

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 9 June 2015 6.45 pm Davidson's Mains Primary School

Chairman – Rod Alexander

3. Matters arising (excluding items scheduled for later discussion)

3a. Signs at Lauriston Castle (Item 3a in minutes)

The response to our complaint from the Estates Manager was noted with appreciation although it had not really answered the concern about the garish colour of the signage. The committee decided that having made our concerns known, it would not be constructive to take the issue any further.

3b. Badly Faded Road markings at roundabout at Main Street (Item 3b in minutes)

The committee were concerned to note that a reply from Clarence had stated the problem would be addressed but not as a matter of urgency. In view of the obvious road safety implications it was agreed this would now be raised directly with the Roads Manager to try to get the problem resolved more urgently.

3c. Bench at RBS (item 16b in minutes)

It was noted that the bench had been removed, refurbished and replaced very quickly after being reported as being in need of attention. The committee were very appreciative of the quick response by the Council.

3d. Barking Dog (item 16c in minutes)

Rod reported that the complaint about a persistently barking dog in the vicinity of Vivian Terrace, Corbiehill Gardens or Grove had been investigated but no evidence had been found. It was acknowledged that a similar complaint from Barnton Gardens had been overlooked and this would be raised with the wardens

3e. Uneven pavement outside St. Margaret's Church (item 16d in minutes)

Rod confirmed this had been reported to Clarence and a response was awaited.

4. Correspondence

Charlotte reported that the substance of all relevant correspondence had been circulated to the committee. Regarding one important issue, the proposed 20 mph limits, it was noted that a further public consultation on the final proposals was ongoing with submissions to be made by the 26th June. Rod confirmed that our requested change at the east end of Main Street had been included and there would therefore not be any need for us to make further comment.

5. Reports

5a. Police Report

PC's Andy Braid and Jim Loosemore were thanked for attending to provide the monthly police report. The committee very much welcomed the continuing reduction in local housebreakings which had followed on from multiple arrests made as part of a co-ordinated police action in April. The specific problem of adult cyclists on pavements was raised. This had been the subject of recent complaints but the police confirmed it was difficult to follow these up after the event although they would definitely take action if such an event was witnessed by them.

5b. Treasurer's Report

In Gordon's absence, Rod reported that the balance in the Accounts was £5353.09 which reflected recent income from membership subscriptions. The main outgoings in the past month had been for the printing of the newsletter and for three months hire charges for the school library.

5c. Friends of the Park

Eunice had given Charlotte information which had been reported in the May Minutes and there was nothing new to report. .

5d. Almond NP Environmental Group

Eunice had asked Charlotte to remind the committee of the planned conference planned for later in the year to discuss Cramond and Roman Archaeology

5e. Community Safety Forum

There had been no recent meeting. The next one was scheduled for 10th June.

6. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

There had not been any meetings since our last committee meeting. Rod asked Cllr. Work about the boundary situation as it has been proposed that there should be an increase in the number of councillors in Almond ward to four. Norman confirmed this was a proposal. Rod suggested that this would appear to be an opportunity to rectify the long standing and irrational boundary anomalies in this area. The matter would need to be considered further.

7. Corbiehill Road, Corbiehill Crescent and Vivian Terrace Parking Problems

The committee remain concerned that this matter had still not progressed further. It was noted that the latest information on the timing of the advertising of the necessary Road Traffic Order for double yellow lines was that it would be made in July. If there were no objections it would be implemented shortly afterwards.

7a. Repainting of white lines at Vivian Terrace

It was noted that it was no longer Council policy to paint reservation lines over driveways as it was a contravention of road traffic regulations to block access to driveways by inconsiderate parking and white lines were therefore superfluous. White lines can still be painted at the owners request but the work is fully re-chargeable.

8. AGM

The committee had a full discussion about the recent AGM. The conclusion was that it was recognised as having been a success although there was concern about a relatively poor turnout compared with previous years. It was suggested that our keeping residents better informed by the increased use of email and the apparent end to the recent crime wave following police arrests had reduced the need to attend. Nevertheless the level of attendance was a concern whatever the reasons and this would be borne in mind when arrangements were made for next year.

9. Progress on Approved Local Projects .

9a. Improvements to Roundabout at Davidson's Mains Park.

9b. New pathway Silverknowes Road East.

It was noted that each of these projects had now started and were planned for completion by the end of June.

10. Local Action List

The committee discussed the latest update of the local action list. There was concern that the proposed double yellow lines at the cul de sac in The Green and at locations around Corbiehill Road had not yet progressed. Rod reported that Darren Wraight had again suggested a local walk about and this was supported by the committee with a suggested timing for late August or early September before our September meeting.

11. Road Works Cramond Road South

The committee had a long discussion about the road works which had commenced on Cramond Road South at the junction with Barnton Avenue , understood to be associated with changes to the Pelican Crossing to benefit cyclists. There was serious concern that the works had started without any prior consultation and that it was understood that neither the West Team Manager nor the Roads Manager were even aware that the works were to be undertaken. The case for spending what was understood to be a sum of £58000 was questioned and it was agreed the whole issue would be pursued to seek explanations.

12. Membership

Charlotte gave the committee an update on membership numbers. Of 256 members on the list prior to the AGM, 162 had renewed their membership to date. This was considered to be very satisfactory on a first sweep. In addition there were thirteen new first time members. It was agreed reminder letters would be delivered from 26th June.

13. Christmas Lights Switch On

Aileen gave a positive feedback on her discussions with the deputy headmistress at Davidson's Mains Primary School and the organiser of the local pipe band regarding participation in this year's event. The important short term decision is to agree a date suitable to all parties and it was agreed to pursue this so that the date could be agreed for the start of the new school term in August. Rod agreed to discuss contact with the Council with Gordon to check options from the Council's perspective. Other matters would be discussed in detail at the September meeting.

14. Vandalism & Housebreaking in the area

The committee had previously agreed that Colin Keir and the list MSP's would be contacted regarding this matter. However given the recent police reports which indicated that the problem had been resolved, at least for the present, it was decided the action would no longer be necessary or appropriate.

15. Use of Social Media

The possible use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook was discussed by the committee. It was agreed to think about this over the holiday period and have it on the agenda again for September.

16. AOCB

16a. Rod reported that he had been advised that the CCTV cameras are to be moved from Silverknowes Road Bridge to a location adjacent to the RBS. This will cover the entrance to the park, Tesco front car park and also the corner area around the bank. The committee supported the decision.

16b. Charlotte reported that the dates for next year have to be submitted. The library is unavailable for February and it was agreed to continue the policy of hiring the parish church hall for this date.

16c. The committee discussed the question of very poor service at the local post office. This had been the experience of a number of members of the committee and there had been a variety of complaints to the Association. It was agreed a complaint would be made on behalf of local residents through the appropriate complaints procedure.

16d. It was noted that the committee has been contacted by the local scout group asking for local community projects which they can be involved in for their community scouting week in October. It was agreed that a poster should be put on the notice board to advertise on behalf of the scouts.

17. Date of Next Meeting 8 September 2015 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School