Minutes of Carlops Community Council

Thursday 26th January 2023, 8.00pm In Carlops Village Centre and by video link

Present:

Committee Members: Marty Lee (Chair), Guy Walters, Hannah Walters

(Secretary), Kate Morss

Community: Murray Campbell, Peter and Wendy Raine, Alex Hazlewood,

Sally Charleton, Colin Hall

In attendance: Viv Thomson (Councillor)

Apologies: Jim Eccleston

Matter arising from meeting of 29th September 2022:

Minutes were agreed.

Standing Items:

Secretary's report:

Emails received from:

SBC, survey regarding upcoming council spending

The Bridge, survey regarding future of Chambers Institute – both circulated through CCC email list.

Oliver Munden (Avison Young) regarding Rutherford – see under Planning

Treasurer's Report:

At start of period: £871.68 (including delayed SBC grant)

Outgoings: annual Zoom subscription, Christmas trees,

Hogmanay fireworks

Balance £252.80, but contributions still outstanding from CVC

and Church towards cost of trees and fireworks

2023 SBC grant expected in May (£540)

ML noted that outgoings must now be reported to SBC with explanation of 'community benefit'

Police Report:

No incidents reported within Carlops and environs, but theft of quad bikes reported at Baddingsgill Farm in early December.

Info

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From previous report: "21/11/22 in an effort to reduce speeding on the A702 at Carlops officers deployed 'Pop up Bob.' Unfortunately an unhappy driver has stopped and stolen the bottom half of him." Anyone with any information is asked to contact the police.

Info

Roads:

Speed survey data (follow-up to 20mph zone) was incomplete and not as requested. ML could not get response as Philippa Gilhooly was on extended leave with no back-up in place. ML has submitted FOI request for full data, which should be provided within 20 days.

Info

David Robertson is now confirmed as new CEO of SBC

Planning:

Info

Rutherford development application is being resubmitted, having come to an agreement with SEPA. Carlops and West Linton CCs attended a blended meeting with the developer and representatives.

ML: we will need to wait for the planning application as what was shown and said may not be the final proposal.

Current proposals look to include: 100 'lodges' (static caravans), 10 tree houses, 10 cabin pods and 30 glamping pods.

Documents shown to the meeting were incomplete and, when queried, the developer was unable to give any indication that any study of need, benefit or suitability of location had been made for such a development.

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CCC to write to Iain Aikman (Head of Planning, SBC) to express concerns that we will be left with a white elephant and urge SBC to ensure that, if PP is granted, rigorous reinstatement requirements are placed on the development against this eventuality, e.g., a Reinstatement Performance Bond. WLCC will continue to liaise with CCC and the Rutherford residents' group.

Projects:

- Memorial Well: Graham M will stabilise top with lime mortar when temperature is not likely to be freezing.
- Phone box: Painting delayed until better weather. GW was thanked for seasonal decoration.
- Scroggy Brae (Rogers Rigg Newhall) footpath. ML will look at path when weather improves.

- First Aid/Defibrillator training action outstanding
- Patie's Hill footpath steps delayed until weather improves

HW

ML

Councillor's Report:

Viv noted that the SBC Emergency Planning Officer (Andy Mclean) is keen to visit communities and advise on planning for emergencies. We briefly discussed the pros and cons of joining the Resilient Communities scheme.

Viv and Eric are on the SBC Planning committee, so unable to discuss planning applications currently under consideration.

AOB:

- 101/102 Buses: Contract for 3 years looks to have been won by Houstons of Lockerbie. No timetable details yet, but it looks as though 2 off peak week day runs will be lost. That leaves 10 return runs, 4 from Dumfries, the remainder from Biggar. Sunday remains unchanged, but no news on whether there will be a later return from Edinburgh. Stand Up for our Buses are planning to meet Houstons to try to optimise the service.
 - JE circulated a message to suggest that in the meantime current users join the 101/102 Bus Users Group on Facebook as passenger updates on delays and cancellations were proving more accurate/timely than the Stagecoach app.
- Smart Meters: There was a discussion around smart meters not working as they should. Currently these are not a requirement and until they are the power companies won't switch from radio signal (poor) to using SIMs that connect to Wifi. A smart meter is needed in order to take advantage of flexible pricing, but needs to receive a time signal to record which pricing 'window' power is being used in. ML to write to MSP and will circulate letter as a template for others to use to write individually.

ML

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm, 30th March 2023

Meetings will be held in Carlops Village Centre and via Zoom – link on Carlops.net

https://zoom.us/j/96119152788?pwd=NGF5YjgxNHkySS9PZDIKMTI6N212UT09

Meeting ID: 961 1915 2788

Passcode: 091464