

LADYKIRK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 1st March

2023 at 7.00pm in the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Swinton

PRESENT:

Iain Woolley (IW) (Chair), Bill Purvis (BP), Kenneth Morton (KM), Tim Morris (TM) Michael Lawrence (ML), and John Cochrane (JC), Councillor Donald Moffat, (DM) plus 7 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Fiona Wilson, Meg Reid, Councillors John Greenwell and Mark Rowley

Minutes taken by: Bill Purvis

Next meeting: 3rd May 2023

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. As there was a fair amount of business to discuss he asked that everyone be succinct and to the point.

Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting on the 1st March 2023 were approved.

Proposed: KM **Seconded:** ML

Matters Arising:

- **Road Surface** – The road surface in Main Street, Swinton is currently under repair.
- **Salt Bins** – The salt bin removed from the SW corner of village green can be replaced in its original position providing not placed tight against property wall.
Action – SBC to be advised accordingly. (BP).
- **Road Bridge** – The damage to the parapet of the road bridge on Duns Road has been reported but as culprit has not been identified repair costs will require to be met from SBC budget. As repair is not considered urgent this will be met from next year's budget and are likely to take place before end of year.
- **Fly Tipping** – Residents are reminded that the dumping of garden or any other type off waste is illegal and could leave them open to a hefty fine. A sign to this effect will be placed on Notice Board.
- **Maintenance of Rights of Way** – IW had attempted to contact contractor without success. We must now look to employing a willing "volunteer".
- **Parking of HGV Vehicles** – Lorries parking on Swinton Main Street are not breaking any law as long as they are not on pavement and facing the correct direction.
- **ABNB Properties** – Registration of such properties has been delayed for six months.

Treasurer's Report

- ML still waiting confirmation from RBS that necessary changes have taken effect.
- Our contract with Scottish Power is due to expire on 30th April 2023. Agreed that new contract for 12 months be arranged. **Action:** BP.

Police Report:

- This month's Police Report is not yet available.
- Police are considering a pilot scheme whereby speed guns and appropriate training will be offered to volunteers. They would be able to carry out checks in other C C areas but would only be able to advise speed and registration number to police who would issue warning letters. **Action:** BP will investigate.

Planning Applications:

- None at present.

Update from Regional Councillors

- DM advised that Coronation Grant was only available to Community Councils and will be strictly scrutinised.

Update on Hudson Ladykirk Development (Everley Meadow):

- No further developments

Community Amenity Space and developer contribution:

- We wish clarification on developers' contribution and funds ring-fenced for play equipment. **Action:** IW/BP will write to Planning Department

Swinton Hub/Church:

Report on BCCF and Area Partnership meeting:

- Very interesting meeting. TM suggested that more Community Councillors should try to attend. BCCF can offer support through training in topics such as Planning, CPR, Communication, websites.
- Harry Whitmore from South of Scotland Community Housing spoke. That organisation supports communities through purchase of land/assets and developing housing and facilities to meet the needs of those communities. He is also due to attend the Community Hub meeting on Thursday 2nd March.
- Speaker from NHS spoke on the issues of staffing in the Borders in the context of the closure of the Merse practice in Chirnside and how to bring doctors, Advanced Practitioners and dentists to the region.
- Funding for projects is through Neighbourhood Support Fund and Community Enhancement Fund. NSF is oversubscribed for this financial year with £120K worth of bids for a remaining £33K. Those unsuccessful bids will not automatically go forward to 2023/24 and will be rigorously assessed with any new bids.

- Help with energy costs for community organisations to provide Warm Spaces is available through BAVS. IW is looking into a fund to provide Soup and Sandwich meals.
- £500 available to communities for Coronation activities, but not necessarily on Coronation days. CC will apply for this to be used by Swinton Village Events. Any social event must be sustainable and plastic free. KM will contact Parent Council to see if anything should be provided for children.
- Next BCCF meeting 30th March.

State of Road Surface-Main Street, Swinton:

Already breaking up after 2022 works. SBC blame damage on utility companies. Norham Road continues to be a massive issue. John Greenwell to be contacted again.

Salt Bins:

MR continues as our Resilience Planning Contact. Salt bin on the Green will be replaced. The Community Amenity Space could provide space for a shed for CC equipment.

Duns Road bridge parapet:

This has been damaged by a vehicle. Roads and Bridges at SBC to be informed.

Speeding:

Continues to be a problem particularly at 7.30 to 8.30 and 3.30 to 5.30. No real solutions. Reminder that if numbers of frequent offenders are taken, they can be passed to Police. Sec to draft a letter to send to companies whose drivers flout speed limits. Issue may be compounded, particularly at west end of Main Street, when legislation prohibits parking on the pavements.

Dumping of Garden Waste:

There has been tipping of a large amount of garden waste, adjacent to the Core Path on the field belonging to Jamie Swinton. There is interest in this becoming a wild flower meadow and owner will be contacted. BP reminded the meeting that there is unlikely to be sufficient funds to hire the usual skip for garden waste.

Correspondence as previously circulated:

A.O.C.B.:

- There is already a problem with overflowing bins at ABNB properties where the bins are left out after weekend stays.. FW to contact SBC.
- We need to finalise a contract for the strimming of paths for 23/24. Cost for 2022/23 was £152.
- FW will contact SBC regarding weed killing on type 1 path to School from The Green

- A wagon has been parking occasionally overnight on Main Street. IW to find out if it is permitted in urban areas. Wagons sometimes use the layby at the Kirk or the pull in beside the sewage farm.
- As we currently have ongoing issues that may need a faster response, it was agreed that our meetings will be held monthly until further notice. The Secretary reminded the meeting that May will be the AGM as well as a regular meeting.

All business concluded, the meeting closed at 9pm.

Next meeting Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7pm in the Wheatsheaf.