

Carlops Community Council
Minutes of Carlops Community Council AGM
Tuesday 23 July 2024, 8.00pm
Carlops Village Centre and by video link

Present

Committee members: Jim Eccleston (Chair), Kate Morss (Co-secretary), Guy Walters (Treasurer), Georgie Jones
Community: Anna Woolverton, Peter Roche, James Speirs, Peter Raine, Wendy Raine
In attendance: Viv Thompson (Councillor), Eric Small (Councillor),
Apologies: Christina Geiger, Hannah Walters, Colin Hall, Les Morss

Matters arising from minutes 30th May, 2024

Projects:

Planters: JS confirmed he had not spoken to the community gardening group about planters along the A702.

Footpath A702: KM reported that Becky Gibby had been instrumental in liaising with Friends of the Pentlands to repair the footpath. CCC agreed a plan of work and agreed to fund the modest amount required for material. The work has been completed.

Kitley Brig: The meeting confirmed that the community had not been widely informed about the risk to the bridge, which is badly in need of repair, but is still well used by walkers. Although the bridge is on a core path, the land owner is reluctant to fund any upgrade.

Action: VT will ask RBC for advice regarding access to core paths on privately owned land. NB. As part of this discussion it was confirmed Scroggy Brae is not a core path.

With the above corrections, the minutes of 30th May were **accepted**. Proposed KM, Seconded GW.

AGM matters

Minutes of AGM, 25th May, 2023 were accepted. Proposed GW, Seconded GJ.

Report from Chair

The following is a precis of the Chair's full report, available alongside these minutes.

JE thanked those committee members who had taken on roles as officers, those who recently joined the committee and especially Marty Lee and Hannah Walters who had served conscientiously for more years than they should have, before retiring in 2023. He also thanked the church for use of the building as a meeting venue during the period in which the CVC was occupied by a film company.

The CCC has been successful in facilitating several projects, including the renovation of our telephone box, now sporting a gleaming coat of paint, new glass and functioning as a local information hub. JE thanked those members of the community who contributed to the funding and the work, particularly GW.

Earlier in the year CCC agreed to source a living Christmas tree to plant on the village green. We were most fortunate that Pamela Logan donated a fir, and with help from Becky Gibby and others, the tree has been duly planted, and is thriving. This will save CCC several hundred pounds per annum.

Friends of the Pentlands responded to our request for help to repair the popular path to Pateshill above the A702, after consultation with CCC and the landowners. Initial repairs have been completed, with modest funding for materials from CCC, and there are plans for further work in the future. Again, Becky Gibby is thanked for her part in this initiative.

Another of our projects is to restore, rennovate and consolidate the Memorial Well. GW has been leading this project, liaising with the landowner, BRC, roads dept, funders and masons to move the project forward. Watch this space for progress.

Volume of traffic and speeding through the village remain an issue, as always. However, our understanding is that the 20mph speed limit will be maintained. Some wheelie bins have 20mph stickers, and there is a plan to establish planters at entry points into the village, which may help. Cars parked on road have been damaged and a recent accident at Pentlands illustrate the importance of continuing to campaign for save driving. CCC has joined with other community councils to set up a Speed Concern group.

CCC has also joined West Linton in establishment of a Community Development Trust which may widen access to funding streams.

Development of Rutherford Castle golf course and surrounding area seems to be a continuously evolving issue. Several plans have been drawn up, discarded, re-drawn; several options for ownership seem to have fallen through. CCC is keeping abreast of the changes as far as possible and will inform the community as things continue to develop.

Report from the Treasurer

2023-24, the opening balance was £252.80 and closing balance was £651.81. Costs were: Scotways subscription (£16.00), X2 Connect Ltd for parts to repair telephone box (£124.99). The only source of income was the SBC grant of £540.00

The treasurer's report was accepted. Proposed by KM, seconded by JE.

Election of committee members and officers:

Current members of the committee agreed to remain. Office-bearers agreed to continue in their current role. All committee members agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. **Action:** JE to circulate.

Standing items:

Secretary's report:

SBC/Community Council notices:
2024 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration. To celebrate and share achievements of initiatives that address physical, social and economic challenges in communities across Scotland. Deadline 2 September 2024. Link: <https://surf.scot/surf-awards/surf-awards-2024/>

Correspondence VT: Houstons willing to put notices of community events on their website.

Treasurer's report:

The only cost from the last meeting of committee was £16.00 for Scotways subscription. This leaves £93.75 in the account on 1 July 2024.

Police report:

There have been no recent police reports.

Roads:

Transport Scotland have notified that the 20 mph zone through the village will become permanent unless there is a complaint. The 20 mph stickers on waste bins should help as a reminder to motorists. VT said there is lots of support for retainment of 20 mph zones throughout the Borders. Discussion about speed signs revealed they don't display beyond 28 mph and the sign facing northgoing traffic doesn't work. GW replied that some of the signs are due to be replaced; he asked for a meeting with Bear to tidy up signage.

VT has met with Sergeant Hansen who is waiting on equipment to measure actual speed.

Action: VT to confirm CCs support of 20 mph and report problems with signage to Transport Scotland. She will also speak to police representative concerning speeding.

Planning:

GW reported that Rutherford development now back in the hands of owner who will re-submit in a few weeks time. The community consultation asked that a path network from Carlops to West Linton be installed, all accommodation located away from flood risk areas and the wildlife area be fixed so that it can't be changed in future. It is noted that traffic surveys in West Linton village still haven't been done. Some changes to planning are an improvement...restricting the time limit of occupation and a first-aid centre open 24/7 (?) VT asked if wild areas couldn't be gifted to the community.

Projects:

Well: GW explained the first step is to dig out the wall and provide temporary support. Repair may require a week of traffic management; Bear will remove the curb and install a gutter with the aim of controlling water flow. Initial funding for the work has come from John Kennedy (£3000) and an anonymous donor (£2500). Budget management will be handled through the CVC bank account. WR asked if Historic Scotland was involved and whether building consent would be required. GW is liaising with SBC heritage officer. VT suggested the Rosslyn Landfill Fund might be a source of further funding.

Bus stop: GW reported that repairs to the bus stop have been completed and were funded by the BRC.

AOB

Recycling bins: Residents are increasingly reporting bags of bottles, clothing and fly-tipping left in the car park, which is not only unsightly, but dangerous and encouraging of further dumping. VT suggested requesting more frequent uplift, but this applies only to bottle banks. There was some discussion about removal of the bins, but this action will require community input. **Action:** VT to raise issue with council.

Review of 91/93 bus service: VT reported that a review of 91/92 bus service did not include Carlops, as the village is not in the area. As West Linton is, it may be possible to link the two villages in a scheme to replace the service with a taxi bus. There will be consultation on the plans. **Action:** VT to keep CCC informed of developments.

Date and time of next AGM: Thursday, 29 May, 2025, 8 pm

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday, 26 September, 8 pm