Cree Valley Community Council – Jan 2024

Present – Clifford Smithers (Chair), Morag McIlwraith, Charles Marshall (Secretary), Nicola Vennard, Cllr David Inglis, Cllr Richard Marsh, Richard Kay (Treasurer), Jackie Hedley, John Turnbull (McTaggart Construction), Fiona Pilkington (Wheatley Homes)

Apologies: Cllr Jackie McCamon, Stephon Bishop (Vice Chair), Angela Marshall, Alison McCathie, Ben McDowall

Absent – Joe Logan

January Minutes – H.O.O.H Appendix to be attached. Approved – C.M, seconded R.K

Visitor Presentation – Wheatley Homes & McTaggart Construction

Proposed Layout Presented to table

J.T – This site has been identified by Dumfries and Galloway Council however no work can begin until statutory consultees have agreed. There is no requirement to make a two lane road on the Barnkirk Route however there will be the introduction of passing places. Where the passing places will be need approval from the council. With regard to the surface water it is up to Scottish Water to decide if there is enough capacity. Scottish Water make the decision after planning.

Cllr D.I – Good to see the need for housing being recognised however these are major issues. My concern is that Scottish Water will not realise the extent of the problem.

J.T – Suds Station encorparated in the plan.

Cllr D.I – Amount of Traffic is concerning. This could lead to major congestion in the town.

J.T – The pavements will be upgraded to 3 metres.

N.V – There is no playpark incorporated in the plan. Are there plans for this?

J.T – Will double check this.

C.M – We have a planning extension until January.

Chair thanked visitors for their presentation and J.T and F.P left the meeting.

Elected Members Report

Cllr D.I – Budget setting, settlement not great, 10million pounds coming off budget this financial year. The Council Tax freeze is also being unfunded.

C.M – Will there be voluntary redundancies.

Cllr D.I – This is looking more likely, the council have to look at how we can bring in money.

Cllr R.M – It is a very difficult situation.

Cllr R.M – There is a biosphere board meeting on 19th January for Newton Stewart to become a biosphere community.

Police

C.M – Report disappointing again

Cllr D.I – You could take a previous report down to the police and showthem what was received previously.

Town Clock

Cllr D.I – The clock has been coated with two coats of antifungal. The clock faces are to be sorted around the beginning of February.

Flood Scheme

Cllr D.I – Have not heard much. It is looking like an enquiry at the moment.

Minute Taker

Nicola Vennard to continue to take minutes in the interim.

Windsor Footpath

R.K – Forms have been issued by council. The path does fit criteria for a right of way. Council will seek advise of lawyers and a decision will be made.

Chair – I have spoken to the landowner, and he has amended the footpath.

Xmas Lights

Chair – I would like to acknowledge the work of the Xmas light group. The lights were great.

Shirley Cronie – Christmas Lights are now in storage and the lights group will remain custodians.

Cllr R.M – Have any arrangements been made for agreements for next year?

Chair – The old lights are ready to go. The plugs have been updated. We shall try and negotiate a date for a separate meeting for all groups to come together and create a community events calendar.

Cllr D.I – The events group have details of group.

Co-option of member

Patricia Wordell to come to next community council meeting with the view of being co-opted.

Action Point Update – Road from Borden to Minnoch Bridge

CM – Have asked for above road to be repaired. No response and closed call. Can calls remain open.

Cllr R.M has assured he will look into this.

Cllr D.I – I think there is some misinterpretation around the closing of a call. It is my understanding that a call is closed once it is reported to the relevant department.

Public Forum

Ben Palmer – Can I ask about the attendance of Community Councillors at the Federation of Community Councils?

N.V – Cree Valley Community Council is represented by Community Councillor Joe Logan who is the secretary of the federation. As far as I am aware there has been no notification of the dates or times of these meetings. There has also been no correspondence or minutes of these meetings sent back to Cree Valley Community Council.

Correspondence

C.M – Received an email asking why the minutes of the Cree Valley Meetings are not readily available. I personally put the minutes in the library.

N.V – Minutes are also available on www.newtonstewart.org.uk

RES Invitation for Community Liaison Group

Cllr R.M – I would advise it is far more important to go and sit around the table and listen to what is being said than to point blank refuse.

No community councillors objected to this.

C.S and R.K to attend RES Community Liaison Group Meeting

Treasurers Report

R.K – There is still money due from Foundation Scotland.

Next Meeting 5th February 2024 – Chair closed meeting.