

Mearns Community Council Meeting

7:00 Monday 24th February 2025 – Mearns Community Campus

Location: Mearns Community Campus

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

Apologies: Alasdair Shiach (AS) Cllr Carr

Guests/Speakers: Jack Souttar, Diane Henderson

EX Officio: Cllr Evison, Cllr Smith, Cllr Carnie

Minutes: Emma Murray (EM)

1. Declarations of Interest

Item 8. Janette Anderson

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Proposed by Dave Stewart, seconded by Gordon Reid

3. Matters arising

Kevin Todd omitted from attendees.

Site to communicate with Aberdeenshire Council about grit bins.

Common Good – Carol is working with Jim Stewart's family to get access to his records, this is delicate and may take some time. Trusts are held/managed by the council – gaining interest all the time.

4. Police Report

Circulated as received, taken as read

5. Correspondence

Circulated as received, taken as read.

6. Website and Social media update

Emma has set up Facebook page. A new website has been set up and just need to populated.

7. Settlements

Auchenblae: Nothing new to report

Fettercairn: Bridge of Dye – the consequential disruption and costs are causing concerns. It maybe the individual that caused damage can be pursued for losses.

Signage advising the road is shut at snow gates is inadequate and does not forewarn drivers.

Impact on local businesses is quite severe this will be added to the area committee agenda for council meeting on Tuesday.

Fordoun: Disabled parking space is being abused and no action being taken

Edzell Woods: Nothing new to report

Glenbervie: When the A90 is blocked inland traffic diverted always on the A92, this is not good for the inland villages etc to get home etc. Signage needs to be clearer and more use made of local knowledge.

Laurencekirk: St Laurence Hall and the empty house beside it– what is happening with it. It did belong to Laurencekirk, but it was moved to Stonehaven. Common Good order or put it on the open market first. Interest from someone in Laurencekirk for an asset transfer.

Borough buildings – will be put on the open market.

Street lighting – there is none at the south end of the high street

Blackiemuir Avenue (halfway up on the left-hand side) Gladston Place – broken ironworks (rusted and sticking up off the pavement) – to be reported on fix my street.

3 council properties in Mearns Walk that have a messy garden but they are elderly people who live there are not able to cut grass etc – advised to contact Mearns Healthy Living - GR to speak to them.

Duncans the Bakery are closing in April, the loss of jobs is very worrying.

Luthermuir: Pothole reported in 2007 was repaired in January 2025.

Marykirk: A resident in Marykirk that wants the streetlights switched off in the wee hours, a survey of all those affected may be required. It was noted the A937 is a designated diversion which may further complicate matters. Chris waiting to hear back if the person wants to go ahead.

Culvert clearing will be bought up by at the next ISC meeting.

West Cairnbeg: Nothing new to report

8. Roads, Planning & Landscape Services: - Royal Arch Park – vote

MCC will support the application to amend once all other conditions have been met.

9. Treasurer's Report

Alasdair circulated via email

10. Planning gain – Laurencekirk

Developer money from Muir homes – can only be used in Laurencekirk

Cannot be used for repairs or maintenance can only be used for improvement.

Current balances are :

£158000 for community hall

£160000 for recreation and sports (£318000 in total)

Parent association has shown interest.

Potential asset transfer at the Borough buildings.

On the Council Website in the search bar type in Funding – it will take you to all the available funds.

Asking how to spend the money in Laurencekirk via the Facebook page seeking feedback and suggestions.

11. Meetings arranged & update

Mari Gougeon

A90 junction at Fordoun, road surface condition, trying to find out who is responsible (going round in circles) council says its Amey and Amey says it's the council.

Candy Junction at A90/Drumlithie – no one is going to build and redesign the road. Survey done to decrease speed limit etc. Clarification needed regarding this. Previous involvement of politicians has been a failure.

12. Local Development plan

Andrew to have a meeting with the developers of proposed Energy Park at Strachan on Thursday.

13. SSEN

Tower plots are on the SSEN website. Heights and base sizes as well, most of them are above the average height of 57 metres. Alignment and tower positions are being presented during public meetings in early March.

14. Briefing / update from Councillors / ex officio attendees

Budget meeting on Thursday. The outlook is not good , there is no money.

15. Tribute to Hilda Kerr

Janette to send over a tribute and Emma will put on Facebook.

16. AOB

Gordon Reid's new email address: Greid3147@gmail.com

Cllr Smith's email address: cllr.t.smith@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Next meeting is on the 31st March 2025 at 7pm – Mearns Community Campus