

Cree Valley Community Council

Minutes: 1st March 2021

7:00pm ZOOM Meeting

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

Apologies: Angela Marshall, Kerren Walker (DGC)

Elected Members: Cllr. D Inglis, Cllr J. McColm, Cllr K. Hagmann.

Guests : None

Chair – Welcomed all to the March 2021 meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Proposed – Ben Palmer

Seconded – Rev. Newton.

Chair – Matters Arising

None.

Police Scotland: Report & Questions.:

K. Hagmann reported that there would be a meeting of the full Council on Thursday. She added that she will discuss the issue of decriminalisation of parking and Dumfries and Galloway Council taking on the responsibility for parking.

It was agreed that CVCC should support the issue of Police wearing body cameras.

Proposed: J. Brown

Seconded: A. McCathie.

C. Smithers apologised for comments made at the previous meeting re Police/Parking and stated that the comment was borne out of frustration.

D. Inglis reported that he will revisit the reply received from Police Scotland re parking in Newton Stewart. J. Brown added that parking on the “Zig-Zags” at the pedestrian crossing in Newton Stewart was an ongoing problem.

Elected Members

K. Hagmann said that the report on overspend on the Roads Project stated that:

1. There was no evidence of fraud.
2. Risk had not been managed properly.
3. Management Information had not been forthcoming.

She added that an additional £2.4 Million had been assigned to address pothole issues.

J. McColm stated that the report on roads defects contained 48 recommendations and that they must be progressed.

D. Inglis reported that the Priority Discretionary Fund had now been released by Dumfries and Galloway Council. He added that CVCC should consider the use of Community Payback where appropriate.

1. Planning

J. Brown reported that the Planning Application for a Café at Wigtown Road Service Station had been refused.

J. McColm stated that the Application had been withdrawn by the Applicant.

2. Newton Stewart Hospital

D. Inglis reported that there were no closure plans for the Hospital at present.

3. Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme

K. Hagmann reported that she was trying to progress this issue. A general feeling of concern was expressed over the lack of progress and consultation on this issue. In addition, J. Brown stated that the Council were responsible for the maintenance of the River Cree.

C. Marshall stated that the erosion issue on the River Cree needs to be addressed quickly and not become part of the Flood Protection Scheme. He added that he felt that the Newton Stewart Flood Scheme could be delayed (as per the White sands in Dumfries) and the damage would become more severe in the interim.

5. Kilgallioch Wind Farm Benefit Fund

C. Smithers reported that he was no longer a Board member of the Kilgallioch Wind Farm Benefit Company. J. Brown stated that underspend from the Core Communities should be made available to the wider community. C. Smithers stated that this should be asked of SPR.

It was agreed that the sub-committee should ask for a Zoom meeting with the Consultants carrying the review.

6. Events Group

N. Newton reported that no events were planned until the end of August at the earliest because of Covid-19. He added that clarification will be forthcoming from the Scottish Government.

6. Resilience Planning

Allan Marshall thanked Newton Stewart Golf Club and David Inglis for the offer of a site for Resilience on Golf Club land. However, the preferred site would be Barnkirk.

He also reported:

1. A bid will be submitted for £24k for a Potacabin/Office and 2 Storage Containers.
2. Thanked all for the response to the Flood Warning on 19th February.
3. Training Course for the Salt Spreader was being organised.

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. GAP site next to AB&A Mathews Property Office – final letter from Council distributed.

Public Forum – I. Dick.

I. Dick stated that there was a common interest re the parking at Blairmount Park namely, Douglas Ewart High School, Galloway Thistle Football Club and Newton Stewart Football Club. He added that a regular dialogue should be established to address potential issues in the future.

Correspondence

All issued prior to meeting.

Financial Update:

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

AOCB

M. McIlwraith stated that some of the pavements and roads in Glentroll were in a state of disrepair. C. Marshall will report this.

Next meeting 12th April 7:00 p.m. (via ZOOM).