

Carlops Community Council AGM

Minutes

Thursday 29th May 2025, 8.00pm

In Carlops Village Centre and by video link

Present:

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

Community (in person): Becky Gibby, Pete Roche, Mhairi Nye, Jean Hunter, Peter Raine, Wendy Raine, Les Morss, Hannah Walters, Marty Hawaii, James Spears and others

Community (via Zoom):

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

Apologies: Christina Gieger

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes of (previous AGM) were read out. Guy Walkers proposed they be accepted as a true record. P Roche seconded.

Chairman's report

- Advent of the West Linton And Carlops Community Development Trust.
- Vote of thanks from Jim for the work of the councillors Viv, Drummond, Eric. Proposed Jim. Seconded Guy.

Treasurer's annual report:

- Balance at the start £651, ended the year £538.50
- Expenses included: Defibrillator costs, Annual sub to Scotways, Contribution to Friends of the Pentlands.
- Planned for FY26: money for planters. Proposed budget of £150.
- Planned for FY26 replacement Christmas lights. Proposed budget of £200.
- Accounts will be sent to Tim Wilcock for auditing (Action: Guy)

Secretary's report:

- Nothing to report

Election of officers:

- Jim, Guy, Kate, Colin all happy to continue for another year.
- Re-election of Jim, Guy, Kate, Colin, Georgie proposed and seconded.

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 20mph 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 present at the meeting was 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 so the community can move on.

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.
- Guy Walters gave an impromptu screening of video he created to promote the Well fundraising.
- Kate Morss proposed a vote of thanks to Guy Walters for his work on the Well restoration. Seconded Colin Hall. Warm applause from attendees.

Project - 20 mph Limit:

See "Roads" above

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:

South Of Scotland Community Housing: Guy read out a press release from South Of Scotland Community Housing. South Of Scotland Community Housing are putting out a survey for interest in affordable housing.

WLCCDT: George asked if anyone present is not a member WLCCDT and encouraged them to join. WLCCDT is 150.

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.

CCTV For Carlops Main Street: Kate asked if there was interest to discuss CCTV for the Carlops main street. Marty reported that there is temporary kit available. Jim suggested involving Gary Beaumont, Marty agreed.

Bottle Banks: Pete Roche reported that he has been keeping an eye on the bottle banks. Guy advised that the green bank is going to be removed and glass of any colour can be placed in either of the two remaining bottle banks, the clothing bank is going to be removed.

Actions:

- Contact community justice team about building planters at the end of the Summer (Guy Walters)
- Ask Christina if she wishes to continue as an officer (Jim)

- Scan an extract of the Local Plan for Rutherford/Carlops/WL for circulation and send a link to the Local Plan consultation input web site (Viv)
- Organise a trial of CCTV using temporary equipment (not assigned)

Date of next meeting: 8 pm, Thursday 28th August 2025 in CVC.