***MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

Note of Meeting 30th January 2023

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| **Item** |  | **Action**  |
| 1.. | In attendance: C Rushbridge; C Medlock; S Brown (Sec); J Anderson; K Todd; A MacDonald: A Lawson; J Stuart (Chair); M Robson; R SalvanEx Officio: Cllrs Carnie; Stelfox. Apologies: S Sweeney; J Lovell; K Williams; A Shiach; D Stewart; PC Charnley; Cllr Carr; Cllr Evison; T White MSP |  |
| 2 | Approval of minute of November 2022 – Proposed J Anderson, Seconded C Rushbridge |  |
| 3 | Matters Arising: All on agenda therefore recorded in the minute.  |  |
| 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.
3. Ongoing pothole issues.
4. Bridge issues – the bridge over culvert on Kintore Street is weak, Council looking to strengthen it by the end of March. Similarly, the bridge at the Burn Moo will be repaired by the and of June.
5. West Cairnbeg: No Report
6. Edzell Woods: No Report
7. Fettercairn:
8. Road signs at B966/A937 crossroads still not replaced.
9. Fordoun:
10. Members delighted to learn that planning permission was approved for a new shop in Fordoun.
11. Glenbervie: No Report
12. Laurencekirk
13. It is proposed to start a Community Association in Laurencekirk. This will allow wider discussion with Laurencekirk residents with pertinent issues being brough to the Community Council.
14. Scotland Loves Local – RS to send detail of the scheme to SB for circulation. This is a means tested award where vouchers are given to residents for spending in local shops.
15. Luthermuir
16. Luthermuir are still seeking a response to the issue of access to the hall. Suggestion that, as Aberdeenshire Council cannot find an acceptable solution the issues be referred to the Parliamentary Officer at Holyrood. Meantime Cllrs will raise at ward meeting nest week.
17. Crosspoles Right of Way. SB to arrange a meeting with Access Officer to discuss the ongoing issue of the RoW. Details will be shared with members.
18. Marykirk:
19. Marykirk Hall Committee is now a SCIO which incorporates a community association.
 | **AL****RS** |
| 7 | Roads Issues 1. Road Closure Notices sent out as received.
2. Flooding at Marykirk – the main issue is the mill lade which is silted up and has no capacity to channel water from the road to the river.
3. Road Speed Survey is still active with 72% support for a 20mph speed limit in settlements. Agreed to keep open for another month and to share with other CC’s across the ward.
4. Question around Charter Lane in Laurencekirk. This lane provides access to the Council car park and has yellow lines on it. The Council however, state that as the road is unadopted they will not repair potholes. Local knowledge says that the Council is responsible for the first 16 (sixteen) feet of the lane.
5. Cllr Carnie advised that the Council has recently acquired a number of hot boxes for making road repairs. Contractors will operate these.
6. Many complaints about potholes in the High Street in Laurencekirk – too many to pinpoint on the website. Request that Council inspector make a report.
 | **SB****SB****SB****SB** |
| 8 | Planning1. Weekly planning lists circulated as received.
2. Survey re next LDP – agreed to defer this issue until members have read the survey. Members can make individual comment but it is proposed to send a combined response from the Community Council. Closing date for the survey is mid-May.
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| 9 | Landscape Services1. Dr Buchan Memorial – CM advised that it looked as though some work has been done, JS to ensure work completed to an acceptable standard before paying CC agreed share of the invoice.
2. Memorial Park Lease – The lease has been approved though the court. JS spoke on behalf of the CC questioning the use of the work “landlord” by the Council. Sherriff agreed this not appropriate. Wording was to be changed.
 | **JS** |
| 10 | Waste services1. Members still seek to have the booking system removed at Laurencekirk. The preamble on the booking page makes it clear that most recycling centres do not have booking systems.
2. Local waste operatives advise that people are putting items such a vacuum cleaner, paint tins and microwave ovens are being placed in dustbins – these cause damage to the lorries as not easily compressed.
3. It is recognised that there is continuing incidents of fly-tipping in the Mearns area. Open access to the centre will alleviate this issue.
4. Council ordered new green food waste bins from Italy – these have no handles! When asked why no prototype had been send the operative was advised that might be construed as bribery. Such Nonsense!
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| 11 | Common Good / Issues with Area Office1. Bruce Stewart has advised that he is working his way through the list with relevant Council officers. He will reply in writing in the first instance.
2. Question as to how much money the Council has spent on transferring Common Good titles to themselves.
3. Mearns CC to seek an undertaking from the Council that they provide a list of all common good assets held on behalf of Laurencekirk by 24th February to allow members to discuss at the next CC meeting on 27th February.
4. Mearns CC members also seek an assurance that no further titles will be transferred and no sales of property made until this list is shared with members.
5. Copies of concerns to be shared with Area Office, elected members, MSP’s and the press. It will also be shared on Facebook.
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| 12 | Treasurers Report. 1. Treasurer not in attendance.
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| 13 | AOCB1. Social Event – deferred until next meeting.
2. Asset transfer of St Laurence Hall – if it is established that the hall is common good then there will be no need for an asset transfer. To be discussed further.
3. Members agreed to renew Survey Monkey subscription due in February.
4. Members agreed to purchase the domain name “mearnscommunitycouncil.com” to allow easier access to the website. This will cost £24.00 per year and will be in addition to the £29.95 per year to keep the site advert free.
5. Question around recent Council decision to refuse asset transfer of community space at Forest Park to Mackie Academy Rugby Club given that many young people from the Mearns area attend training sessions and play for teams, Agreed that Council has followed due process in their decision and that hopefully all interested parties can work together to achieve an acceptable outcome.
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| 14 | DONM – Monday 27th February 2023 at Mearns Community Campus.  |  |