. It was agreed that CD will attend on behalf of everyone.

JP will provide a summary of issues. **ACTION: JP/CD**

7. Councillors update:

CW informed of the following:

Confirmation was made that the iron gates and lighting will be attended to. It's hoped this will be completed prior to the Remembrance Day ceremony. DGC operatives have been instructed to ensure grass cuttings are uplifted at the Townhead. The Gala committee may qualify for DGC grant support for Christmas lights.

MMcKE advised that litter bins and dog poop bags were not being lifted.

4.

8. Remembrance Day arrangements:

CD acknowledged the work carried out by CR and volunteers to the War Memorial which resulted in achieving a Highly Commended Award for the National War Memorial competition covering Glasgow, Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway.

Remembrance Day is on 13th November. The wreath has been ordered and the Piper booked.

Discussion took place concerning the DGC proposals to carry out perennial planting in Lochmaben. It was generally agreed that this is acceptable on the specific condition that the main War Memorial remains planted with bedding plants to provide the necessary colour. A meeting is planned with DGC to discuss this further.

9. Any Other Business:

Community Centre:

CD advised that the facilities were badly lacking and the centre had become a cause for serious concern. It was the only venue large enough to host the Christmas party but damaged equipment and the run down kitchen excluded it from being considered.

EK on behalf of The Luncheon Club confirmed that the centre currently had no heating and no hot water. As a result QoS staff suggested it may not be suitable for the Club's next meeting. The toilets needed maintenance (no door locks) and the floor had lifted. Despite raising this with QoS personnel nothing is being done. There is no gas supply and it's been reported that 3 contractors had not turned up for repairs and others did not wish to take the work on.

The feeling is that as The Luncheon Club arrangement with DGC is rent free dating back to their transfer from the Portakabin, they are not seen to be important. TO advised that QoS had offered to get a grant to pay the rent but subsequently advised this wasn't possible. This is the ONLY community group using the facility.

RH commented that despite the efforts of the CC to help secure 'Charity' hall hire rates for them it was necessary to negotiate with QoS eventually arriving at a rate with a minimal reduction to £20/hr for sub standard facilities including torn stage curtains, the floor lifting and poor toilet facilities etc. The booking is for a 5-6 week term.

The view of the meeting was that the Community Centre was:
Run down, suffering from a lack of investment and a lack of community relations.

The CC is to write to DGC to express serious concerns and seek action. BF was concerned that the facility may fall onto the community to run it and take on associated costs.

ACTION:CD

It's understood that this is year 4 of a 3 +1 year contract between QoS and DGC to run the centre but who is responsible for the asset?

BF suggested the centre could have been used as a 'Warm Hub' facility that DGC is launching if it was in a suitable condition.

5.

RH Youth Organisation:

RH provided an update on activities after first acknowledging the help and support received from the Church Hall for providing excellent facilities. After a fall away in volunteers, these have increased allowing more groups from October, including Pathfinders for 8-10 yo, Scavengers for 5-6 yo and hopefully, depending on the Community Centre facilities an All Stars Theatre Group for 4-7 yo.

RH also plans for group members to lay a wreath at this year's Remembrance Day service. He requested being kept up to date with arrangements. **ACTION:CD**

JD reported pavement flooding at the Bakers shop. CW has taken this up with DGC but a CCES request is to be raised. **ACTION: CD**

JP: Lochmaben Dental practice is closing, are there plans for a takeover?

TR enquired about the website development. CD updated progress regarding working with the STA.

MMcKE commented on reports of Police being called to an incident involving a male throwing needles and general threatening behaviour on 10th September. **ACTION: CD to raise with Police.**

MMcK informed that the path around the Mill Loch running parallel to Nethermill Rd is of unknown ownership. Can it be listed as Common Good? **ACTION: MMcK**

CR/CD advised that despite facilities at The Kings Arms being excellent they were not large enough for the Christmas party numbers. It would've been necessary to run it over 4 days which clearly isn't practical. However it's planned to run a fund raising event there to acknowledge the help and advice they provided.

CD provided an update on the Co-op Planning application. It appears that the proposal of a zebra crossing has to be fully considered before the application makes the November/ December committee meetings.

Excavation for the services to the Nethermill Rd Housing development has been left unguarded where it adjoins the core path. **ACTION: CW to raise with H&S.**

11. Date of next meeting:

7th November 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

