

Milton of Campsie Community Council Minutes of Meeting

Monday 14/12/2020 at 7.30pm
Online via ZOOM

Record of Attendance

Vicky Jarvis (VJ)– Treasurer, Brian McFall (BM)– Secretary, Jim Crawford (JC),
Andy Mackenzie (AM) , Alan Gall (AG), Agnes Raybould (AR).
Morag Campbell – Chair of MOC Greenbelt Protection
3 members of the public

Apologies

Alex Buist (AC)– Chair
Hugh Pritchard (HP)
Cllr Gary Pews – will try to join meeting later, 3 council meetings at the same time.
Cllr Paul Ferretti – unable to join as committed to another meeting.
Police Scotland – unable to attend using Zoom software.

Previous minutes

The previous minutes were agreed as a record of the previous meeting and were proposed by Agnes Raybold and seconded by Alan Gall. Minutes approved.

Matters arising from previous minutes

1. Erosion of banks of River Glazert.

- a) BM asked if the area was opposite the new houses on the old pulp works site, this was confirmed but exact position unknown. It was also noted that there was further erosion near to the old railway station and under the old railway bridge halfway to Kirkintilloch.
- b) BM noted that land opposite the Springfield site was owned by the housing developer.
- c) Morag Campbell offered to show BM all the areas of erosion.
Action - BM to assess and report.

2. Recycling facility.

- a) BM had issued to the council members a response from EDC regarding the facility and monitoring of said facility. JC noted that it was a disappointing response from Stephen Dickie which did not state much. BM agreed but noted given the current circumstances it is unlikely we would get more from EDC.
- b) JC noted that today there was a new pile of bags left beside the general waste bin. It was suggested by a member of the public that these looked like

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bags collected by the EDC workforce and may well have been left there for collection.

- c) BM suggested that all parties keep an eye on the area when possible to allow a response to EDC if it looks like it is getting out of hand. **Action – ALL when possible.**

3. AGM of 6/5/2019.

- a) It was agreed to leave this until next year as members and past members involved were not at the meeting.

4. Roads.

- a) BM noted that Thomas McMenamin was on annual leave and no response had been received from e-mail inquiry. **Action – BM to report when possible.**
- b) Further discussion took place with regards to pavements and lack of pavements. Members of the public raised issues with the route from;
- c) Antermoney to the village which is basically a gravel path and badly overgrown in places, a section of wall along this route has possibly been hit by a car as it is collapsed. AM noted that it was his understanding that EDEC does not own this path, but the farmers do.
- d) The pavement from the village towards Kirkintilloch particularly around the approach to Birdston which is again overgrown and dangerous.
- e) The lack of any pavements on the road from the village / Lennoxton towards Kirkintilloch / Torrance. On approach to Kirkintilloch, it was noted by a member of the public that on entering Kirkintilloch from a particularly dangerous stretch of road there was a “Walkers are Welcome” sign erected. She felt this was ironic given the difficulty she had to walk there.
- f) BM noted that in past years his wife frequently complained to EDC about the overgrown pavements in the Birdston area and these were cut back quickly, BM will find out the relevant body to complain to and let everyone know. It was also suggested that letters of complaints to the local councillors would be worthwhile. **Action – BM**

5. Defibrillator.

- a) Morag Campbell who has volunteered to be on the Rota for the village defibrillator requested that we check back through past meetings and compile a list of those who previously volunteered as they may still be willing to do so. This was agreed and a list of volunteers will be compiled and issued to Morag for information, the CC will contact the volunteers where possible to ascertain if they still wish to do so. **Action - BM**
- b) Morag advised that the pads may be ok however if not they cost circa £100, the batteries also require to be checked, HP was looking into this. **Action HP**

6. Core paths and bridge at Kincaid House Hotel drive.

- a) The paths were discussed in relation to where they are, accessibility, maintenance, and continued connections. It was suggested that some of the money from the Co-op fund could be used in relation to the core paths, e.g. renewing the bridge across the burn off Kincaid drive. The point was raised by a member of the public that they felt it was a requirement of the

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landowners to maintain and repair core paths. AG noted that BM had issued a document earlier relating to core paths, BM noted that it was a document produced by Scotways who can offer advice in relation to paths but have no power. AM noted that the access officer for EDC has been checking the core paths in the area though no update has been forthcoming recently.

- b) This discussion tied in with the planning discussion at the last meeting as there is a core path running along the western boundary of the CALA estate which should have a connection at the CALA play area. It was agreed that all these paths should be identified, used and publicised to the wider community, this can be done on the new website. It was suggested that Scotways be contacted for advice in relation to the core paths.

Action – BM

7. Allotments.

- a) BM asked if anyone had been able to obtain a list of interested parties regarding the allotments. A member of the public stated that Drew Young in the village was on the list and may be able to help. A considerable amount of money Circa £48k has to date been spent investigating the site for use as allotments and no one wants to see that money wasted. It appears that someone has decided to set up a garden off their own back. The original contact in EDC was believed to be Gillian Telfer, contact will be made to see if we can progress the allotments. Ownership of the land was discussed, and it is believed that the land is owned by David Stirling and was previously leased to Jim Turner, local farmer.

Action – BM

8. Communication within the village.

- a) Communication was discussed and was agreed that whilst Facebook, the new website and the local notice boards were great for most people there are still people out there who do not have access to such platforms, ultimately all were in favour of potentially a quarterly printed newsletter for issue around the village, potentially using the Christmas card list as the initial delivery list. (Christopher Hughes of the CO-OP joined the meeting during this discussion, whilst the discussion was halted the minutes will continue on this matter. See AOB)
- b) The web site was discussed and VJ noted that she had e-mailed the MOCGP group regarding the use of a page on the web site and statements which would be shown to make it clear that MOCCC and MOCGP are two different entities. Morag Campbell as chair of the greenbelt group indicated that the statements were fine and that the group was happy to use the space available. Morag also made it known that it appears that Bellway have been back surveying on Redmoss Site.
- c) The feedback from the general public to date has been very favourable. Discussions took place regarding setting up an Instagram link to the site as this is where most young people converse these days, VJ will look into this. It was noted that the CC have tried in the past to engage with the younger people of the village but with no success. AR suggested a direct approach to some of the younger villagers whilst also carrying out a general approach through the social media platforms. AG noted that school leavers when

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applying for job placements and work are often asked what they have done with their lives so far, offering the opportunity to help with the CC or programmes being run by the CC would help them and may attract them.

Action – VJ, AR, AG

9. Chairs update.

- In the absence of the Chair VJ gave a short update on his behalf. The changes to office bearers and resignations have been confirmed with EDC.
- The village primary school have indicated that they will be sending in their top six entries, BM confirmed that these have been received, JC asked if this included St Machans, no entries received yet from St Machans pupils. The Chair asked if we could now compile a list for the Christmas card delivery. VJ stated that there were 88 in the local care homes. (Cllrs Pews & Ferretti joined the meeting) AG noted that he will have a list from the pharmacy of people who are essentially house bound. JC offered to help with deliveries.
- The Christmas tree lights which had been vandalised have been repaired and are fully functional again.
- The Christmas lighting / garden decoration competition requires a date for judging. A date of the 20th was agreed and the members of the CC will submit their 5 or 6 preferred displays and a decision can then be jointly made of the winner who will be given a £50 voucher. We will also ask if we can photograph the display and post it on all the social media platforms.

Action – ALL

10. Treasurers update.

- a) VJ noted that outgoings over the following month will be around £20 with £50 prize to the best garden display, £30, £20 & £10 prizes to the best three Christmas card designs, £25 prize with the Charles Kennedy Community Cup and the remaining costs not fully known for printing the Christmas cards for the village which are approximately £35 per hundred.
- b) The bank signatories need to be updated with BM. A discussion about on line banking took place and it was agreed that another attempt would be made to set up a system for the Community Council. **Action VJ / BM**
- c) The Milton of Campsie Village Association which has been dormant since Charles Kennedy passed away was discussed and AR agreed to look into this with a view to bring it back to life as Charles would have wished. A member of the public indicated that it required trustees. **Action AR**
- d) VJ made a point about the villagers who are co-op members to note the village as their preferred charitable cause which would increase our funding otherwise the donations the co-op makes go into a larger country wide pot and the village potentially loses out on funding. **Action - ALL**
- e) VJ noted that there are other groups in the village and we don't really know much about them or how best to support them, as such we need to endeavour to find out more and build relationships with them. **Action - ALL**
- f) The Christmas lighting / garden decoration competition requires a date for judging. A date of the 20th was agreed and the members of the CC will submit their 5 or 6 preferred displays and a decision can then be jointly made of the winner who will be given a £50 voucher. We will also ask if we can

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Action – ALL

11. Planning applications.

- a) VJ reminded all present of the discussions taken place re the potential development near Alder Road and noted that a lot of information has been put onto the web site which can be viewed or downloaded. VJ noted that Alan Harris of the MOCGP group had said he would produce a list of legitimate objections, Morag Campbell confirmed that this has been done and leaflets posted to all of Alder Road residents. We will put this onto the web site also.
- b) Icenii have contacted us to suggest an online meeting which needs a decision on whether we agree to have one or not.
- c) AM noted that he had a forty minute phone call with one of the developers planning team and that he felt there were a lot of mixed messages coming from them, basically they might apply, they might not apply, they might apply in 10 years as they have agreement in place with the landowner. Morag Campbell of MOCCGP also said she had similar outcome to questions asked. They were offered an online meeting but have declined and instead have raised specific questions with them. Morag also noted that the proposed site has servitude rights through the play area of the CALA development.
- d) BM noted that there were no recent applications which warranted any discussions or actions to be taken. **Action - BM**
- e) BM raised an old issue of the potential storage of hazardous / explosive materials at the old Inchterf site, BM was fairly sure that the materials noted to be stored were the same or similar to that which exploded and blew up half of Beirut harbour earlier in the year. A member of the public noted that North Lanarkshire Council are holding an inquiry into this. MOCCC to make an objection re this application. **Action – BM / AB**
- f) A member of the public also raised issues with the Biffa waste site situated on the road to Twechar as it stores chemicals and recently had a fire which could have been disastrous.

12. Any other business

- a) Christopher Hughes introduced himself earlier in the meeting as the Co-op member pioneer. His role is to work with community groups to provide assistance in obtaining funding and support by the co-op where possible and to introduce the benefits the co-op can provide. The Coop are pleased to help with donations of some food and sweets and the like for organised events also as they currently do for the remembrance day service. He noted that when villagers join the co-op for £1.00 if they scan their card when making a purchase 1% of the spend will go to their nominated community group or charity and 1 % will go to a greater cause charity. The community will only be guaranteed the 1% by local members cards being scanned. The members will also receive benefits with special offers and discounts to card holders. It is a good way to maximise the community benefit. VJ noted that there has been a change of manager in Milton and Lennoxton and asked Christopher if he could ask them to get in touch to keep the relationship going.
- b) A member of the public raised the proposal of forming a Campsie Development Trust based on the “Fintry Development Trust” style who have

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offered support and help. This is required as John Hinton who currently runs the "Campsie Fest" cannot continue in his role and has been funding the festival through private bank accounts. Basically, what is required is an umbrella group "Campsie Development Trust" to control, run and search for funding for all these events. MOCCC agreed to assist and ask the community for volunteers to become part of this Trust. **Action – ALL**

- c) JC asked when the presentation of the Charles Kennedy Cup to Hugh Orr was to take place. It was agreed that it should be presented in the run up to Christmas. JC also noted that he should be allowed to keep it for the whole year and not just until the next scheduled presentation. BM suggested that given the issues with Covid this year that the presentation in the future should remain in December. No one objected to this. It was also agreed that we should try and get the presentation mentioned in the Kirkintilloch Herald with a photograph. Cllr Pews asked BM to email him for a contact in the Herald.
- d) VJ noted that the organisers of the garden at the cross were having a drop in around Christmas eve. Whilst it was acknowledged that this was a great idea we must be careful how we publicise this as current regulations and guidelines do not allow for gatherings.
- e) BM suggested that we contact the other CC groups to try and obtain dates when they will meet as we seem to clash and the councillors are often unable to attend meetings. **ACTION - BM**
- f) Last item noted was that the new Chinese takeaway opens on Wednesday and we should mention this on our social media platforms.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was proposed to be the 18th January 2021 at 7.30pm. the meeting ended at 9.46pm.