

LOREBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes

Meeting: Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7.00pm

Held at Municipal Chambers, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries

Sederunt: Anne Lindsay (Chair), Simon Jones (Secretary), Robin Wishart (Treasurer), John Dowson, Susan Garnsworthy, Artemis Adams, Carole Hastings, Graham MacLeod, Karl Drinkwater, Keith Walters, John Campbell, David Slater, Ivor Hyslop, Andy Chapman (resident), Laura Thomas (Market), Cheryl McCormack (Market), Donald Gibson (member of the public), Iain Sutherland (member of the public), Peter Angelini (member of the public), Andy Chapman, Briony Kincaid (Sustrans), Cath Nesbitt (Kingholm Quay CC), Elaine Ferguson (member of the public), Becky McClung (Police Scotland)

Apologies: Malcolm Johnstone, Peter Kormylo, Chris Woodness, Jim Wallace

Part 1 Community Forum

including:

Police report: BM: the police have been active on various crimes, have issued 95 town centre parking tickets and report a good Guid Nychburris event.

Co-opting of new community councillor:

Karl Drinkwater 2 Albany Place, Nunholm Road, Dumfries
proposed by LCC chair, Anne Lindsay.
Approved unanimously. Welcome Karl.

The co-opting of Jim Wallace was deferred until our next meeting.

Questions to Councillors

AA: raised issue around work on the Fleshers Arms. Upstairs flat has a crack in the wall and is unsafe. Landlord is overseas and not contactable.

JC: councillors will look into it.

IH: Building Control should be informed.

RW: raised the issue of ugly metal shutters in the conservation area.

KD: asked the Council to ask the supermarkets to reintroduce coin op trolleys.

Agreed: KD & SJ will draft then send letter to supermarkets.

Part 2 Main topic

Planning

a) Greensands

JD circulated a letter of complaint about the Planning Applications Committee.

Councillors Walters and Campbell withdrew.

SJ gave a brief background to the issue.

Mr Dowson's complaints were 1) that the Council was judging its own application and 2) that councillors had their minds made up before they went in, perhaps even being whipped along party lines.

IH: regarding the Whitesands Flood Project there are no funds available. There will be a seminar in Sept/Oct to discuss the best way forwards.

At Scotgov level the whole issue of flood defence funding is being looked at with COSLA.

RW: the law permits the Council to judge its own applications. This is common practice.

IH stated categorically that the Conservative Group were not whipped and that no one tells him how to vote.

CH raised the issue of Common Good consent to the use of the Greensands land for this car park.

JD agreed to withdraw his draft letter. People can choose to write along those lines as individuals.

Part 3 Other Topics:

Burns statue (Mr Donald Gibson)

- The statue is in a lamentable condition. Donald gave us some background on this masterpiece which dates from 1882.
- He suggested taking the statue off-site and making replicas for public display, perhaps in a more

durable material like bronze while the original statue is stored safely.

SG: Ellisland, the Burns clubs and the wider Burns and Dumfries community may support the project.

JC: DGC could perhaps join in with funding the work.

EF suggested crowd funding.

Loreburn Primary School street intervention (Briony, Sustrans)

Briony Kincaid explained that there were safety concerns about the George St gates of Loreburn Primary School. She outlined 5 options:

- School Street (ie the street would be closed at school opening/closing times)
- Repaint the yellow lines
- Some other form of painting the street (a dragon, colorful marks have worked elsewhere).
- Zebra crossing (to help the already present lollipop person)
- Pocket park (planters, benches)

CN/RW suggested ticketing the offending cars. GM recommended the approach used in Morningside, Edinburgh.

SJ volunteered to lead for LCC on this as it ties in with work he is doing for DPAG.

Summer Fest

Cheryl and Laura (Rosefield Mills) they run the Helping Dumfries and Galloway site which has 13,000 members.

They are organising a festival for 19th August. The International Food Festival will be there. It will be a huge community get-together for Dumfries

LCC voted unanimously to grant £300 to support the festival. (expenses will include town crier, security).

Market issues

Once a month there is conflict over the shared market space between the weekly market and The Guild.

Despite the weekly market having the licence and planning consent the council officers have not been giving them roads permission, meaning that The Guild have taken the best spots.

Railway station

An event was held showing the plan for the new bridge. AL and JD attended.

JD: concerned about the height. The plan is to build the bridge high enough for electrification but there are no plans to electrify overhead and it would be impractical to do so. This means the new bridge is planned to be excessively high.

AL: It's currently a very beautiful railway station. We do need a bridge for disabled people to be able to move between platforms but this design is bog standard, cheap and ugly.

DG suggested an underpass.

LCC to write to Network Rail asking for a redesign with a lower height, preserving the station's beauty.

Software (SJ): Community Mapping Scotland. This is now active. SJ offered to help any community councillor wishing to try it.

Youth Beatz music festival (SJ/SG). The event was a success. Report will be posted to the LCC website separately.

Loreburn Flood Group (SJ): will have an event in September.

Ladyfield/Kingholm Quay Community Council update

Chair of Kingholm Quay Community Council, Joe Craig passed away.

CN and SJ paid tribute to Joe. A wonderful man and a great loss to his community.

Any other business

Local Place Plan: LCC agreed to submit an expression of interest.

Date and place of next meeting

Tuesday 5th September 2023

(NB we will not meet during August. Bon vacances!)