

Carlops Community Council

Minutes

Thursday 30 January 2025, 8.00pm
In Carlops Village Centre and by video link

Present:

Committee Members: Jim Eccleston, Georgie Jones, Kate Morss, Guy Walters

Community: James Spears, Becky Gibby, Pete Roche, Mhairi Nye, Jean Ritchie, Jean Hunter

In attendance: Viv Thompson (Councillor), Gary Beaumont (Police Scotland)

Apologies: Christina Gieger, Colin Hall, Peter Raine, Wendy Raine, Les Morss

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes of 21 November 2024 were accepted. P Roche proposed, M Nye seconded.

Matters arising, not elsewhere on agenda:

Smart meters. P Roche and P Raine did not meet with David Mundell. Instead the Raines raised a complaint with the Energy Ombudsman which is in process. They are hopeful that this will result in a cellular hub. P Roche advised complaining several times, using effective language. M Nye confirmed Scottish Power is insisting on installation of smart meters.

Outstanding item, confirmation of adherence to Code of Conduct:

J Eccleston, Chair, confirmed that all members of Carlops Community Council had agreed, verbally and in writing, to adhere to the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

Secretary's report:

K Morss drew attention to requests for comments from SBC on their budget proposals.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer reported that CCC has a balance of accounts of £63.75, an amount unchanged since 2 September 2024 after Friends of the Pentlands were paid £30 for their work on path restoration. The application for the SBC grant was being prepared but the significant drop in the balance had been due to the purchase of replacement defibrillator pads and batteries for the village. The Treasurer reminded the committee that the 2023-24 budget report had been accepted at the AGM held on 23 July 2024.

Police:

K Morss reported there were two recent incidents in West Linton, shoplifting and assault at a licensed premise. G Beaumont (Police Scotland) prompted productive discussion of policing issues in Carlops. Under-resourcing (manpower and kit) means he is working alone and can have only intermittent presence. So far, his work is 'see, then report' to submit intelligence on speeding primarily. We could have 'pop-up-Bob/Sandy' back for short periods. V Thompson suggested a message about police presence in village on Carlops website. Gary is also happy to give advice to residents concerning security. B Gibby suggested Gary could talk to Carlops and W Linton jointly about security measures. Gary is best contacted by email: tweeddalewestcpt@scotland.police.uk or lothianscotborderstweeddaleeastcpt@scotland.police.uk

Roads:

G Walters has again communicated to Transport Scotland that we should have opportunity to comment on where speed display signs are placed, now that it has been confirmed the 20 mph zone is from the far ends of village. The signs are currently too far into the village to properly reduce speeding throughout.

Action. V Thompson to urge Transport Scotland to confer with residents.

Planning:

No one, including V Thompson, is aware whether Rutherford planning application is on the list for consideration. G Walters requested V Thompson that pressure be put on the Planning Department to decide on the application in order that the community may get on with their lives.

Projects – the Well:

G Walters reported that he has three quotations for repair works ranging from £14K - £20K. We have approx. £6K in pledges so will need to raise more, possibly through a Go Fund Me campaign. Other suggestions for funding were Postcode Lottery, South of Scotland Enterprise, Friends of the Pentlands. A Historic Scotland grant would require a repair & maintenance agreement, which may not be possible given ownership issues.

Project - 20 mph Limit:

See comments above, under 'roads'.

Project - Recycling Bins:

J Eccleston confirmed he had sent survey report to residents and contacted SBC about overflow of bins. He was told there is a new contract underway which will ensure more frequent emptying. G Walters suggested we ask for permission to paint them.

Project - Christmas tree:

It was generally agreed the Christmas tree twixt Church and CVC was a good idea, although it was suggested we plant some small trees nearby which could be used in future. J Richie suggested we seek an alternative to a live tree. G Walters noted that CCC will need to purchase more Christmas tree lights as several strings had blown this year.

AOB:

91/93 bus: V Thompson reported that councillors are currently in discussion concerning tenders for the service.

Penicuik Estate: P Roche informed that the estate has good plans for improving public use of the estate relating to conservation, business and accommodation; information on their website.

Kitley Brig: J Speirs alerted that Kitley Brig is in danger of collapsing soon.

Action: V Thompson will contact SBC again to see what can be done.

Play park: J Speirs noted for general information that West Linton is looking to upgrade play facilities on the green.

Date of next meeting: 8 pm, Thursday 27 March 2025 in CVC.