***MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

***Draft Note of Meeting June 2022***

1. In attendance: C Rushbridge; J Stuart; C Medlock; S Brown (Sec); M Robson; J Anderson; D Stewart; K Williams; A MacDonald; A Shiach; S Sweeney; R Salvan; J Lovell

Ex Officio: Cllrs Carr; Evison;

Apologies: A Lawson; S Ewen; K Todd; Cllrs Carnie and Stelfox

Visitors: PC D Charnley

1. Approval of minute of May 2022 - Proposed C Medlock Seconded A MacDonald
2. Matters Arising:

KDP advise that they are under no threat of closure.

1. Police
2. Police reports circulated as received.
3. PD Charnley was welcomed to the meeting. He’s hoping to attend meets as available. His particular interests are wildlife and youth work.
4. Removal of birds nests at Luthermuir School was not illegal if the nests were empty.
5. Correspondence – circulated as received
6. Settlements
7. Auchenblae:
8. As reported before there is concern about speeding around the village and lack of signage advising drivers that the roads around the village are widely used by pedestrians and cyclists.
9. Bridge at Burnmoo still lying in the stream!
10. West Cairnbeg: No Report
11. Edzell Woods: No Report
12. Fettercairn: No Report
13. Fordoun
14. Concern about traffic speeding on Springfield Terrace – the route to the primary school. Request for signage advising of children crossing is a formal crossing cannot be provided. This should be considered a safe route to school. Since the closure of Abbeyton bridge there has been a huge increase in heavy traffic through the village.
15. Serious potholes at the junction with the A90 – BEAR to be advised.
16. Glenbervie: No Report
17. Laurencekirk
18. Lights outside public toilets are on constantly. It is thought they may be on a circuit with streetlights.
19. Signs meant for Fordoun Road and Fettercairn Road still not erected. These are made and lying in a shed.
20. On a positive note, the damaged lamp post on Market Road has been fixed.
21. Cemetery – Handle at gate has been replaced but is not fixed. This a problem when trying to exit the gate.
22. Kerb on lane outside the cemetery was damaged when stored bark was removed. Roads were to fix but nothing had been done.
23. Luthermuir
24. Bus shelter on Main Street overgrown with foliage. Unclear if this roads or landscape services – both services to be advised.
25. A new outdoor access officer has been appointed. SB to contact him re right of way at Crosspoles.
26. Marykirk:
27. Scottish Water has advised that there is no plan on place for replacement of asbestos pipes. SB to ask what the criteria is for getting moved up the list. Water loss in Marykirk is becoming a regular occurrence.
28. Roads Issues
29. Closure notices sent out as received.
30. Very disappointing that the roads meeting arranged for today was postponed by BEAR. It is evident that they have not completed the preparatory work. New date will hopefully be w/c 25th July. SB to request detail of invitees, agenda and who will chair the meeting. Mearns CC called the meeting, but it seems to have been hijacked by others. CC will compile an agenda – members asked to submit items for inclusion.
31. Dip in road at pipeline Road between Northwaterbridge and Fettercairn has not been addressed although reported several times. Given the increase in cyclists there will be an accident at some point. SB will report again through FMS.
32. GC advised of a meeting called by Tess White MSP to discuss the flyover at Laurencekirk. There are currently five objections which should be easily resolved allowing progress to be made.
33. Planning:
34. All weekly lists circulated.
35. APP/2022/0616 House on Kirktonhill Road, Marykirk. The CC originally objected to this application but removed their objection as regulations had changed and our concerns are no longer considered material. This is a greenfield site. A neighbour wrote to the CC asking members to reconsider the withdrawal of the objection. Following discussion, it was agreed to take no further action. KW to advise neighbour.
36. Glen Dye wind farm – JL has submitted a document for consideration at the hearing later in the year. Members thanked him for undertaking this task and for his diligence in compiling the report.
37. Handling reports following planning decisions should be checked by an independent body. At present the Council simply self approves decision making. There is an inconsistency in recording decisions.
38. OP1 site in Laurencekirk is currently only open to national housebuilders. This prevents organic growth within Laurencekirk and means that people have no ability to design and build houses to meet their individual needs. Council states that infrastructure costs would be prohibitive hence the decision.
39. Recycling
40. Disappointment that the Laurencekirk recycling centre is to close for 3 weeks in July, This to allow for improvements to the site. Best improvement would be removal of booking system. Council is seeking an alternative site for disposal of garden waste during the closure.
41. Council advises that there is no possibility of reinstating recycling at Luthermuir due to access issues. Residents are advised to use Fettercairn or Laurencekirk as appropriate. Aberdeenshire Council have failed Luthermuir badly in their reluctance to address the issue of access to the park. The owners of the adjacent house have had two-thirds of the width of the lane added to their title deed. Given that there is a 25-year window to appeal this change of ownership. Solicitors have advised that Aberdeenshire Council should address this.
42. Common Good
43. in Laurencekirk. CC has produced a document listing land and property that belonged to the former Burgh of Laurencekirk. This will be shared with the SPCO in the hope that they can address the issue which Aberdeenshire has failed to do. One example is the roads depot on Laurencekirk – this site was formerly leased to the Council until 2005. The lease was not renewed yet Council has erected a new building on the site. Rental income of approximately £8K per annum should be paid into the common good fund.
44. AOCB
45. Community Space within the Campus. CC is advised to contact the head teacher if they are refused accommodation for meetings etc. Issue is really that rooms being offered are inappropriate for numbers attending and does not allow for open meetings.
46. Request that contacts numbers for Council services be sent out with Council Tax Bills. This last done in 2014. Numbers have all changed since Council changed to SKYPE calling.
47. Proposal that secretary be given an honorarium to that her for her effort on behalf of the CC. A sum of £1,00 was agreed as it has been some time since the last payment.
48. DONM – Monday 29th August 2022 at Mearns Community Campus. SB will advise once a date for roads meeting has been set.