***MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

**Note of Meeting 458 on 27th November 2023**

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| 1.. | In attendance: C Medlock; S Brown (Sec); J Anderson; D Stewart; A Shiach; K Williams; C Rushbridge; A Buchan; J Lovell  Ex Officio: Cllr Carnie; Cllr Carr; Cllr Evison  Visitors:  R Dargie; A Dargie  Apologies; A Lawson; A MacDonald; K Todd; R Salvan; P Green |  |
| 2 | Approval of minute of November 2023– Proposed C Medlock; Seconded K Williams |  |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest – None |  |
| 4 | Matters Arising:  From August 2023  Item 10 a) Landscape Services.  Laurencekirk Rotary Club has written to the CC advising that no decision was taken re the positioning of the oak tree to be planted in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II until  4th September.  “Regarding the location of the tree and plaque, we would emphasise that the Rotary Club followed due process throughout, and that the final location of the tree was the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council. There was no requirement or recommendation to consult with any other body and, in any event, Rotary had no authority to agree alternative locations.  Further to this, we would stress that The Rotary Club has no wish to hinder or interfere with the works of any other voluntary organisation; indeed, the reverse is true. Rotary works with the community to support the community, annually donating sizeable sums of money and time to support local causes.”  The Rotary Club accept that the minute was correct to the knowledge CC members had at the time. |  |
| 5 | Police   1. Police reports circulated as received. 2. PC Charnley apologised for lack of attendance by Police Scotland at recent meetings. This due to operational deployment of officers. Members accept that Police cannot always attend and are confident of being able to contact PC Charnley, or colleagues, as needed. 3. Question re issue with traffic exiting Stonehaven at the south end and turning into oncoming traffic on the A92 rather than recognising that the road is a dual carriageway. This issue has also been raised at Catterline CC. Perhaps better signage required or new road markings. Cllr Carr to take forward. CC will also write to roads. 4. Question as to where Glenbervie falls in the monthly Police reports. The one received by Mearns CC focusses on the Laurencekirk area. It is thought that Glenbervie falls into the Stonehaven area report. | Cllr Carr |
| 6 | Correspondence – circulated as received.   1. Email received from Cllr G Reynolds who sits on the Communities Committee. He offers advice and help to the CC. Given that (i) Cllr Evison, who also sits on the Communities Committee and regularly attends our meetings can offer any support members might need and (ii) the email comes from a personal email address, and from a candidate on the forthcoming general election to be held in 2024 members opted to politely refuse his offer as it might be seen as political. |  |
| 7 | Roads Issues – including flooding.   1. Road Closure Notices sent out as received. 2. A937 at Marykirk 3. Cllr Carr advised that the target date for reopening the road is end January 2024. This dependent on the availability of other utility providers to work in tandem with the Council. 4. Local businesses are suffering financially doe to the road closure. Cllr Evison said that the business gateway will be contacting those businesses affected to say what compensations or help might be available to them. The Scottish Government has distributed funding to aid businesses affected by Storm Babet but no detail of how this will be distributed has been given this far. 5. It was suggested that the road might be able to open to weight limited traffic as a light controlled single track in the interim. Cllr Carr will ask at ISC. 6. Mud on roads – this a Police responsibility. Police recognise that this is an issue and say that farmers and businesses must clear public roads of mud or other debris by sundown daily. If possible, photos taken just before sundown and again the next morning evidencing mud (or other) on the road, should be sent to the Police. If impossible to clear by sundown, signs should be erected advising of debris on road. 7. Road signage during flooding – Aberdeenshire Council are not keen to supply signs advising of flooding or road closure to neighbouring properties. One recent example is at Mains of Haulkerton where it took over four hours for the Council to put up a sign. They did not place signs at the two of the three roads which reach the flooding location. At least 8 cars were lost on this occasion. If the neighbouring property owners had signs, then this could have been prevented. Cllrs to take forward. It was noted that in Perthshire there are flood gates which can be closed by either the Council or the Police. 8. Potholes reported on Main Street, Luthermuir repaired promptly although not likely to last long. 9. Potholes on Napier Place, Marykirk need to be filled. Also, those potholes recently repaired on the Morphie Road are as bad as ever, | **Cllrs** |
| 8 | Planning   1. Weekly planning lists circulated as received. 2. APP/2023/0550 – application for 28 houses at land adjacent to Gardenstone Street. This refused by the Area Committee. Cllr Carr in particular spoke opposing this application. It is recognised that Laurencekirk and the wider Mearns area has reached a tipping point. and that development should stop until the Grade separated junction is in place. 3. APP/2023/1567 – formation of vehicular access at former Community Centre in Laurencekirk. The applicants have contacted the CC asking that they reconsider their objection and saying that the vehicular access would be used very infrequently. CC to tell planning that they will withdraw their objection if a condition ensuring limited use is applied. If the Venue is to be very well used there will be increased parking on both sides of the road which will cause visibility issues with vehicles exiting the former playground area. It was noted that Roads also have an objection last updated on 27th November 2023. | **CR** |
|  | SSEN   1. CC still awaiting date for meeting with SSEN. 2. It is thought that an announcement form SSEN will be made very soon confirming their preferred route. |  |
| 10 | Landscape Services   1. The wall at the graveyard at the church in Marykirk is falling into a neighbouring garden. 2. Following the January meeting of the CC where a new chairperson will be elected, and the membership confirmed a meeting with landscape services will be arranged. Members should advise of any issues they wish raised at the meeting by the 25th of January 2024. |  |
| 11 | Waste Services/Environmental Services   1. A decision re the removal of a booking system for cars will be made at the ISC on Thursday 30th of November. A date for implementation should be announced very soon. 2. Asbestos, tyres, and paint are to be discussed at a meeting to be held on 13th of December as it is recognised that recycling centres which accept these items are not convenient to many residents. 3. Cllrs asked to find out whether more recycling centres might accept trade waste. 4. The SUEZ plant in Aberdeen should be open by December 2024. Recycling is currently taken to Hartlepool. 5. The Council and APHA are unaware of changes to the control of storage of potentially hazardous materials. The Scottish Government are currently looking into this issue. CC to write to MSP’s seeking information on this and most particularly the former grain store at Laurencekirk station which contains brain and spinal cord waste from bovine animals. The main concern is how this waste will be removed from the site. 6. Leaves on roads is an issue, particularly in Marykirk. These making road surfaces very slippery for both pedestrians and vehicles. |  |
| 12 | Settlements:  Auchenblae: No Report  Fettercairn: – No Report  Fordoun: – No Report  Edzell Woods:   1. Residents are still waiting to receive resilience equipment for clearing snow from the roads. These items were promised for last year but have not yet been delivered. This includes Hi-vis clothing, boots and snow shovels. 2. A noticeboard has been erected in the settlement. This part funded by Hillhead of Auquhirie wind farm fund.   Glenbervie: - Visibility at Candy Farm A90 junction continues to cause concern.  Laurencekirk: - No Report  Luthermuir: - As reported previously.  Marykirk: – See under roads.  West Cairnbeg:   1. Grit bin. This issue lies with elected members. Question as to whether ALL grit bins in Aberdeenshire meet Policy? |  |
| 13 | Treasurers Report:   1. Balance in account is £9041.34. 2. Following the resignation of both current bank signatories there will need to be signatories added to the account. This to be discussed at January meeting due to number of apologies for the meeting tonight. |  |
| 14 | AOCB   1. Mearn CC members will post a thank you to those involved in the Christmas light display in Laurencekirk. |  |
|  | DONM – Monday 29th January 2024 – Mearns Community Centre 7.00pm. |  |