

Lesmahagow Community Council Meeting

Minutes of meeting held 10th February 2022

1. Present

Margaret Crow (Chairperson in absence of Jim), Mark Waugh (Treasurer), Shona Meikle (tonight's secretary in absence of Ailsa and Catriona), Gary Hillan, James Brownlee, Councillor Colin McGavigon and Robert Murray (Rep from Lisa Cameron's office)

Apologies

Jim Tague, Ailsa Lorrimer, Catriona Arthur-Inch and Councillor Mark Horsham

2. Kype Muir Update – Provided by Mark Waugh

The following organisations have all received money from the fund/have applications in progress: Lunar Gymnastics, Lesmahagow Bowling Club, Masonic Hall, Lesmahagow Highland Games.

The next batch of money is due soon so there is a big push just now for us to try encourage more groups to apply for particularly smaller bids of approx. £2000-3000.

There was some discussion about possibly applying for some funding to reinstate some sort of community bus.

Kype Muir are looking to extend the lifetime of the site and thus extending the benefit to the community. A consultation has to be ran to gain approval for this and the Community Council needs to do this. It was discussed that an online survey could facilitate this and if not enough interest then another open day or street table /table in Tesco could be needed.

3. Vaslan Grant Update – Provided by Margaret Crow

Margaret attended a zoom meeting with Vaslan. There were about 40 attendees so quite a lot for a zoom meeting.

Vaslan are looking at improving mental health and aiming their work more at adults than children.

Margaret thought from the meeting that we could apply for funding from here to support our idea of a sensory garden. We were advised by Councillor McGavigon and Robert Murray that Land Services would be who we should contact for advice on rules and regulations of a sensory garden.

Someone also proposed getting funding to have a designated Mental Health Development Officer for Lesmahagow.

4. McKirdy Park Update – Provided to us by Ailsa Lorrimer prior to meeting

There is a meeting with LDT on 22 February to discuss application. – Grant of £20,000 as joint application for McKirdy Park upgrade.

Jo Gillies is still to assign a designer.

The REF application cannot be submitted until a designer is assigned.

5. Fundraising for McKirdy Park Upgrade

Application for Tesco Community Grant Fund being worked on by Ailsa Lorrimer and Shona Meikle.

Shona Meikle asked Tesco if bag packing was running – she was advised it has not started back yet but to ask again in April when hopefully a decision will have been made.

Other ideas offered –

- Teddy Bears Picnic ran by LCC in McKirdy park with collection buckets for donations as people felt if we ticketed the event it might put people off.
- “Party in the Park” – expanding the Teddy Bears Picnic idea to include more age groups – no further idea on what form this might take – members will have a think on this more.
- Holiday Craft Group for children during the school holidays – would involve some outlay for materials so might not be a good source of income – it was then suggested by one of our visitors that we turn it into a mass craft producing activity and could then hold a Craft Fair to sell the items made and invite other crafters to hire a stall (in a similar vein to the Christmas event in the village).

6. Finance Update – Provided by Mark Waugh

Account has a balance of £3194.88 after paying out 9 of our 10 Micro Grants.

7. AOB

- a. Gary Hillan provided us with an update on his meeting with Councillor McGavigon where Gary took him a walk and pointed out areas of concern around the village that the council need to sort. This was a successful meeting in that after 8 days the work has begun with the man holes on the old 74 cycle path near Auldtton Heights having barriers erected around them to prevent people injuring themselves. Gary and Councillor McGavigon will continue to work on the issues they discussed and will report back further in due course.
- b. Councillor McGavigon told us about the Clydesdale Committee Grant needing to have applications in soon and suggested we encourage groups to apply. The groups need to be constituted and have a bank account. It is suitable for both uniformed organisations (£250) and Sports organisations (£300). This could be shared on our Facebook page and inform organisations we already have a contact for. Go to Council website and look for Clydesdale Community Grant for more information.
- c. The Community Council spoke with our visitors about how poor the village main street is looking with even more empty shops. They assured us it is a priority for them but couldn't tell us much more just now.
- d. It was mentioned that we should have received an invite for a member of the committee to attend a meeting with the Police at Coalburn Miners on 28th Feb at 1 o'clock re speeding in the area – we said that we had not received that as far as we were aware and could it be resent.

8. Date of future meeting

Thursday 10th March at Harris and Ollies 7.30pm