

**Carlops Community Council AGM**  
Minutes of Carlops Community Council AGM  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 8.00pm  
In Carlops Village Centre and by video link

**Present:**

Committee Members: Marty Lee (Chair), Guy Walters (Treasurer), Hannah Walters (Secretary), Kate Morss, Jim Eccleston  
Community: Christina Geiger, Colin Hall, Georgie Jones, Peter Raine, Wendy Raine, Jean Ritchie, James Spears, Anna Woolverton

**In attendance:** Drummond Begg (Councillor)

**Apologies:** Gerda Stevenson, Becky Gibby

**Matter arising from meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022:**

Matters arising all covered in Standing Items.  
Minutes were accepted. Proposed ML, Seconded GW

**AGM Matters:**

Minutes of 2022 AGM were accepted, Proposed KM, Seconded ML

**Report from Chair:**

ML reported that CCC and community have slowly been getting back to normal after the pandemic, though still a fairly quiet year. We returned to meeting in person, but still retain the option to join through Zoom. The benches in the field, one bought with the Covid Support Grant, have been well used and thanks are given to Peter Woolverton for his work laying new gravel on the field path.

There has been very little local crime, aside from the violent attack on the now legless 'Pop-up-Bob', and quad bikes on surrounding farms continue to be targeted by thieves.

We received notice of the intention to reduce the 20mph zone to just the very centre of the village. A letter of objection was sent, but there has been no response, and also no action, to date. Thanks given to GW for his work on this. It was noted that overtaking has become worse at the south end of the village, but overall the 20mph zone has brought significant improvement for those living there.

There had not been much to consider from Planning until the resubmission of the Rutherford Development resurfaced earlier this year (more on this below).

Several projects that have been on hold over the last couple of years are now looking for volunteers to join work parties over the summer and autumn to take them forward.

### Report from Treasurer:

ML reported that, due to problems changing account access, he had continued as Treasurer.

Opening balance for 2022-2023 was £1243.00, of which £519.62 was the remnants of the Covid support payment from SBC. True CCC balance was 723.38. Closing balance was £252.80.

Income came from SBC annual grant (£540), there was no meeting room hire to be reimbursed.

Payments had been made for: the bench and gravel for Rock Field (£685.98), phone box spares and paint (£177.79), safety mirror for Rogers Rigg lane, Hogmanay fireworks (£165), Christmas trees (£310), Scotways subscription (£16) and the Zoom meeting subscription (£143.88)

Tim Wilcock remains as Auditor (noted that his 'thank you' is still outstanding)

Accounts were accepted: Proposed by GW, Seconded by KM

### Election of Committee members and officers:

Marty Lee and Hannah Walters wish to retire, other members agreed to remain. ML and HW will remain available to effect transition.

- Marty Lee (Chair - vacating)
- Hannah Walters (Secretary - vacating)
- Guy Walters (Treasurer)
- Jim Eccleston
- Kate Morss

Three members of the community offered to join the committee:

Christina Gaiger – Proposed ML, Seconded KM

Colin Hall – Proposed GW, seconded JE

Georgie Jones – Proposed HW, Seconded ML

All Committee members agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. HW to circulate.

<b>Standing Items:</b>	
<b>Secretary's report:</b> Correspondence from developers agent, WLCC, and protesters group received regarding Rutherford planning application and objections. We have received notification from Zurich that we need to pay a £70 supplement to have fireworks at Hogmanay. Meeting agreed that we should pay and continue to have fireworks. Sundry other emails were circulated as received, if relevant.	Info   Info

**Treasurer's Report:**

Opening balance for 2023/24 is £252.80, there have been no transactions in the last period.

ML suggested that CCC may wish to stop paying for the Zoom link and have a joint one with the Church and Hall, this would save around £100 annually. JE offered to host CCC meetings on his Zoom account.

Info

**Police Report:**

Most recent report was 31<sup>st</sup> March, nothing pertaining to Carlops or environs.

**Roads:**

- It was noted that the Kitleyknowe road is becoming potholed again. SBC have a form for reporting, as many users as possible should report.
- JS repeated suggestion that planters be purchased for the verge and filled with brightly coloured flowers to remind drivers that they are in a residential environment. CG noted that BEAR Scotland have a budget for community development projects, she will follow up. We will also need to contact SBC verge maintenance team. GW questioned whether white lines to visually narrow the approach to bridge and a crossing point would help.

All

All

**Projects:**

- Memorial Well: Graham McGirk has repointed the top and GW been in touch with Iain Newton (stonemason) about replacing stone. CG advised that the traditional skills team are working again, she will follow up.
- Rock Field: Question arose whether 'play park' should have a disclaimer notice at either end. Community Pay Back team are keen to repair climbing frame. Potential need for insurance was discussed.
- Phone box: paint and parts have been delivered. Now need a team to undertake the work. GW suggested a regular evening for village 'projects'.

ML

GW

**AOB:**

Smart meters – PR has received a nonsensical reply, which suggested a timescale which has not been achieved. Scottish Power have said that until smart meters are compulsory the infrastructure will not be available in many places, so customers are unable to take advantage of lower tariffs or benefit from feeding surplus back into the grid.

HW

GW

DB requested that PR forward him the email and he will follow it

<p>up. JS noted that the Octopus website has a good explanation of the issue.</p>	<p>HW</p>
<p><b>Rutherford:</b>  GW prepared and circulated information regarding the proposals in relation to the National Planning Framework.  WLCC is co-ordinating objections, CCC will respond to Planning based on the feelings of our community.  GW encouraged all to read through the circulated documents carefully and to put objections into their own words.  CG noted that once occupancy capacity has been achieved the developer (or new owner) can apply to vary the planning agreement.  There was widespread disquiet about the future of the 'rewilded' areas given the references to Phases 2 and 3 in the application, is there anything we can do to prevent a worst-case scenario?  ML has written, twice, to Head of Planning regarding conditions that could be put on planning approval, he has had confirmation of receipt, but no reply. DB has offered to chase up (ML to forward most recent email) and noted that WLCC's Tim Brian has long experience of planning conditions and can advise what is reasonable to ask.  GW suggested that paths linking Carlops and WL would be a minimum, to allow green travel to the new jobs.  KM noted that the developer has stated that he will appeal if PP is refused and that the Reporter will be looking for objections to be in particular language. CG advised that a few strong points repeated many times would have more impact than many smaller objections.  AW noted that the site will pay a business tax (based on rateable value), not council tax to support our services.  KM advised that owners resident for more than 3 months will be able to sign on at WL Health Centre and the HC will be obliged to accept walk-ins, affecting appointments.  CCC will continue to pursue this in tandem with WLCC.  The meeting was unanimously against to the development, CCC will write a formal objection and encourages everyone to do the same as individuals. The deadline will follow WLCC meeting (12 June) – exact date to be circulated.  ML will write to SBC in the meantime to advise of unanimous rejection of plan by the community.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>ML/ GW</p> <p>Info</p>

**Date and Time of Next AGM:** 8pm, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 8pm, 27<sup>th</sup> July 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