

# Cree Valley Community Council

Minutes: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## 7:00pm ZOOM Meeting

**Attendees:** Clifford Smithers; Charles Marshall, Jim Brown, Ben Palmer, Cllr. David Inglis, Richard Kay, Ben Askew, Cllr. Katie Hagmann, Angela Marshall, Cllr. Jim McColm, Louise Kerr, Morag McIlwraith

**Press:** Louise Kerr, Free Press.

**Apologies:** Jackie McCammon; Alison McCathie;

**The Chair:** Opening and recording of apologies. Welcomed all and stated that all procedures had been followed and this is a fully constituted meeting.

C. Marshall stated that the meeting was being recorded and asked if there were any objections – none.

**Minutes:** Approval of Minutes of meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.

Proposed : Ben Palmer    Seconded : Jim Brown

Clifford Smithers thanked Cllr. Inglis for persevering on the Earl of Galloway monument, and how it looks.

### **Actions points to be adopted from previous Working Group Meetings (ZOOM)**

- Agree to produce a Community Action Plan and formation of Trust (2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 and this was formally agreed on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020).
- Resilience:
  - Agreed purchase of Polaris 735
  - Use McMillan Hall as a temporary base for the Resilience Team.
  - Seek Permission for a permanent base for Resilience at Barnkirk Depot.
  - Agree three sites for Defibs.
  - Agree purchase of PPE for Resilience Volunteers.

All agreed with the above.

Clifford Smithers reported that Ken Barlow has resigned from CVCC and thanked him for his contribution to the Community Council.

Clifford Smithers formally thanked Allan Marshall and all the Resilience Team for the work carried out recently.

Allan Marshall formally thanked the Resilience sub-group for all the work carried out.

He added that:

1. Funding had been secured for the purchase of a Polaris 735. He added that after consulting with experts this was the better option than a quad bike.
2. Storage and Office space was being organised at Barnkirk.
3. Three mounting points for defibrillators had been organised.

4. PPE had been arranged for Resilience Team.

5. Thanks to JJB Print and Signature Gifts.

**Matters arising:** Items not dealt with elsewhere in the Agenda.  
None.

Agreed all actions taken by the Resilience Sub-group

Cllr. Inglis stated that the community response was incredible in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Visitors Presentation:** None

**Police Scotland:** Report & Questions.:  
All got a copy of Police Scotland report. No comments.

**Elected Members:** Report & Questions

Cllr. McColm stated that the major issue obviously for us has been roads non recovery of £2.8M pounds over a period of 5 years. He added that this was discussed at full Council meeting last week. The meeting expressed concern that this could happen, after the overspend with DG1. In addition, concern was expressed over the role of internal/external audit and why they did not identify the issue earlier?

Cllr Hagmann stated that it was important that a de-brief should take place on the response to Covid-19.

Cllr Inglis reported that the original budget for the Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme had increased from £7m to £12m. He added that this will have to Council to extend the funding package. He added that Borderlands funding could provide financial assistance to upgrade Newton Stewart Town Centre.

### **Topics for discussion at this sitting**

Adoption of new Community Councillor, Name: Ben Askew, Proposed by: C. Smithers at last meeting

The meeting agreed adoption by vote.

Allan Marshall formerly thanked Ben for assisting with Resilience.

### **1. Planning Applications**

Jim Brown reported that in the past there had been a house extension and Lopping top at Lime Cottage, Old Edinburgh Road.

He added that was proposed a new Wind Farm at Artfield Wind Farm.

C. Marshall replied that he had been in contact with Tom Walker of Stakraft ( the company that is responsible) with a view to organising a Zoom meeting to discuss the proposed Artfield Forest Wind Farm proposal. He added that he would send out details when it had been arranged.

## **2. CCTV**

Clifford Smithers expressed surprise that there were no additional monies from DGC for CCTV cameras in Newton Stewart. He added that this would be a crime deterrent.

J. Brown proposed that there should be 6 additional CCTV cameras in Newton Stewart – 2 at the Sparling Bridge, 1 at Morton's Entry and 2 at each end of Riverside Walk.

Seconded: C. Marshall

ACTION: C. Marshall to write to Ailsa Freeman requiring installation of CCTV to be done within the £10K allocated.

## **3. Community Action Plan and formation of a Trust**

C. Marshall reported a tenderer has been selected to prepare Community Action Plan for Cree Valley. He added that 6 tenders had been received. He added that an Open Meeting will be held tomorrow.

Cllr. Hagmann replied that having a Community Action Plan was the way forward.

## **4. Kilgallioch Windfarm Community Benefit Fund**

Charles Marshall reported that a "ZOOM" meeting had been held with representatives from Scottish Power Renewables (SPR).

As a result, SPR will

1. Review the Terms of Reference for the Consultant who will review the fund
2. Review the credentials of the Consultant
3. Check the final report from the Consultant

## **5. Events Group**

Clifford Smithers reported that the V.E. Day Commemoration Day had not been organised due to the Covid-19 pandemic, however a small wreath laying ceremony was held.

## **6. Resilience planning**

Allan Marshall reported that he planned to organise First Aid Defib training with British Heart Foundations. He added that this will take place when the Covid-19 situation is clearer.

He added that prior to "Covid-19" he has been in touch Mandy Patterson, Council Resilience Officers re having a tabletop exercise where we would look at some sort of situation i.e. flood/blackout etc: The option being explored is where there is a Black Spot whereby the National grid goes down. If National Grid in Scotland were attacked D&G would be last on the list to come on grid – total black out for 2 to 3 weeks.

Allan Marshall reported that Galloway Mountain Rescue Team (GMT) and Scottish Fire & Rescue were interested in borrowing the Polaris - one stipulation is that it will not leave depot without one of our Resilience Team. He added that we have 5 team members for training on Polaris and . Ben Askew is taking ownership of control.

## **7. Newton Stewart Business Association (NSBA)**

Cllr. Inglis reported that he had spoken to Gordon Andrews over past few months about the Steering Group to look at redevelop, Victoria Street and town centre to take forward to Borderland. He added that he would follow this up.

## 8. Update on Action Points

Charles Marshall reported that currently there are two outstanding action points:

### **Erosion on River Cree, Newton Stewart**

C. Marshall reported that he had over the last two years submitted at least 4 CCES requests which have all been closed. However, the problem remained.

Cllr Inglis will pursue

### **42 Albert Street – Gap site AB&B Matthews – Broken planning permission.**

C. Marshall reported that he had had any update from DGC since November 2019, despite an email asking for an update

Cllr Inglis will pursue

### **Hard core at Blairmount**

Jim Brown expressed concern that due process had not been followed. He added that the area is identified as protected green space in the Local Development Plan. Therefore, it would have had to have planning permission.

Cllr. Inglis replied that the argument that was put forward on the day, was that the amount of footfall exceeded the number of parking spaces up there and during football season.

## **Correspondence**

Charles Marshall reported that most documents had been emailed to all at CVCC.

C. Smithers stated that the Peace Garden presentation was very impressive and will support Peace Advocate; however, feels that the hurdles they will face would possibly mean a failure for it in Albert Street Gardens. He added that he would like to nominate a more appropriate place and support youth of the town.

Cllr Inglis replied that he would like CVCC to fully support the Peace Advocates on being given the opportunity to turn Albert Street Gardens into a focal point for the Town. Increasing tourist fall.

## **Financial Update:**

Richard Kay submitted the financial report to all

He added that there was a deficit in Christmas lights account. He added that thought should be given to raise moneys to pay for next year's event.

Chair signed off the meeting.

Next meeting August 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.