

Milton of Campsie Community Council Minutes of Meeting

Monday 21/03/2022 at 7.30pm
Meeting held in the Village Hall

1. Record of Attendance

Alex Buist (AC)– Chair, Brian McFall (BM)– Secretary,

Agnes Raybould (AR) Jim Crawford (JM) Andy Mackenzie (AM) Cllr Gary Pews.

6 members of the public.

Apologies

Vicky Jarvis - Treasurer

Cllr Paul Ferretti

Previous minutes

Proposed by Agnes Raybould, seconded by Jim Crawford.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

- **Erosion of banks of River Glazert** - BM reported we now know the land is still owned by Springfield Homes. BM has not contacted them yet and further erosion has been reported. It has also been reported that warning signs have been erected. **Action BM**
- **AGM of 6/5/2019.**
Issue of the events surrounding the Battlefield Park issue have been resolved and Morag Campbell has agreed to the publishing of a statement regarding the matter which is now closed.
- **Allotments** – BM has received a response from EDC noting that the investigation and design stage has still not being completed and the situation is no further forward. EDC will not release any documents until the entire process is completed. To date we do not know if EDC have spent additional money on the project which currently run at upwards of £48,000. BM will continue to watch the process. **Action BM**
- **Speeding** – no information has been returned yet regarding the survey of traffic through the village by EDC. BM will request a date when as to when the information will be issued. **Action BM**
- **Dog Fouling** – we have made representations to Cllr Pews and Ferretti to try and progress this matter as the response of being able to pick up a free bag from the council hubs is unfair to the smaller villages who do not have a hub. We will also make further representations directly to EDC.
A member of the public residing in the CALA estate noted that a request was made for a dog litter bin to be put into the estate and was told by EDC that all bins are combined waste and dog litter bins. **Action BM**

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- **Village Newsletter** – A draft of the village newsletter has been prepared for printing by VJ and NS. It is hoped that it will be ready for printing by the end of the month or early April. JC noted that the church has a full list of the house numbers in the village and have a system of being able to package what they issue themselves into individual streets. Volunteers for delivery will be required. **Action – VJ & NS**
- **Broken bank of burn at Alloch Dam** – no repairs to this burn have been carried out, it was agreed that we will contact SEPA regarding the issue. **Action - BM**
- **Fence at football pitch at the school** - Cllr Pews noted that it is his understanding that EDC are looking into erecting a new fence, once he knows more, he will inform the CC. A member of the public noted that residents are cleaning up an average of four bags of rubbish every weekend.
- **Charles Kennedy Cup** – JC confirmed the cup has been collected, it now needs to be presented to this years winner. **Action AB**
- **Solicitors advice** – AB stated that his friend was unable to help in this field of environmental issues.
- **Entrance to Baldoran site** – BM noted that he has been unable to write to the council regarding this issue but will do so in the forthcoming weeks. **Action - BM**

Standing agenda items

3. Roads (speeding, conditions, crossing points, pavements)

- a) BM is still waiting for information from EDC about cutting back and cleaning the spoil from the pavement between Birdston and the nursing home EDC have contacted the landowner and there is a disputed over who owns the land. A member of the public noted that the roots of these trees are now also damaging the surface of the pavement and the road and now completely obscuring the speed limit signs. **Action BM**
- b) As noted earlier EDC have not issued the findings of their traffic survey yet.
- c) AM stated that the gully pots in the village are now virtually all blocked as can be seen when even a short period of rain falls, this is not an isolated issue but now a village wide issue. BM noted that he had a response from EDC which stated the gullies were all cleaned in May of last year. It was also noted that most gullies from Battlefield Park to Mount Pleasant are blocked which contributed to the extensive flooding of that area during the winter. BM will Chase this matter up. **Action BM**
- d) Speeding through the village was again raised and noted that it appears to be getting worse with the claim being raised that young woman seem to be being noticed speeding more and more.
- e) AB, who is a driving instructor noted that tail gaiting is becoming particularly bad just because he or his pupil is driving at the correct speed limit.
- f) It was also discussed that those in the village who decide to warn their friends and others on Facebook when the police are in the village are being particularly foolish as it does not help the situation. A person stopped for speeding is likely to drive better in the future, a person warned will slow down for a day possibly but then will continue speeding thereafter.

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- g) A member of the public noted that recently a local family of adults and children were sitting waiting to turn right into the Kincaid when a car came over the hill heading towards Kirkintilloch at such a speed he could not stop. He hit the stationary car with such force that the insurers wrote off the car. From the apex of the hill to the entrance to the Kincaid is approximately 70 yards, how fast was that car travelling that it could not stop.
- h) Another member of the public reported seeing a motor bike actually leaving the ground coming over the hill at that same spot.
- i) Questions were asked about the signage in the village and it was suggested that the flashing signs which show the speed limit of 30mph are changed to signs which show the actual speed being travelled at. It was also noted or thought that some of the signs have traffic counters mounted upon them which may actually be able to be analysed to indicate speeds of vehicles. This will be looked into.

4. Dog Fouling

Generally still an issue around the village and likely to become a greater issue during the summer.

5. **Drugs**

Nothing to report currently.

6. **Village paths.**

- a) Volunteer work parties to assist Mr Skeddeski from are now required. A request shall be made on social media and in the forthcoming newsletter. **Action ALL**
- b) BM has not yet been able to contact the countryside commission and see if they can assist. He will continue to look for assistance. **Action BM**

7. **Broadband Provision**

- a) BM noted that without a willing council to try and assist or intervene we were at a dead end in relation to the Openreach poles being erected. It looks like they may have done all they want at present but no doubt if further poles are required they will just carry on regardless.

b) **Chair's update.**

- a) AB again acknowledged the work currently being done by Morag Campbell, Jenny Reeve and Brian McFall in relation to Birdston Coup and the working group attempting to get it under control and successfully for the time being having it closed down for the moment.

c) **Treasurer's update.**

- a) VJ was unable to attend this meeting but provide the accounts to the CC, it was noted that an audit was due at the end of March.
- b) The donations page has been set up and currently all donations will be held in the CC account than passed over once a Birdston Coup account has been set up.

d) **Planning applications.**

- a) No planning applications have been made that affect the village in any manner.

e) **Police report.**

- a) Police report was circulated to all members, nothing of issue within it.

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f) Birdston Coup

- BM noted that SEPA have very recently withdrawn the exemptions previously granted to PWS/Birdston Management which allowed them to bring particular product onto the site for remediation purposes. As indicated at the last meeting, the Birdston Residents / Greenbelt Protection Group & the Community Council provided considerable evidence to EDC and SEPA about materials on site and the business being run from the site which were not allowable under the current exemptions. Whilst EDC did very little other than to try and pass any responsibility onto SEPA, SEPA eventually took action and removed the licences.
- Morag Campbell, Chair of the Greenbelt Protection Group provided the meeting with a brief description of the current situation. The site is still as dangerous as it ever was as there is no site security, it can be accessed easily from all sides and with the school holidays coming up it is a potential death trap to children due to the extensive water and mud inside the site.
- The main concern raised is that the site was never properly capped, the depth of capping is unknown and we believe that Birdston Management have breached the cap which was already there to bury products of unknown nature.
- There is concern that no government body is trying to establish what could actually be in the old coup, it is locally known that the coup was classified to accept nuclear waste, records of this should be able to be found along asbestos and toxic liquids.
- The capping of the coup was obviously not monitored in any manner by SEPA or Strathkelvin District Council at the time and has been ignored ever since until now when a company who were supposed to be returning it to agricultural land started running a business where they openly advertised for waste soil to be treated and were also advertising topsoil for sale. Somewhat odd when they needed to be bringing suitable soil onto the site.
- AM noted that too much of the history is anecdotal and will be difficult to verify and it seems the cyber attack on SEPA around Christmas time has destroyed a lot of their records.
- AM felt that the company were running rings around EDC and SEPA and that SEPA have failed in their duty by not monitoring the exemptions properly at the very beginning and regularly thereafter.
- AM stated that as not enough records exist and there is no known specification of what capping was put down the surface of the area should not be touched or broken.
- Cllr Pews was asked to voice his opinion on the matter which he did so noting that he felt EDC had fulfilled their duties and that the main responsibility lies with SEPA. This was challenged and the point made that whilst SEPA had more power in relation to the site EDC allowed the site to open based on a temporary planning permission from 1990 which had a specific end date attached to it. For EDC to decide this was still active was in the opinion of those at the meeting and external planning advisors as ludicrous. There was a general discussion and when the meeting was informed that both the CC secretary and a member of the Birdston Residents were told by the Deputy Chief Executive that they were not allowed to contact any members of her staff directly but all communication was to be direct through her, when asked of councillor Pews just where she thinks she has the authority to instruct residents of East Dunbartonshire that

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they are not allowed to contact Council officials directly, the response was that a recent e-mail was a bit aggressive. This was rebutted and the meeting was informed that the e-mail was a strongly worded e-mail asking the Deputy Chief Executive to instruct her highly paid staff to leave their offices and go and take a breath of the stench they are making the residents of Birdston ill and stop passing the buck to SEPA. It is the opinion of the CC and the residents of Birdston that EDC are failing in their duty of care to the residents they are employed to serve. Cllr Pews advised that we be very sure of our position and facts before making any allegations.

Any Other Business

- AB noted that the coup issue was not going away and asked if a public meeting had been considered. The answer was yes and that the working group was gathering its information and would be organising a public meeting soon, possibly the week of 17th/18th April.
- JC asked that we request a formal crossing point at the junction of Birdston Road and Cairnview Road be put to the council as it has become very dangerous for elderly people crossing the road to the bus stop opposite. **Action BM**
- A member of the public noted that they had written to EDC regarding the loss of the path at Birdston coup some months ago and has never been given the courtesy of a reply. BM will make this known to EDC. **Action BM**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was proposed to be the 18th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.
The meeting ended at 9.30pm.