

LOREBURN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Meeting

Meeting: Tuesday 5th March at 7.00pm

Held at Municipal Chambers, Buccleuch Street, Dumfries

Sederunt: John Dowson (Vice Chair), Simon Jones (Secretary), Jim Wallace, Artemis Adams, David Slater, Keith Walters, Carole Hastings, Karl Drinkwater, Graham MacLeod, Andrew Pearson, George Cameron.

Apologies: Police, Malcolm Johnstone, Peter Kormylo, Susan Garnsworthy, Chris Woodness, Maureen Johnstone, Robin Wishart.

Part 1 Community Forum

including:

Police report: A written report is available on our website. No officer was available to come to the meeting. We were invited to visit the police station on 7th March. SJ, AA, GM, George Cameron expressed an interest.

Questions to Councillors

JD asked about parking decriminalisation. DS said it could be costly and many signs would need to be replaced. JD requested an update on sign painting.

JD asked about wheelchair taxis. KW will look into it. JD suggested we should be aiming for 5-7 wheelchair taxis. AA said that an individual has been in touch with her and will be running one soon. DS said these are expensive. JD said that the Council is in breach of the Equalities Act. The Council could give grants/loans or make it a condition of licencing.

CH raised issue of cars driving up the High Street. JD we may still need police enforcement vs moving vehicles even after decriminalisation.

SJ raised issue of dangerous dog. A neighbour has an American XL dog which is aggressive and recently killed a neighbour's cat. KW said we should complain to the Council.

George C: streets are filthy with broken glass and puke. DS said DG Council have bought some new brown bins, bins need cleaning and disinfectant. CH: binmen work from 6am – 2.30pm, no one picks up after 2.30pm. AA: John Henderson has been replaced by a new colleague, David. JD the litter and dirt is pretty shameful and will be a major issue for the new Town Board. SJ to double check correspondence with Alistair Bryce on this matter.

GM: The Environmental Protection Act required councils to meet cleaning targets. JD it does still exist. Members of the public can report problems to the Council who have a duty to clean within a certain timeframe.

GM: thousands of bins at Lockerbie Road, piled up, not used. CH the bin lorries didn't match those bins. LCC asked the councillors to find out about those bins and bin lorries.

AA: Mountainhall consultation. 11 acres of land. They're looking for ideas on using the land. It was a very positive meeting.

open forum for Loreburn area residents

Andrew Pearson (Beer without Borders): considering opening a microbrewery. One site being considered is 56 Buccleuch St (former delicatessen). That's the preferred location. They have EU links. Looking into collaborative beers. JD suggested siting it in Mid Steeple Quarter.

Part 2 Main topic: Town Board

JD: Robin Wishart and Mark Jardine have withdrawn. SJ candidates have to complete CV/Vision by today. JD Council can't rule out applicants. DS DG Council have asked for extra time to complete the process.

KW: candidate statements will be part of the documentation for the Nithsdale Area Committee. JD said they should be public.

JD: Chair will be selected on 13th March, ratified 29th March at Full Council

GM: suggested small immediate projects to generate quick wins.

GM: asked about Alistair Jack. JD suggested phoning him.

SJ: thanked JD for his efforts in running a shop for a week for Town Board community engagement and proposed that JD be reimbursed for the money he paid for that out of his own pocket. Agreed unanimously (JD abstaining) to the sum of approximately £233.

SJ: An event to watch the meeting on Youtube was held at Fleshers Pub. AA: 849 views on Youtube.

JD: High Street presence very valuable. MSQ a potential partner. They could provide a shop for the first 3 months of the Town Board.

LCC (SJ) to write to Gail McGregor indicating our wholehearted support for the Town Board project and suggesting that it would be useful if LCC had a place on the board.

Part 3 Reports and other business

DPAG update (JD): JD joined DPAG, was disappointed and felt it wasn't dynamically different. He has resigned from the DPAG Board. He felt the street cleaning project was tied in knots. It was for a 3 months pilot project. RW suggested to DPAG that LCC engage with the Council to set up an 8 week street cleaning pilot. It was agreed unanimously that LCC should ask for its £1000 back. GM suggested the Town Board as the lead on this. AA suggested that volunteers from the Mercure Hotel asylum seekers may wish to engage with this as it is permitted for them to do. DS reminded us of public liability insurance. CH suggested Community Payback.

MSQ update (JD): Work is progressing well. 7-8 flats will be ready July/August and there's already been 100 applications. Rent levels are mid market range. DS asked about the level of rents. JD is happy to invite councillors to a more detailed breakdown of the numbers.

Minutes of last meeting agreed

Matters arising from the minutes SJ gave a cheque for £380 to the Dumfries Adoptive Railway Gardeners. George C was involved in starting that charity.

Greensands Participation Request: We have agreed with the Council's proposed way forward.

Finance report (RW) circulated by email and published on the website.

Common Good report (Carole) £20,000 to spend, only £4k spent so far.

St Michael's car park. We felt we didn't have enough information to make a decision.

Date and place of next meeting

Tuesday 2nd April, Municipal Buildings, Buccleuch St.