

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

**Lochmaben Town Hall Library
Monday 5th September 2022 – 7.30pm**

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), Cllr. Carolyne Wilson (CW).
Members of the public: J.Purdie(JP), Eric Armstrong (EA), R. Marchant(RM, A. Marchant (AM),
H. Suszek (HS), R. Suszek (RS), N.Rae(NR), M.Green (MG), A.Maxwell (AM), S.Crolla (SC),
M.Crolla (MC), L.Hall (LH), D.Sinclair (DS), H.McGhie (HMcG).

Apologies:

Charles McKerrell (CMcK), Ian Vidler (IV),
Alison Rogerson (AR), 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. Seven members of the Community Council were present ensuring that the meeting was quorate.

2.Minutes of the Previous Meeting 6th June 2022.

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

3.Matters arising:

BM confirmed the donation of £500 to Lochmaben FC.

CD advised that according to the DGC Planning portal, the Co-op application will be considered at the September Planning committee meeting.

4. Police Report:

This was unavailable at the time of the meeting but will be a supplementary addition to the minutes on receipt.

5.Treasurers Report:

Finance Movements 8/6/22 – 5/9/22

Balance brought forward £9588.46

Income:

Lochmaben Initiative transfer of funds re dissolution: £ 900.00

Minsca WindFarm grant: £ 3400.00

£4300.00

£13888.46

Expenditure:

Lochmaben FC. Fencing upgrade: £ 500.00

Queens Jubilee costs: Flags and lamp post signage: £ 155.00

Printing ink: £ 34.00

Lochmaben Heritage Trust: £ 500.00

£1189.00

Balance carried forward at 5/9/22

£12699.46

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

2.

6. LLCAG:

HMcG provided the background to the group which was established following the interest 3 years ago to establish a cycle route between Lochmaben and Lockerbie. The scope of the group was widened to consider provision of a route fully accessible by all which would likely attract more funding.

Everything was in place to take advantage of the Govt's and Sustrans Active Travel initiative this year, however extremely onerous requirements involving Insurances meant the Group could not continue. Use of the Insurance cover provided by the CC was considered but not allowed by DGC who provide the cover.

Any information gained by the Group would be handed back to the CC however no progress was likely until the next funding round in 2023 at the earliest. CD explained that if the project was to progress the CC would need to attract more members.

It was considered whether to raise awareness of the demand for the route by looking at some form of protest action meanwhile Cllr Thompson is taking the matter up with the local Sustrans representatives.

7. Community Garden/Mill Loch update:

Community Garden

JP updated the meeting with progress. A site meeting at the Paddling Pool was arranged involving residents, the CC and members of DGC Communities team. It was agreed that the site showed promise but a full consultation is required to ensure the community's approval of this Common Good asset. It's planned to prepare a design layout of proposals, costings and details of installation work etc. These then need to be forwarded to the Common Good sub committee for consideration. A subsequent visit to a similar project in Dumfries was also arranged to seek advice. **ACTION:JP**

Mill Loch

JP/CD provided an update on Mill Loch and the recent meeting with MSP O. Mundell. Very little progress had been made since the original meeting in February, with SEPA and NatureScot passing everything back to the community. CD explained that control of Fringe lilies was a specialist activity and should not be carried out by volunteers, although this had been done many years ago by Initiative members. Mr Mundell advised that he will push matters at Parliamentary level but recommended the community raise awareness of the issues. A 'SAVE OUR MILL LOCH' petition has since been placed in shops and online together with a press release which appeared in the DNG publications in order to force these organisations to take responsibility for this SSSI site.

RM suggested seeking legal representation to take things forward but it was felt this was an aspect to consider in the future.

8. Councillors update:

CD read out the following report received from Cllr Stephen Thompson:

Grummel park and Mill Loch park

Some of the equipment at Grummel Park is being replaced using part of the Scottish Government Funding. Orders have been placed with the contractor they have been asked to deal with Annandale and Eskdale parks first when the equipment arrives. Council staff are replacing the barriers on a daily basis. They have been installed on instruction of the independent play inspector and therefore shouldn't be removed.

Townhead paving

Roads colleagues have advised that this area is not within their remit. Therefore it will fall to Council' [s Community Assets Teams to rectify this area. Due to other works we will do so as soon as possible.

Hedge - Lockerbie Road

Overgrown hedges on the Lockerbie Road in Lochmaben were highlighted for attention. Council monitored the area until the works completed.

3.

Street Cleaning

Since last meeting Council's Communities team have arranged for the barrowman to spend some additional time in Lochmaben to address reported areas.

War Memorial gates

Thanks to the community for bringing this to Council's attention. A blacksmith will inspect the gates and will arrange repairs as soon as possible.

Old Cemetery headstone safety

Lochmaben Old Cemetery is on the list to be checked by the independent inspectors, paying particular attention to stones that are leaning on the perimeter wall. Any necessary action will be taken.

Cycle route

Raised with Council transport officers to try and help take forward feasibility study without putting too much burden on community group.

Overnight Parking concerns

Summary: in Lochmaben Council have been engaging with the Community Council and Castle Loch Trust in relation to Visitor Management and are aware of some previous concerns relating to overnight parking of motorhomes in and around Castle Loch. Having deployed signage encouraging motorhomes to 'Stay the Day not the Night', following this feedback received the team will reinforce this message through additional signage and face-to-face engagement with visitors at this location, encouraging them to utilise the more structured facilities available nearby. Please note that due to the necessary Road Traffic Order legislation required this signage is non-enforceable however it does act as a deterrent. The disposal of chemical waste by motorhomes has also been highlighted as a concern and with this in mind our Council's campsites, one of which is open in Lochmaben, welcomes motorhomes specifically for this purpose for a small fee. This information will again be highlighted to any visitor our Ward Assistant engages with in this area.

Footpath and tree trimming CCES follow-up various

The lower branches will be removed and community assets intend crown reducing the trees at the end of the summer.

Following guidance regarding the tree roots from our community assets team, we are now in a position to start programming in repairs to the slabs areas on the high street. This will be done in stages and we will be attending to all areas where there are trip hazards.

Condition of road surface at the back of the town hall, the defects were last inspected in May and have been added to a future programme of works for repair.

9.Christmas Event:

Options for this years Senior citizens Christmas event were outlined:

A party is being considered but the Community Centre facilities and equipment are in disrepair. Graham's bakery have regrettably declined to offer catering due to staff shortages. The Church Hall is considered as an alternative venue but the likely numbers would mean holding an event over a few nights.

Vouchers or a gift scheme similar to previous years are options but are becoming more costly as numbers increase.

AM suggested the use of The Kings Arms with its bar, catering and function room facilities. The event would have to be run over 2/3 days as its capacity is around 70. **ACTION: CR to investigate.**

4.

10. Any Other Business:

Victory Park:

CR provided an update but progress has been slower than hoped as proposals were getting caught up in bureaucratic procedures. However costings and layouts have been prepared for subsequent consideration by the Common Good sub committee. MC was very interested to hear of the plans and it was agreed to maintain interest in the project by posting designs and updated information in the Library and Crolla's shop.

CD advised that the Community Centre is trying to engage more with the residents of Lochmaben, with events being posted on the facebook page.

The CC has received a request for support from 'Galloway Without Pylons' in their legal battle with SPEN regarding KTR pylons. This is to be further considered by CC members.

JD requested CC support for the Lunch Club and Friendship Group in light of hall hire charges.

JD raised the matter of weeds and mown grass affecting Princes Street car park and Townhead. MG expressed his extreme dissatisfaction about the state of all pavements and streets with weeds etc. **ACTION: CD to raise CCES enquiry.**

It was noted that the recycling bins in Princes St car park are privately owned and residents should contact the provider direct on the telephone numbers shown to organise uplift.

JP enquired whether Castle St could be made One Way directed from Townhead to Bruce Corner with Princes St being one way in the opposite direction. This follows concerns after a campervan hit two parked vehicles. **ACTION: CD to raise CCES enquiry.**

AM suggested work is done to improve the Castle St public toilets. It is recognised by all that these are in poor condition and reflect badly on Lochmaben as they're the only facility. Is it possible that The Heritage Centre could offer toilet facilities in the future? **ACTION: CD**

AM enquired about the condition and use of the garages in Castle Street. If brought back into use it may resolve some parking issues. **ACTION: CD**

LH enquired on behalf of Lochmaben Children's gala about funding availability for Christmas lights. **ACTION: CD to provide Ward officer details.**

MMcK is researching ownership of land along the footpath of Mill Loch. If this turns out to be Common Good she will raise this as CC representative on the sub committee. **ACTION: MMcK.**

11. Date of next meeting:

3rd October 2022 at 7.00pm with the venue or format to be confirmed depending on Covid restrictions.

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

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