Cree Valley Community Council	Action point
Minutes of meeting held on 2nd Sep 2024 in McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart	
Present: Clifford Smithers (Chair); Charles Marshall (Secretary); Stephon Bishop (Vice Chair); Morag McIlwraith; Nicola Vennard; Lisa Sykes; Jackie Hedley; Moyra Breckenridge (minutes) Public Forum: Ian & Tammy Heywood; Debbie Monteith; Linda Woodfield; Shirley Cronnie; Ben Palmer; David Malcolm; George A Ord; Giles Davies; J Allean; Irene Coupland; Sheron Hayes; Jamie Hyslop; Neil Skelton; Alexandra Negrea; Iain Service	
Apologies: Angela Marshall; Pat Wardell; Alison McCathie; Richard Kay (Treasurer); Cllr David Inglis; (subsequent apologies from Cllr Katie Hagmann)	
CS welcomed members to the meeting and intimated apologies	
Minutes of previous meeting: Approved – proposed by SB, seconder CM. Additional comments from NV to be added to minutes from previous meeting	
Items not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda: Consultation re alteration to school week – NV and LS to attend Focus Group	NV/LS
Matters arising: None	
Visitor presentation: None but Jamie Hyslop was asked to report on Flood Prevention Scheme. Following objections received the Government has appointed a Reporter to deal with issues concerning progress of the scheme. JH pointed out cognisance appeared not to have been given to the actual river with regard to eg. River Cree District Salmon Fishery Board concerns about the effect of such a scheme on the migrating salmon and the river itself. Opinion of Reporter agrees due legal process has not been followed by DGC on this matter raising serious implications for the whole plan. The Reporter is awaiting a response from DGC on how they wish to proceed and non-attendance of any elected members tonight precludes CVCC members being able to voice their concerns. Discussion followed re general management of the river – trees growing in the river wall opposite the police station have been removed exposing holes in the stonework which have not been repaired; downstream of the main bridge the retaining wall on the NS side is in poor state of repair and unlikely to hold in a flood. JH will follow up concerns with Reporter and agreed to be co-opted to CVCC as an associate member and report back to next meeting of CVCC. It was pointed out that the new Sparling Bridge definitely allows river water to pass downstream more freely and that adding another span to the bypass bridge would further improve the situation	
Elected members' report: None	
Police report: Basic report of statistics, felt it was not detailed enough to give full nature of offences. Pointed out CCTV cameras are responsibility of Council. Query as to whether police officer could attend CVCC meeting to present report – suggested non attendance would be attributed to staffing problems	
Planning applications: None, other than SB intimated that following structural tests application may be made to temporarily remove the 2'6" parapet on one side of the Bargrennan bridge to facilitate passage of turbines to windfarm sites. Such removal would present a strong possibility of accident risk. Concern voiced that such a 'temporary' removal might in fact be for some considerable time. CM to	CM

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write to Planning/building control about the matter and likely outcome. MMcI suggested the bridge at Clachaneasy would be a more suitable point to turn off the main road	
Glenvernoch exit poll: Results – 129 against, 33 outwith CVCC area, 3 undecided and 2 for.	
CLG Update from Iain Service: RES Blair Hill application proceeding with no movement on proposal by applicants. Timetabled to be in by end September 2024 or earlier. Energy Consensus unit will look for more detail, expected to take 5/6 weeks, taking timescale to not before November, open period for objections will probably run into the new year. Pointed out actual connection to grid can take up to 10 years after windfarm permission granted. CLG will meet once application goes live and drop-in sessions will be arranged in NS and Wigtown. Concerns regarding 'viewpoints' and landscape visuals raised. Imperative that objections/concerns are clarified at time of application and that deadlines are not missed. Further discussion on timescale from planning approval to full operation of turbines and connection to grid - other projects have taken many years to be fully operational; Barnkirk substation incapable of carrying additional load; Scottish Power have indicated that it will be 2035 before the necessary work can be completed. New power lines to Glenlee are likely. Update on status of ongoing windfarm proposals – Artfield forest has consent but no resolution on lines; Shennanton is 6 months behind schedule and Glenvernoch in the planning process. General discussion about keeping public abreast of matters whether by way of newsletter/conducting survey/voting opportunities and fact that Glenvernoch exit poll represents only a tiny proportion of the local population; CVCC must represent the feeling of the area whilst keeping a neutral position; there is no funding available to further canvass public opinion.	
Christmas Lights: Accounts from Xmas Lights group have been received; CVCC offer to pass on old lights declined; suggestion lights be sold – discussion on how to do so, how to use any money received etc. Email from NSI read out (attached); clarification on matter of public liability insurance cover given; efforts now being made to bring matters to a close to the satisfaction of all parties bearing in mind that the principal objective has always been to show NS in the best possible 'light!!!'	
Galloway National Park: Opinions voiced on both sides of the argument regarding the proposal on a number of fronts including – 'invasion of tourists', creation of more constraints for farmers/businesses, more bureaucracy etc, countermanded by the hope the project would be a springboard to revitalising the area, retaining and providing employment for young people, encouraging inward investment etc. The consultation period will give the opportunity for full canvassing of public opinion.	
Community Council elections: Elections to take place in October with first meeting of new council on 4th November. The maximum number of people who can sit on CVCC is 17, should more than that number of nominations be received a ballot will be held where residents can vote for their chosen candidates.	
Update on action points: Heron Way pavement causing concerns which it had been anticipated could have been passed to elected councillor at this meeting. New director of comm. has been appointed, CM will request meeting to voice	CM

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ongoing problem of calls being closed before physical completion of works, for example Riverside Walk call has been closed 6 times within the last 3 years even though the work is still outstanding – these reports go to the relevant committee as having been dealt with. Footpath at roadside on Belted Galloway side from Albert Street towards supermarket overgrown, even though the overgrown area is the responsibility of the Belted Galloway, DGC responsibility to ensure the footpath itself is suitable for clear and safe passage for users. NV – re matters arising, brought the online survey on the NHS website concerning the future of NS Hospital to the attention of the meeting. Paper copies are available and it was pointed out that it is in order to only choose one option from those listed on the form	
Correspondence: None	
Treasurer's Report: Since the treasurer was absent any queries will be held over until the next meeting with the exception it was agreed to continue payment of the Zoom licence	
Public Forum: IS voiced concern about grass verges which are not being trimmed leading to the possibility of accidents occurring through lack of visibility. This is another matter which could have been brought to the attention of elected councillors had they been present at this meeting. Given CVCC covers the largest local community council area, non-attendance of elected councillors is disappointing. CM to write to DGC about problems concerning verges. BP highlighted the poor road surface condition and dangerous overhanging trees on the Wood of Cree road. CM to write to DGC TH concerned about vandalism of planters on main street, questioned reliability of CCTV cameras, it was suggested she write to her local elected councillor on this matter WOMANs group advised they are having such a meeting next week following incident in Albert Street gardens and they will report outcome of meeting to CVCC . The fabulous voluntary work carried out by the WOMANS group improving the look of the town for locals and visitors alike was warmly acknowledged. CS advised anyone with concerns should email him and he will pass these onto DGC LW suggested CVADT may be able to apply to Kilgallioch for monies to upgrade town CCTV cameras. NS reminded the meeting of the various community events planned with the hope that drop in events will be well attended. Suggestion such events should be open until later in the evening to give more people the opportunity to attend. MMcI updated meeting about Glentrool potholes, was advised how to get grit bin refilled and also expressed concern about overgrown verges on the roadside SB mentioned the current traffic lights at Dashwood Square and how difficult it is to find out proposed roadworks on the DGC site NV – a proposed closure of King Street will no doubt cause problems. The minutes of the last meeting will be put on Facebook.	CM CM
Date and time of next meeting: Monday 4th November at 7.15pm. The chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.	

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