***MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

Draft Note of Meeting 27th March 2023

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| **Item** |  | **Action**  |
| 1.. | In attendance: C Rushbridge (Chair); C Medlock; S Brown (Sec); J Anderson; A Lawson; J Stuart; R Salvan; D Stewart; A Shiach; J Lovell; K Todd Ex Officio: Cllrs Carr, Evison; Stelfox Apologies: S Sweeney; K Williams; PC Charnley; M Robson |  |
| 2 | Approval of minute of February 2023– Proposed J Stewart; Seconded A Lawson The following changes to be made:Insert Treasurers ReportItem 6.8c – Add that it is the responsibility of the local authority to uphold access routes.  |  |
| 3 | Matters Arising: 1. Item 3.1 Dr Buchan Memorial. JS to make and inspection this week to confirm that all agreed works have been completed.
2. SB to contact a senior officer re lack of response from access officer in respect of Crosspoles RoW.
3. SB to call A Hogge to confirm meeting for this week. Then to advise members of date and time of meeting.
 | **JS****SB****SB**  |
| 4 | Police 1. Police reports circulated as received.
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| 5 | Correspondence – circulated as received. |  |
| 6 | Settlements 1. Auchenblae:
2. Further complaints about dog fouling, specifically between the Square and the surgery. Auchenblae green dog walker has no knowledge of this. CC to report to again to Council and members to report using fix my street app.
3. Query re rights of Way around village. To be raised with Access Officer at requested meeting. See Item 3.2
4. West Cairnbeg:
5. Current issues with BT Openreach re fibre optic cables ongoing.
6. Edzell Woods: No Report
7. Fettercairn: No Report
8. KT to advise SB of missing signage on roads surrounding Fettercairn.
9. Fordoun: No Report
10. Glenbervie: No Report
11. Laurencekirk
12. Dog fouling a concern in Laurencekirk. Members to report using fix my street app as appropriate. SB will advise dog warden. CM to buy yellow spray to make the fouling more noticeable.
13. Luthermuir
14. A minute from a hall and park committee meeting in 2006 stated that the Council installed the lighting in the park close. Would this have happened if the entrance to the park not their responsibility?
15. A question was raised about the caravan park at Glen Esk. Is it in Aberdeenshire or in Angus. There is a lot of work being carried out, yet we have seen no planning application.
16. Question as to why the Cfine van visits villages with shops. It is understood that they don’t go to villages where there are food larders. Concern voiced that village shops need to be supported locally therefore it is not ideal for vans coming to sell items at a lesser cost. It is also true that most food larders do not have fresh fruit and vegetables which this van provides. SB to enquire.
17. Marykirk:
18. Problem with dog fouling on the land beside the school. This not Council responsibility therefore unsure how to address this issue.
 | **SB****CM****SB** |
| 7 | Roads Issues1. Road Closure Notices sent out as received.
2. More and more complaints about potholes in most villages and on rural roads. These normally reported using the app but little response. SB to advise roads manager of the lack of response to complaints and to lack of repairs.
3. The sinking road under the gas pipeline at Rosehill is getting worse. This to be reported again.
4. Abbeyton and Oatyhill bridges – Cllrs advise that a design for Abbeyton should be complete this year and that tenders will be invited by the end of the year. Oatyhill – it is proposed to replace this bridge. Question as to why the bridges are not the responsibility of Network Rail.
5. While it is accepted that there is a delay with work to the Oatyhill bridge it is questioned why work cannot start on the GSJ? Work could easily be started on the Marykirk side of the junction.
6. A search of old Laurencekirk Town Council minutes shows that the Council of the day paid for the lanes in Laurencekirk to be upgraded. Question as to why these lanes were not then adopted?
 | **SB****SB****SB** |
| 8 | Planning1. Weekly planning lists circulated as received.
2. The survey circulated re brownfield sites is not relevant and fail the local communities. For example, the site of the former Mearns Academy would be considered brownfield but should not be considered for any quick fix scheme. All previous community consultations need to be readdressed and ideas shared with the community.
3. Economic development needs to be involved in any discussion re the future development of Laurencekirk. At present 2018 statistics are being used for future planning, this totally unrealistic.
4. Drumlithie energy storage – widely agreed that his is the future and as the site is remote there are no objections.
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| 9 | Landscape Services1. Marykirk cemetery – what happened to the trees at the entrance to the cemetery. The cypress trees need cut back Marykirk – cemetery – cypress hedge needs cut back.
2. On a more positive note, Auchenblae cemetery is very well maintained.
3. Laurencekirk cemetery, question as to why 9 men were working there on one occasion. Is this good use of manpower? Cllr Carr to question.
4. Crosspoles War Memorial – drains urgently need cleared. The constant flooding is insulting to the families of those who are named on the memorial.
 | **GC** |
| 10 | Waste services1. Still complaints about the new bins provided last year. They are far too flimsy and blow all over the place. Not everyone puts their waste into bags meaning pavements and roads are a danger to residents who want to pick up litter. It is noted that members of the public should not be expected to handle waste as content might be contaminated.
2. Question as to why there are no bins for glass, and all must be taken to recycling centres. It is thought that should there be provision for glass collection for home would greatly reduce the amount of glass currently going to landfill.
3. Concern about how the forthcoming deposit return scheme will affect the amount of recycling and the income for the Council from recycling.
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| 11 | Common Good / Issues with Area Office1. It is thought that the new area manager will be appointed in April and will start in June at the latest. This will be in internal appointment.
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| 12 | Treasurers Report 1. Bank Balance £8860.22
2. Proposal that a trophy should be donated to Auchenblae Parks Committee who are resurrecting their gala football match after some 24 years. This agreed unanimously.
 | **AM** |
| 13 | AOCB1. A search of documents at Old Aberdeen House also raised the issue of the Craig Trust. In 1975 there were funds in the trust – what happened to them? Have they been included in a communal pot held by Aberdeenshire Council?
2. Re the potential asset transfer of the St Laurence Hall the CC to seek an assurance that no agreement will be put in place without a full consultation with the community.
3. CC elections – no member is up for re-election this year. There are 6 vacancies at present. The election is administered by the area managers office and not by the CC as happened in the past.
 | **SB** |
| 14 | DONM – Monday 24th April 2023 at Mearns Community Campus.  |  |