

# MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Location:** Mearns Community Campus

**Present:** Andrew Macdonald (AM), Dave Stewart (DS), Janette Anderson (JA), Chris Rushbridge (CR), Carol Medlock (CM), Kevin Todd (KT), Ken Williams (KW), Paul Green (PG), Phyllis Bruce (PB), Alasdair Shiach (AS)

**Observers:** Gordon Reid (GR), Tracey Smith (TS), Claudia Leith (CL)

**Ex Officio:** Cllr Evison, Cllr Carnie, Cllr Carr

**Aberdeenshire Council:** Tin Stephen, Area Manager (TS)

**Apologies:** John Lovell (JL) Emma Murray

### **1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Circulated and reviewed with no further comment.

Proposed KW, seconded CR

### **2. Declaration of Interest**

None were declared.

### **3. Matters arising from previous meeting minutes**

No progress with Fordoun junction of A90.

Yellow lines in Laurencekirk, no update as to when these will be done.

Cllr Carr is to give AS contact details for Cheryl Roberts at Aberdeenshire regarding the viewpoint map at Cairn O'Mount car park.

Cllr Evison provided a very full response to queries regarding vaccination arrangements which was circulated prior to the meeting.

### **4. Police Report**

Circulated as received, taken as read.

### **5. Correspondence**

Circulated as received and taken as read.

### **7. Settlements**

Auchenblae: Clarification of status: Are Aberdeenshire Council going to enforce legislation regarding prohibition of parking on pavements legislation at Inverurie / High Street? **Action** : TS to find out and advise.

Still “sink” holes in pavement at Mackenzie Ave and road at Monboddio St /Kintore Street.

Pavement at east side of Kintore St is not useable and causing access problems for householders.

Fettercairn: Road markings are totally lacking on the B974 at the top of the Cairn O’ Mount. Sides of the road are badly eroded and there is no central lines making the road extremely hazardous during times of fog and poor visibility etc.

**Action:** AM to write to the roads dept.

Fordoun: for awareness, there have been several recent reports of domestic heating oil being stolen from household tanks.

Edzell Woods: Shakin Brig estimated £400000 to repair it no solution in sight. TS confirmed that Angus Council are responsible for 50% of costs and the matter is extremely complex due to the structure being listed, more than a straightforward repair being required to make the structure more resilient to flooding in the future. TS agreed to be the focal point for this matter.

The Lang Stracht is not gritted during the winter. **Action:** TS to investigate.

Glenbervie: Nothing to report.

Laurencekirk: Asset transfer small building at Burgh building next to the library is proceeding, there appears to be strong community backing for the project but not unanimous with a handful of objectors.

Car parking at the corner between the Royal Hotel and the Church of Scotland is causing very hazardous driving conditions due to restricted visibility and congestion.

Children crossing the High Street are exposed to speeding cars and inappropriate parking, what can be done to remedy this? Cllr Carr advised that Aberdeenshire Council had taken a very difficult to remove “lollipop” crossing attendants and it was something that parents should raise.

The above situation re-speeding is not helped by the fact the alert sign when entering Laurencekirk is still broken.

Cllr Evison researched the situation vis a vis people having appointments scheduled locations out with Laurencekirk and reported that this is now being reviewed by the centralised body responsible.

Luthermuir: resolution of access and maintenance of the access to the hall and public park is progressing very slowly, the situation will be closely monitored.

It was unanimously agreed to contribute £500 funding for the repair and maintenance of a footway to the primary school.

Marykirk: The flooding season will soon be upon us and there has been little significant progress made to achieve a sustainable situation in the area adjacent to Mary Mill. The bur and culvert remain silted up and there does not appear to be any appetite for taking significant remedial works. Action: formal complaint being sent by CR.

West Cairnbeg: salt bin issue ongoing, MCC will buy a bin if that helps but the ongoing filling etc would remain an issue. Cllr Carr said Aberdeenshire Council said their policy would not allow for a salt bin at WCB, it was agreed that the policy was clearly wrong. Cllr Carr agreed and said policy change was essential.

## **8. Roads**

Speed limit sign at south entrance of Laurencekirk remains broken.

B974, absence of road marking at top of Cairn O' Mount.

Action for both items: AM to write to Aberdeenshire Council.

## **9. Landscaping and Environment**

The effectiveness of road sweeping whilst cars were parked alongside the kerbs was questioned, would it not be more sensible to use manual intervention with a brush and shovel? Action: AM to write to Aberdeenshire Council.

## **10. Planning**

Nothing raised.

## **11. Treasurers Report**

Bank balance is £10,156.99

Problems with electronic payment system continues.

## **12. SSEN Verbal update**

Tracey Smith from Save our Mearns gave a full briefing on the current situation regarding the latest round of public consultations scheduled for October 2024. Locations and dates vary due to the particular project being considered, the first meeting is about the Glen Dye link to Hurlie and is in Drumlithie Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1400 – 1700.

Save our Mearns are holding presentation events on 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Laurencekirk and Drumlithie respectively.

## **13. Briefing / update from Councillors / ex officio attendees.**

Items were covered during the meeting

## **14. AOCB**

The potential for MCC to arrange a husting ahead of the forthcoming by election for Ward 19 was discussed. It was agreed that we would wait until nominations closed which would give time to consider more comprehensively consider the matter.

TS urged members to consider projects within Laurencekirk that may attract funding from either Common Good or Developer obligations.

Phyllis Bruce was unanimously co-opted.

The status of Gordon Reid's nomination to be investigated by TS.

Next meeting - Monday 28th October 2024 – Mearns Community Campus