

Cree Valley Community Council

Minutes: 12th April 2021

7:00pm ZOOM Meeting

Attendees: Clifford Smithers (Chair), Jim Brown (Vice Chair), Charles Marshall (Secretary), Richard Kay (Treasurer), Rev. Newton, Angela Marshall, Alison McCathie, Ben Palmer, M. McIlwraith.

Apologies: Kerren Walker (DGC)

Elected Members: Cllr. D Inglis, Cllr J. McCammon.

Guests : T. Rennie (first part)

Chair – Welcomed all to the April 2021 meeting and stated that, until clarification is obtained re shops in the main street, this will not be discussed. T. Rennie left the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed – Rev Newton

Seconded – J. Brown.

Chair – Matters Arising

None.

Police Scotland: Report & Questions.:

Report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Elected Members

J. McCammon reported that:

- A temporary Chief Executive had been appointed to DGC.
- Schools had returned.
- Consultation on the Newton Stewart Flood Scheme was scheduled for late Summer. She added that due to Covid-19 it had been delayed.

D. Inglis reported that:

- Significant funding would become available for the regeneration of Town Centres (Community Ownership Fund, Community Renewal Fund and Places). He added that this could transform Town Centres like Newton Stewart.
- The Newton Stewart Flood Scheme should “work back” from the by-pass bridge, adding that the Riverside footpath should be prioritised as a matter of urgency.
- Several employees of DGC had been redeployed as a result of Covid-19 which has caused delays in existing projects.

- A meeting should be arranged between CVCC and the Community Payback Team to discuss options available.

1. Planning

J. Brown reported that there had been very few Planning Applications this month. He added that he would speak to the upcoming Planning Committee re Blairmount Park.

2. Newton Stewart Hospital

D. Inglis reported that the plans for Newton Stewart Hospital should be available in the next few months. N. Newton stated that the Hospital site is unsuitable for use as a vaccination centre due to issues with access for patients without a car.

5. Kilgallioch Wind Farm Benefit Fund

J. Brown reported a review of the Kilgallioch Wind Farm Benefit is underway. It was agreed that CVCC should arrange a meeting with the Review Team.

B. Palmer proposed that CVCC should object to the Artfield Wind Farm on the following grounds:

- Visual impact.
- No CO2 savings
- Too many wind Farms already in the area.

Seconded: N. Newton.

6. Events Group

N. Newton reported that the Hogmanay Hoolie could happen, depending on the situation with Covid-19.

6. Resilience Planning

C. Smithers reported that Allan Marshall and B. Askew had resigned from CVCC. It was agreed that further discussion on the role of the Resilience Team and CVCC will take place.

9. Action Points

C. Marshall reported that:

- 1...A light on the approach to the Sparling Bridge was still not working.
- 2.. Erosion on bank of River Cree – a temporary fence had been erected. However, it appeared to be inadequate. J. Brown added that he felt the area was unsafe. D. Inglis replied that he would progress this.
3. Repairs to roads/pavements in Glentool are still outstanding.

It was agreed that CVCC should raise an CCES request on the progress on the repair to the erosion on the River Cree.

Public Forum – None.

Correspondence

It was stated that several buildings in Newton Stewart were in need of a “facelift” including:

- The Old Town Hall
- The Grapes Hotel

•
D. Inglis stated that the Town Hall had been repainted recently. However, as it is a “listed building”, proper preparatory work (cleaning etc) was not allowed and as a result the paint work was not as resilient as it could have been.

C. Smithers reluctantly agreed to discuss the following and the statement below was agreed:

“CVCC will always try to support all businesses maintain and upgrade their shop premises. CVCC would reiterate to all businesses that there is(as Cllr David Inglis confirmed) a detailed and comprehensive strict guidance published by Dumfries & Galloway Council’s Planning Department which describes styles and colours of shop fronts which should be adhered to within a conservation area. Every business owner intending to paint or alter their business should first study the two detailed ‘Supplementary Guidance’ documents, published on the Dumfries & Galloway Council’s website before embarking on any work. These guidance documents are adopted into Dumfries & Galloway Council’s Local Development Plan (LDP2) and make it clear that consent should be sought from Dumfries & Galloway Council Planning Department for any change of colour or alterations to shop front in a conservation area. CVCC know that many businesses in the area have applied for and obtained planning approval for their alterations - therefore businesses which do not follow the proper procedure have an unfair advantage. CVCC are very keen to support in re-forming Newton Stewart Business Association. There are business owners who would like to make a difference but need more businesses to come on board, as they would have a more powerful voice to lobby for changes and improvements to the area”.

Financial Update:

The Financial Reports were distributed. R. Kay stated that the invoice for the Xmas lights had still to be received from McClymont Electrical.

AOCB

R. Kay reported that the off Princes Avenue/lane requires the repairs carried out to finalised.

Next meeting 10th May 7:00 p.m. (via ZOOM).