

Mearns Community Council

27th January 2025

Location: Mearns Community Campus

Present: Andrew Macdonald (AM) Carol Medlock (CM) Dave Stewart (DS) Alasdair Shiach (AS)
Janette Anderson (JA) Ken Williams (KW) Phylis Bruce (PB) John Lovell (JL) Gordon Reid (GR)
Chris Rushbridge (CR) Paul Green (PG) Kevin Todd (KT)

Guest: Jack Souttar, Kate Matthew and Brian Wade (Save our Mearns)

EX Officio: Cllr Carr, Cllr Evison, Cllr Smith

Minutes: Emma Murray (EM)

1. Declarations of Interest

Janette Anderson re Item 8 on the agenda

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Circulated and taken as read.

Proposed by CR, seconded by JA

3. Matters Arising

Information map and Cairn O Mount viewpoint

4. Police Report

Circulated as received, taken as read.

5. Correspondence

Circulated as received, taken as read.

7. Communities

Auchenblae: Council did a really good job of keeping the footpaths cleared and salted in the snow and ice. AM to write to Aberdeenshire Council

Hole opposite the doctor's surgery is still there. Cllr Carr – to ask about this

Fettercairn: Roundabout has been damaged. It has been logged on fix my street, but nothing seems to be happening. AM to write to Aberdeenshire Council

Fordoun: Station Road is a mess and a massive hole at the traffic lights – been reported on fix my street. Flower boxes maybe removed. It was suggested later that re-use in other settlements may be possible.

Edzell Woods: Council footpath on the Langstracht needs cleared and repaired.

Praise for bin men

Glenbervie: Battery storage – needs better advertisement (consultation to be held regarding this)

Laurencekirk: Stalemate in Laurencekirk of nothing happening. Cllr Carr advised that essential spend only so nothing being done due to lack of money.

Confusion and frustration about what bin men are meant to pick up etc

Action – letter to Aberdeenshire Council regarding bin pick up / “extra” and spilled waste.

Market road – resurfaced the pavement has now broken up – been reported to roads and photos taken.

Luthermuir: Still awaiting reply regarding payment about why ear syringe service in Aberdeenshire is chargeable. 17 years regarding park entrance and all we have is words from Aberdeenshire Council – Cllr Carr has raised it again this week to the council. Tim Stevens has taken it to the top of legal.

Marykirk: Compliment the council for salting the pavements in Marykirk. Flood maintenance – needs clearing out (trapping the water in the road)– reported to roads. CR to write to council. Culvert needs cleared, Chris has spoken to flood prevention and council, and they say there is no money – Cllr Carr going to raise this.

West Cairnbeg: Council salted the slope entering the settlement when it was snow and ice. Phillip McKay – might take away a bin that is not well used can be put into another area that needs. MCC needs to write to Aberdeenshire Council

7. Roads, Planning & Landscape Services

Replacement info board at Cairn O'Mount to go ahead. AM – to confirm with Tim Steven.

Jack Souttar speaking on behalf of William McDonald Holiday Park at the Royal Arch. In the planning permission it is specified that there needs to be a footpath to Laurencekirk

or Luthermuir. William McDonald is looking for MCC to help him get this removed. Chris to share correspondence from 2017 and Andrew to put it in the next agenda for February.

SSEN Hurlie development – objection has been put in.

Thistle Wind Partners – AM asked if they can come share more information on the project. Won't have information until after the 28th March 2025.

8. Treasurer's Report

New bank account – 2 cards with the account. AS, AM and DS all have visibility of the account. Bank is to transfer the money from the old account to the new account. AS has sent a letter to the bank so should be resolved by end of this week. £9580.98 current balance.

9. Planning Gain - Laurencekirk

Diane Henderson – project officer is coming to the next meeting with the amount of money sitting in planning gain and potential.

Cameron Trust and common good – where is this money – CM

10. Candy Junction A90, Drumlithie

Previously Liam Kerr went out with Clive Mitchell and the Transport Scotland chief came to the site. Been advised that all junctions north of Dundee that all junctions are substandard. Requires a lot of money to be spent to get these up to standard as it is a big concern. Chase up the transport for Scotland Chief – Cllr Carr to action this.

11. SSEN

Save our Mearns working behind the scenes for a one document objection. Objection document to the overhead lines (Kintore to Tealing line) .

In the meantime, any specific local knowledge about unique habitat, archaeology, flora or fauna should be shared with SoM.

12. Briefing/update from Councillors/ex officio attendees

Council tax levels to be decided in the next couple of weeks. Horrendous picture going forward as there are lots of cuts to be made. Council needs to work at ways of saving money. Money pulled from two projects in the Mearns. Infrastructure costs for

Laurencekirk is significant now. Local development plan meetings will be influential in things moving forward.

13. ACOB

Jannette got a quote of £175 for 300 bedding plants from the Brechin Castle Centre for flowers in Luthermuir. There are also two greenhouses sitting empty at Milton Arbuthnot – Cllr Carr to suggest to them that all communities in the Mearns to use these as a project.

Next meeting is the 24th February 2025