***MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

Note of Meeting 26th September 2022

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| 1 | In attendance: J Stuart (Chair); C Medlock; S Brown (Sec); J Anderson; D Stewart; R Salvan; K Todd; A Shiach; K Williams; A MacDonald  Ex Officio: Cllrs Carr; Evison; Carnie; Stelfox  Apologies: S Sweeney; PC D Charnley; C Rushbridge; A Lawson; M Robson; J Lovell; S Ewen |  |
| 2 | Approval of minute of September 2022 - Proposed C Medlock Seconded A Shiach |  |
| 3 | Matters Arising:   1. Item 7.7.b – SB to chase up signage for roads into Laurencekirk from Fettercairn and Auchenblae. A photo of the type of sign previously at these locations was sent to roads for their comment. No response this far. 2. Item 9b – Natural Power has advised they will be happy to discuss wider distribution of the community benefit arising from the further extension to the wind farm. They will attend a CC meeting in the new year. | **SB** |
| 4 | Police   1. Police reports circulated as received. |  |
| 5 | Correspondence – circulated as received |  |
| 6 | Settlements   1. Auchenblae: 2. Still complaints about dog fouling, especially in the Glenfarquhar Road area and out to the golf course road. 3. Potholes in Mackenzie Avenue are getting worse again. Appreciated that they were repaired but not a full repair hence them getting deeper 4. West Cairnbeg: 5. Grit bin- ongoing issue. 6. Edzell Woods: 7. Request for Lang Stracht to be gritted this year – it is some years since it was done. 8. Edzell Woods Owners Group have drawn up a rota for gritting inside the estate. 9. Road at Northwaterbridge still not repaired. This has been some tine and traffic are driving through Edzell to avoid the junction. Tess White, MSP, had offered to chase up the repair. 10. Fettercairn: 11. Roads have advised that the missing signage will be replaced very soon. 12. Fordoun: 13. Members are happy to learn that a shop will hopefully be opened in Fordoun in the near future. It is to be hoped that the planning application relating to this will be approved quickly. 14. Glenbervie: No Report 15. Laurencekirk 16. A satellite dish had fallen off a house in Conveth Place. It blocked the pavement for some days before being removed. Cllrs advise, for future reference, that this is the responsibility of waste services 17. Cemetery wall beside the new houses has cracks appearing in it. A prompt repair required before winter sets in. 18. Luthermuir 19. Cllr Carr advised that a solution to the down pipe in the park entrance was very close. The householder had been given a letter of comfort and permission to have the downpipe linked to the drains. Members were surprised to learn that the Council would meet the cost of this – will the Council fix similar issues for all households? Surely the cost should be covered by the householder? 20. New play equipment has been installed in the park. It is unclear whether this work was done by the Council or the equipment provider. A house at the side of the lane into the park was damaged. This has led to the householder putting up a barrier to prevent further damage. With a barrier on the other side due to the down pipe issue the park entrance is narrowed to the point where the hall bins are not being emptied despite the Hall and Park committee paying for the service. The defibrillator is sited at the hall, anyone wishing to access it will now have to go on foot which will take longer and might have tragic consequences. 21. Marykirk: No Report | **SB**  **SB**  **SB** |
| 7 | Roads Issues   1. Meeting with Transport Scotland/BEAR/Amey – It was agreed to contact the MSP’s re a follow up meeting ASAP. This should involve Aberdeenshire Council, Amey, Scottish Government and CC members as a starting point. The Road Haulage Association has advised that their members have serious concerns about the junctions on the A90. 2. An accident on the A90 on 4th October near the Upperton junction caused traffic to be diverted. It is unclear whether Police or sat-nav directed northbound traffic to use the Scotston junction. This narrow road, in common with most side roads in the area, does not lend itself to accommodating HGV’s and articulated lorries. CC wish to seek clarification on who is responsible for diversions and that those responsible know the roads rather than looking on a map. | **SB**  **SB** |
| 8 | Planning   1. Planning development had advised that would meet with CC members in November, no date has been arranged as yet. Cllr Evison will chase up the issue. Given the delay to the next LDP there is concern that Laurencekirk is being denied organic growth. 2. Discussion around development of the former Academy site might happen soon as the flyover objections are close to being resolved. It is hoped that the CC will be involved in any discussion around this. 3. The Planning (Scotland) bill states that “a planning authority may at any time amend a local development plan constituted for their district.” It was agreed that member will compile a list of proposals for discussion. JS will start the list for circulation seeking comment from CC members 4. Members seek clarification on who decides which stakeholders are invited for discussion on the LDP. It appears that, in this area, only national housebuilders are included in discussion. | **Cllr E**  **JS/SB** |
| 9 | Landscape Services   1. Plant forms were issued by the area office this year, it is hoped that all settlements received the form before the deadline for submission. 2. Several trees have been removed from Kinnear Square. It is though that more are to be removed. 3. Dr Buchan Memorial – CC has received an estimate from J. G&W Duncan for repair to the memorial. The CC are happy to pay 50% of the cost and will ask Landscape services for the balance. Failing that, an application will be made to the top up budget. Given that the work won’t be conducted until the spring there may be an issue with spending any award from the top up budget within the financial year. The cost of the work is £1632 including VAT. | **SB** |
| 10 | Waste services   1. New black and blue bins should be distributed by the end of November. 2. Statistics provided by waste services on usage at recycling centres appear to be averaged across Aberdeenshire rather than being centre specific. Can we see usage figures for Laurencekirk Recycling Centre? | **SB** |
| 11 | Common Good   1. CC to seek a meeting with the Area Manager to discuss concerns about the Common Good assets being held on behalf of Laurencekirk. We also need to know where the monies formerly in the Cameron Bequest have gone, how much is there and how Laurencekirk can access the fund. Given the current cost of living crisis it seems appropriate that these funds can be accessed and distributed locally as required. This meeting will be separate from a formal CC meeting as it might take some time to discuss all areas of concern to members. SB will send a note of issues for discussion an advance of the meeting. | **SB** |
| 12 | Crosspoles right of Way   1. A new Outdoor Access Officer starts at the end of November. CC will contact him re concerns about the right of Way. |  |
| 13 | Treasurers Report.   1. Balance in account £8829. 2. Money ringfenced from Scottish Water will be moved into general funds and be used for expenses such as the repair of the Dr Buchan Memorial. 3. No payment has been received from Aberdeenshire Council as yet this year. It is currently being processed. Normally paid in August. |  |
| 14 | AOCB   1. Auchenblae Parks Committee Insurance. A MacD will consult with the Parks committee to learn what precisely they need us to help with. Members are keen to help but need to ensure that there is no risk to either the CC as a group or to individual members. 2. RS advised that he has been invited to be involved in an event similar to the COP summit to be held in Egypt this month. RS to send detail to SB of when and where the event is to be held for distribution to members. Members can then decide whether they wish to attend or help in any way. | **A MacD**  **RS** |
| 15 | DONM – Monday 28th November 2022 at Mearns Community Campus. |  |