***MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

Note of Meeting 26th September 2022

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| 1 | In attendance: C Rushbridge (Chair); J Stuart; C Medlock; S Brown (Sec); M Robson; J Anderson; D Stewart; R Salvan; J Lovell: S Ewen; A Lawson; K Todd; A Shiach  Ex Officio: Cllrs Carr; Evison; Carnie; Stelfox  Apologies: K Williams; A MacDonald; S Sweeney; PC D Charnley  Visitors: L Buchan Aberdeenshire Council CLD |  |
| 2 | How Mearns Community Council Works – see separate sheet. |  |
| 3 | Approval of minute of August 2022 - Proposed J Stuart Seconded J Anderson |  |
| 4 | Matters Arising:  Item 9 b) The Reporter will hopefully have sent his report to the Scottish Government by the end of the year.  Item 13 a) Some CLD workers are being asked to cover other areas as there is a shortage of qualified workers in some areas. Ideally, more CLD workers can be recruited if budget allows.  Item 9 c) and d) – planning advise that CC must contact enforcement officer re planning conditions not being completed. KW has done this. |  |
| 5 | Police   1. Police reports circulated as received. 2. PC Charnley has booked space in village halls for his monthly surgeries. It is unclear how these will be advertised. Mearns CC can share on social media if required. |  |
| 6 | Correspondence – circulated as received |  |
| 7 | Settlements   1. Auchenblae: 2. Dog fouling is becoming an issue again. AL to contact green dog walking co-ordinator. 3. Bridge at Burnmoo will be inspected soon. 4. West Cairnbeg: 5. Cllr Carnie to seek provision of a grit bin. 6. Edzell Woods: No Report 7. Fettercairn: 8. Although previously reported, some signage is missing from the crossroads at the junction of the A937 and the B966 outside Fettercairn. SB to report again. 9. Fordoun: 10. Query re when permanent traffic lights to be placed on the bridge – some utility services are causing an issue, but these should be resolved soon. It is thought that Network Rail should be responsible for repairs and maintenance of all aspects of the bridge. They have advised that they have no budget for this. It must also be noted that electrification of the line may have an impact. 11. Question re lollipop person for Springbank Terrace. This post was advertised with no uptake. Budget has been reallocated. Discussion about school staff taking on this role showed that staff have other responsibilities at the required times meaning it is not a viable proposition. 12. Glenbervie: No Report 13. Laurencekirk 14. Request for waste bin at Frasers Lane, between Blackiemuir Avenue and Beattie Place in Laurencekirk. This has been actioned. 15. Signs meant for Fordoun Road and Fettercairn Road will not be made or put in place. 16. Electronic sign at south junction does not work. It should be removed. 17. Clock at Masonic Hall is now working, an electrician had accidentally disconnected it. 18. Luthermuir 19. Down pipe in the lane into the park is a constant issue when it rains. Can the Council ask the householder to get it fixed? 20. Caldhame Feus cottage on Main Street has had work conducted by the occupant. SB to chase up as no action taken. 21. Query as to whether planning permission is required for a twenty-foot container unit in a domestic garden. Website should provide the criteria. 22. Marykirk: No Report | **AL**  **Cllr LC**  **SB**  **SB**  **SB**  **SB** |
| 8 | Roads Issues   1. Meeting with Transport Scotland/BEAR/Amey – all agreed that it had been a waste of time. Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department had not been invited. Ewan Wallace joined the meeting once he was made aware of it. Similarly, public transport unit had not been asked about bus stop usage on the A90 despite BEAR stating they got no response. Neil Stewart and Susan Watt are two officers who ALWAYS reply promptly to emails or questions. CC to contact Road Haulage Association for comment from their membership. CC to wrote to Transport minister for comment. CC to start a petition seeking support for the Scottish Government to take action to improve all aspects of road safety on the A90. 2. Royal Arch Caravan Park – complaints re extremely bright lights shining from the site onto public roads. There is a live retrospective planning application for the lighting. SB to seek advice from Police and Roads. | **SB**  **SB** |
| 9 | Planning   1. Question as to whether Ward 19 Councillors visit sites of planning applications for determination in Mearns CC area. Some Cllrs have done but most applications are delegated to officers meaning Councillors have no route to submit input. 2. Fetteresso Wind Farm extension has been approved. CC members agreed by majority to seek wider distribution of community benefit arising from the extension. SB to advise the developer. | **SB** |
| 10 | Landscape Services   1. Query as to where the large flower shaped planters from the Memorial Park went and whether they can be put back. 2. Horse trough/fountain at Kinnear Square – this is recorded on the historic asset list. 3. Dr Buchan Memorial – landscape services to budget for repairs. It has not been possible to find a local joiner to give a quote. 4. The wildflowers in Kinnear Square to be left meantime and readdressed next year. 5. Wildflowers opposite Newbigging Cottages were planted without consultation. Householders have reinstated the verge to grass as before as the wildflowers were an eyesore, dock and thistles. A very poor-quality seed mix is used. 6. Wildflowers at Railway road in Laurencekirk were removed at the request of residents. 7. Discussion about why there are so few natural wildflowers nowadays. They used to be plentiful and were perennial. Council spends money every year to plant wildflowers which do not last. | **SB** |
| 11 | Waste services   1. Cllrs advise that there has been discussion about removing the booking service from Laurencekirk. A decision should be taken soon. 2. The pilot hybrid system to be trialled in Stonehaven has caused some concern to Councillors. |  |
| 12 | Common Good   1. CC to ask when the title for the ground at the Burgh Buildings was transferred to the Council and why there was no consultation. There is an active asset transfer request for the Burgh Buildings and there is concern that most of the ground is common good and should not have been grabbed by the Council. Residents of Johnston Street widely use the car park. 2. Question as to why no rent is paid into the common good fund for land used by Aberdeenshire Council. They charge rent for businesses to use their land -same should apply to common good land. | **SB** |
| 13 | Crosspoles right of Way   1. The outdoor access officer agreed to meet with members on 21st September. He didn’t arrive as he couldn’t find the location. We had agreed to meet at the lay-by on the A90 at the B974 turn off -not hard to find. This officer has now left his post. 2. CC to contact Scotways as Aberdeenshire Council take no interest in rights of Way even though their website states that the are responsible. 3. CC to request that this RoW be classed as a core path. | **SB** |
| 14 | Laurencekirk Place Plan   1. It was agreed that there is little enthusiasm for this. There have been countless community engagements in recent years with no positive outcome. CC members need to see evidence that the Council is willing to collaborate with the community before the previous consultations are re-assessed. The Area office is aware of the previous consultations. | **SB** |
| 15 | AOCB   1. Cameron Bequest – CC to seek information as to why a local bequest which was administered locally has been added to a Council fund. Is there a definitive list of what monies held in this fund are for which settlement? |  |
| 16 | DONM – Monday 31st October 2022 at Mearns Community Campus. |  |