***MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

***Approved Note of Meeting May 2022***

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

Ex Officio: Cllrs Carnie; Carr; Evison; Stelfox

Apologies: A Shiach; J Stuart; J Lovell; M Stewart; PC M Camus

1. Approval of minute of April 2022 - Proposed A Mac Donald Seconded J Anderson
2. Matters Arising:
3. 6.1.b – Still no repair to damage at bridge north of Auchenblae. This remains a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.
4. 5.b – MR spoke with the consultant who advised that KDP were under threat of closure.
5. Police
6. Police reports circulated as received.
7. PC Camus had advised that he retires from Police Scotland in mid-June. He was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Members thank him for his attendance and diligence in following up questions asked by members. They wish him well for the future.
8. Correspondence – circulated as received
9. Historic Scotland has advised that they do not think it appropriate to attach a listing to the Dr Buchan Memorial at Kinnear Square. They will add it to the National Record of the Historic Environment. The listing will appear on the Canmore website in due course.
10. Settlements
11. Auchenblae:
12. See matters arising.
13. Still much concern about the lack of signage advising all road users of the many pedestrians and cyclists using the roads around the village. Due to erosion and subsidence on the roads most have no option but to walk in the middle of the road.
14. Complaint about an increase in dog fouling in the village. AL to contact the Auchenblae Green Dog co-ordinator.
15. West Cairnbeg: No Report
16. Edzell Woods:
17. Not Aberdeenshire, simply advising that travellers are camping on the Muir at Edzell and leaving a lot of mess.
18. Fettercairn: No Report
19. Fordoun No Report
20. Glenbervie: No Report
21. Laurencekirk
22. Concern about the former grain store raised once again. Cllr Evison will make enquiries.
23. The former community centre in Laurencekirk is in an extremely poor state of repair. It’s unsure whether the asset transfer to the Catalyst Church has been finalised. The remains of the portacabins must be considered a hazard should children access the playground. SB to advise property service.
24. Luthermuir
25. Concern about speeding on School Road. On bin days the children have to walk on the road due to the narrow pavement. Police have been advised.
26. Access to the park and hall from Main Street. This an ongoing issue which needs to be resolved urgently. How can a householder simply be able to take the access lane into their title deed? The park and hall belong to Luthermuir, yet one householder is restricting access to vehicles larger than a transit van. Emergency vehicles are too large to use the entrance – what will happen should access be required?
27. Police Wildlife Office to be advised that Council has removed swallow/house martin nests from the primary school.
28. Marykirk:
29. Village without water last week, not for long but becoming a frequent occurrence. The asbestos pipes were scheduled for replacement some 12 years ago but seem to have fallen off the list as Scottish Water advise the work is not scheduled.
30. Recently repaired potholes at Dunthill are back, the filling disappeared following heavy rain. Question as to why Aberdeenshire don’t seal repairs as is the practice in other areas.
31. Roads Issues
32. Closure notices sent out as received.
33. Still awaiting a date for requested meeting with Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland re A90 concerns and update on promised actions.
34. Sunday Post has spoken with Laurencekirk representatives re the closure of Oatyhill bridge. It is the longest bridge closure on Scotland. Unsure when the article and photos will be published.
35. Planning:
36. All weekly lists circulated.
37. APP/2121/2892 – Crosspoles. CC objection will stand as members are genuinely concerned that the Right of Way and footpath will be lost if not shown on a drawing. Architect advised that planners told him to claim ownership of the old road (B974). He has advised that his client does not own the road. Mearns CC has submitted a FOI to seek clarification on who owns the road.
38. Mearns CC has responded to the questionnaire circulated by planning development. The online meeting held on Thursday 26th was very poorly attended.
39. Glen Dye wind farm – JL continues to represent the CC on this. Next stage will be continuation of inquiry and hearing commencing 22nd August.
40. Landscape Services
41. Concern voiced that landscape services has sown wildflower seeds across an area of the Memorial Park without consultation which had been agreed. It is accepted that the Council is obliged to grow wildflowers but surely there should be consultation, especially with the Memorial Park group before any changes are made. Last year the “wildflower” area consisted of weeds. There is an excessive cost attached to this. Planters are though to be the best, and most cost effective and manageable option. Further meeting to be arranged.
42. The St Laurence Church in Laurencekirk is to close when Rev Turner retires. The glebe, in the Memorial Park will then likely revert to the Johnston Estate.
43. Recycling
44. Recycling at Luthermuir. It is now over 5 years since the recycling bins were removed from Luthermuir due to lack of access to the park. Request for smaller recycling bins to be sited there to promote and encourage recycling.
45. SFRS consultation – SB to respond on behalf of CC.
46. Glensaugh and Glen Dye peat restoration project. Members supportive of the proposal. SB to advise.

1. Complaint against Council – SB to sent out an updated list of issues to members for prioritisation.
2. Common Good – Report to be sent to the Ombudsman as Council unable or unwilling to respond.
3. AOCB
4. Community Space within the Campus. Laurencekirk and the Mearns has been completely let down with regard to community space. At the stakeholders meetings held before the new campus was built there was concern that the proposal was unworkable. This has proved to be the case. Mearns CC used to hold meeting in room GP3 which accommodated visitors. Since the lockdown, we are allocated a classroom which does not allow us to hold open meetings. Should members increase then, with ex officio attendees the room will not be adequate. Village halls are not a viable option as they are already booked up most of the week.
5. CC Forum – members trying to join the meeting could not log in – the meeting had been rescheduled for September.
6. A local MSYP has asked to meet with the CC re better engagement with young people. It was thought that this might be an item for a future CC forum. Meantime, three members of the CC will meet with him to discuss.
7. Members were reminded that they need to submit their nomination forms if they are seeking re-election.
8. DONM – AGM at 7.00pm on 27th June 2022 at Mearns Community Campus. This will be followed immediately by a shorter regular meeting.