Cree Valley Community Council	Action point
Minutes of meeting held on 1st July 2024 in McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart	
Present: Clifford Smithers (Chair); Richard Kay (Treasurer); Charles Marshall (Secretary); Stephon Bishop (Vice Chair); Morag McIlwraith; Jackie Hedley; Cllr Kate Hagmann; Lisa Sykes; Nicola Vennard; Patricia Wardell; Moyra Breckenridge (minutes) Public forum: David Malcolm; Linda Woodfield (NSI & Christmas Lights); Tammy Heywood (Christmas Lights & WOMENS Group); B & S Vogelenzang and I & T Heywood (Hope & Glory Antiques)	
Apologies: Angela Marshall; Cllrs Inglis, McCammon & Marsh; Alison McCathie	
CS welcomed members to the meeting, intimated apologies as noted	
Minutes of previous meeting: Approved with amendment to change date in heading to 13th rather than 6th May - proposed by CM, seconder SB	
Matters arising: To be dealt with under Correspondence	
Elected members' report: Cllr Hagmann intimated an outside access officer has been appointed. No political decisions are being made in Council due to the General Election being held on 4th July. The polling place in Glentrool has been closed with voters having to make their way to Newton Stewart to vote, concern was raised about perceived lack of consultation regarding this decision. Cllr Hagmann reminded voters to take photo ID when casting their vote. Budget decisions on unaudited accounts are deferred until after the election. Priority is being given to updating EV charging stations to faster charging status. Planned spending of Community Benefit Fund will allocate 30% to maintenance of footpaths and harbours. A new committee will tackle housing policy and inequality. Corsbie Road planning application has been approved – there were 12 objections; conditions have been imposed viz:- completion of project within 3 years, 20mph traffic zone, passing places and addressing drainage concerns. RK concerned no-one from Ward 2 sits on planning committee, Cllr Hagmann pointed out committee is non party political. Since no formal objection raised by CVCC, RK advised to write to Chair of Planning voicing ongoing concerns. Re closure of Glentrool polling place, suggestions lifts could be offered to residents coming to Newton Stewart, concerns about problems with postal voting papers were voiced, question was asked whether actual number of Glentrool residents who voted in Newton Stewart could be ascertained, but could not be extrapolated from total figure	RK/CM
Police report: None. Query whether Victoria Street CCTV cameras are operational – ward officer to be requested to write to DGC and Police Scotland for update on camera status	CM
Visitor presentation: None	
Topics for discussion at this sitting: <u>Appointment of Associate Membership</u> – CM has approached Mr Iain Service and he is willing to assist in the allocation of existing windfarm funding, seconded by CM, no objections	

Planning applications – none ../ Renewable Energy Systems Exit poll, Community Liaison Group Report 260 Cree Valley residents responded to the exit poll regarding the proposed Blair Hill wind farm, representing approx. 8% of area population. Results – for: 8, against: 245, undecided: 7, spoiled papers: 5. Total completed by residents outwith Cree Valley area: 33. People were asked to complete a form stating their postcode, initials and decision – for, against or undecided. In an effort to make it possible for people who may not have attended the presentation and given that there is no funding for a full survey it was suggested an online survey could be set up on Facebook with paper copies also available to be completed. Also a suggestion volunteers could stand outside local supermarkets etc asking for their opinion and to refer people to the online survey. Once RES have submitted their plan to the Consents Unit collated data will be submitted representing the view of the residents of Cree Valley. Penninghame School Accesses RK reported on results of meeting held on 25th June amongst interested parties – his notes are available on request. Concerns were raised that the school field was fenced in without consultation with the community. Public use of the established footpaths and play areas is now impossible. The head teacher explained the reasons for the erection of the fencing and her statutory duty of care for pupils and staff. Discussion took place in an attempt to find a compromise, none was reached. In an attempt to clarify whether the established footpath is a right of way RK to write to Scottish Rights of Way Society and report back to committee. Update on Action Points Concern again raised about problems referred to CCES to be dealt with being treated as 'closed' once the matter has been referred to to the appropriate department for action, of particular worry is the dangerous state of the fencing about the Minnoch beyond Monigaff Church. Cllr Hagmann advised a new director of communities is being appointed but these matters can be referred to elected members who will ensure that repairs are carried out.	RK
Correspondence – none other than matter of Christmas Lights NV explained legal advice had been sought given the terms of guidance of the Scheme of Establishment Clause 14 about a proposed mutual agreement being entered into prior to transfer of the existing lights to the new Christmas Lights Group. This agreement would clarify transfer of ownership given that CC own the existing lights and for the lights to be repaired and PAT tested before transfer. It was agreed that a meeting should be called between representatives of CVCC and the Christmas Lights group during which outstanding matters could be clarified. It would be helpful if relevant accounts could be made available in advance of the meeting together with proposals from both parties as to how to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.	
Treasurer's Report: Only draft accounts available due to difficulties with access to online banking Invoices paid – cleaning of memorials and Zoom licence Grant monies of £10,000 are available on application, members requested to bring forward suggestions for projects; the Resilience project requires at least a replacement mobile phone	

Public Forum: Concern again raised about the parlous state of the Galloway Arms building, Cllr Hagmann advised DGC has limited powers in this regard but that if a proposal for new compulsory sales orders comes into being this could be applied	
AOB: Thanks were expressed to all those who have been responsible for the maintenance of public spaces in the town, particularly the WOMENS group who planted annuals provided by DGC and Causewayend Nursery. The war memorials have been cleaned and were greatly admired at the successful D-Day commemorations which had an excellent public attendance. Ongoing pothole issues in Glentrool Village and Straiton Road to be reported	CM
Date and time of next meeting: Monday 2nd September at 7.15pm (no meeting in August) The chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.	