***MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

***Approved note of Meeting March 2022 (Teams Meeting)***

1. In attendance: C Rushbridge; J Stuart; C Medlock; S Brown (Sec); M Robson; A Lawson; A Shiach; J Lovell; K Williams; K Todd

Ex Officio: Cllr G Carr

Visitors: Mrs A Evison

Apologies: Provost Howatson; D Stewart; J Anderson; A MacDonald; M Stewart

1. Approval of minute of February 2022 - Proposed J Stuart; Seconded A Shiach
2. Matters Arising
3. No acknowledgement or response from Area Manager to the letter seeking reassurance that the former grain store is SAFE.
4. Road sign on Laurencekirk High Street has finally been removed.
5. Still awaiting a date for the meeting with Transport Scotland and BEAR re A90 safety.

1. Police
2. Police reports circulated as received.
3. PC Camus had provided RTA figures for the A90 between Candy junction and NWB as detailed below:

29/3/19 - 28/3/20 - 3 Road Traffic Collisions plus 4 Road Traffic Matters

29/3/20 - 28/3/21 - 2 Road Traffic Collisions plus1 Road Traffic Matters

29/3/21 - 28/3/22 - 3 Road Traffic Collisions plus 6 Road Traffic Matters

For clarification RTC would be a collision, RTM would be a breakdown. These figures only relate to incidents where Police have been in attendance.

1. Correspondence – circulated as received.
2. Settlements
3. Auchenblae:
4. Ongoing pothole issues
5. Question re timeline for proposed repair of road past Castleton Farm – is this really going to take a year between commencement and completion?
6. West Cairnbeg:
7. Grit bin
8. Edzell Woods: No Report
9. Fettercairn:
10. Concern about burns being blocked. Some work appears to have been conducted.
11. Fordoun No Report
12. Glenbervie: No Report
13. Laurencekirk
14. Gate at the level crossing on Gardenstone Street not securing when has been opened. This has been reported to Network Rail.
15. Question re whether CC should be given reports on school performance. Advised all reports are on Council website. Academies give an annual report to Area Committee.
16. Disabled car space at Masonic Hall Car Park – car with flat tyre has been there for several months. Council and Police to be advised. No disabled badge in evidence.
17. Concern that people with Police issues are being directed to Laurencekirk Police Station which is unmanned at present. SB to check with PC Camus.
18. It was noted that some Council employees are suffering from low morale. They advise of an extremely poor relationship with management and some incidents of bullying.
19. CC still awaiting an estimate from Neil Ingram for repair to the Dr Buchan memorial in Kinnear Square.
20. Luthermuir – No report
21. Marykirk:
22. Two potholes at Dunthill finally filled in!
23. Roads Issues
24. Closure notices sent out as received.
25. Oatyhill bridge – members agreed to submit an objection to Aberdeenshire Council’s proposed Prohibition of Driving Order for Oatyhill Bridge once the consultation period starts.

Members feel that given the fairly low volume of traffic using the bridge then a weight restriction would be more appropriate.

1. Planning:
2. All weekly lists circulated.
3. APP/2121/2892 – Erection of dwelling house at Crosspoles. CC has advised that the objection will be removed on condition that the Right of Way is not compromised in any way. SB was advised by a local resident that the gate cannot be opened from the A90 side, there is a car parked on the RoW and that the gate at the other end is blocked by wheelie bins! Aberdeenshire Council have previously been advised that access to the RoW frequently blocked but appear to have no interest.
4. APP/2020/0740 - Erection of 2 Dwellinghouses at Land to North of Burnside, Luthermuir. Mearns CC did not object to this application in 2020 although they sought reassurance on some issues including concern about contaminated land as the site has previously been used as a bus garage. Paul Williamson (senior planner) has advised that he is still awaiting an updated report from land contamination.
5. Arcus Consultancy Services, on behalf of Fiddes Battery Limited is proposing a potential Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development, with up to 30 MW, located on Land approximately six kilometres south-west of Stonehaven, approximately 80 m south of the A90 in Aberdeenshire. While this proposed installation does not fall within the boundary of Mearns CC members made comment that, given the likelihood of similar installations across Aberdeenshire, it would be appropriate for Aberdeenshire Council to provide a policy for Community Councils and others to allow them to make appropriate comment. It was noted that the PAN does not provide many details about the proposed development and members await a more details application in the future.
6. APP/2022/0662 – change of use to a café. Members suggest that it might be possible to create some parking behind the premises. This would involve negotiation with two adjacent households but might be beneficial to them as would also provide off street parking for them.
7. APP/2022/0616 – application for erection of a dwelling house at Kirktonhill Road, Marykirk. A previous application for a house on this site was refused (APP/2007/3419). Mearns CC will object and question what criteria has changed to allow a new application.
8. Landscape Services
9. No update
10. Treasurer Report – £4743.22 available
11. Recycling
12. Waste Services have acknowledged our letter seeking clarification on various points and will get back once they know the answers.
13. Cllr Carr advised that buy-in kerbside services for both garden waste and glass should be in place soon after the local authority elections.
14. AOCB
15. Platinum Jubilee – Rotary Club in negotiation with BT re wasteland adjacent to Gannets. No further update.
16. CC Elections 2022 – members up for election have been advised and await applications forms and posters from the Area Office.
17. Scheme of Establishment – no comment other than it seems ridiculous to ask all members of a CC to stand down at once. This potentially can remove any continuity of membership. Also question why candidates standing for election need only meet one of four criteria yet voters MUST be registered with the Council.
18. Mearns CC vote of no confidence in Aberdeenshire Council – a list of failures in service delivery form Aberdeenshire Council officers currently stands at 58 items. This list will be forwarded to the Area Manager with a request for a meeting with him to discuss further.
19. DONM – 7.00pm on 25th April 2022 at Mearns Community Campus. Please wear a mask and follow any COVID notices.