

Mearns Community Council Meeting

7:00 Monday 31st March 2025 – Crown Hotel, Laurencekirk

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

Apologies: Paul Green (PG)

EX Officio: Cllr Carr, Cllr Evison, Cllr Smith, Cllr Carnie

Minutes: Emma Murray (EM)

1. Declarations of Interest

None

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting

Apologies they were not circulated by Emma but will be with March 2025 minutes

3. Matters arising

- Grit bins – Cllr Carr to chase up this with the council
- Common good fund – Carol to approach Hamish Stuart regarding paperwork for the area
- A90 closure – council has raised it with the police, they must take on board that diversions need to be put in place immediately. With each change of personnel there is a loss of local knowledge
- Street lighting – common good fund to be dipped into or are the council responsible – Cllr Carr to email Mr McKay
- Gordon has approached Mearns Healthy Living regarding the mess of the gardens in Mearns Walk – they are short of gardeners (Emma to post on Facebook to see if there is anyone interested in a Saturday job) Cllr Carr to put us in touch with the group that leads Community Service as well if we have no response
- Culvert clear out – Cllr to see if there is money for clearing it

4. Police Report

Circulated as received, taken as read

5. Correspondence

Circulated as received, taken as read

6. Settlements

Auchenblae: The hole in the pavement opposite the doctor's surgery was fixed but looks like its sinking again

Fettercairn: Nothing to report

Fordoun: Nothing to report

Edzell Woods: Laurencekirk Recycling Centre doesn't recognise DD9 post codes or Edzell Woods – Cllr Carr to take it up with Council

Glenbervie: Nothing to report

Laurencekirk: On the Bent Road there are 20 black sacks full of garden waste that has been sitting there for months – Andrew to report to Andrew Tatton (waste officer)

Sign at the corner of Bent Road has been knocked down: who is responsible for putting it back up ?

Carol was approached but two members from Laurencekirk with a list of street names for the future if needed

Scottish Govt have given money to all councils to fix potholes, in the meantime continue to – take photos and send to Fix my Street. If we can't get them sorted Cllr Carr to raise it at the Ward meeting

Luthermuir: Entrance to the Marykirk cemetery has a huge pothole – report to Neil West from colleagues and roads

Marykirk: Nothing to report

West Cairnbeg: The new sign at the Cairn O Mount there has been a suggestion to modernise the map – Alasdair is going to circulate and see what everyone thinks as it will cost around £420. Alisdair to ask Power Washer Services to clean up the foundation plinth

7. Roads, Planning & Landscape Services:

- Update - Fordoun and Drumlithie junctions – Aberdeenshire Council to fix (after years of Aberdeenshire Council avoiding responsibility MSP Mairi Gougeon moved it along quickly) Traffic order for the road closure has been written up
- Public access / potential Right of Way at Crosspoles – Do we fill in the questionnaire or do we just forget about it? Vote taken at the meeting – We are going ahead with filling in the questionnaire
- Speed limits – consultation – Andrew sent it over via email. Feedback is due on 25th April, to go back as a community council. Council members to send over comments to Andrew before the 18th April
Cllr Carr to chase up the electronic speed sign coming into Laurencekirk that has been broken over 2 years

8. Treasurer's Report

End of the financial year amount is £8597.12

9. Laurencekirk Developer Obligations & Planning gain – update

- Scout Hut – council position is if she comes up with a good case, they will ring fence the money for it
- MISS Charity looking for a memorial garden to be built

10. SSEN / Electricity Infrastructure update – Round table

Nothing new to report

11. Briefing / update from Councillors / ex officio attendees

- The local development plan – couple of workshops and consultations have been put out to the community councils that don't seem to be too affective this time. This needs to be looked at a bit more in terms of policy
The master plan has fallen apart a bit and there needs to be greater vision for these plans. Margins now for developers are very tight. The next phase will be bids for where landowners and planners wish for development to take place
- 10% for council tax – brings in 16 million for Aberdeenshire Council
Integrated joint board – last year was 11 million (they do not know what it will be this year) council cannot afford to keep bailing them out

12. AOCB

Consultation on public toilets coming soon – tourist tax to maybe come into it

DONM – 1900 Monday 28th April 2025 – Mearns Community Campus