

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 8 December 2015 6.45 pm Davidson's Mains
Primary School Library

Chairman – Rod Alexander

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

3a. Mackenzie's Public House. Aileen had reported that the area manager had agreed to raise concerns about the behaviour of some clients with the tenant who had suggested a quarterly meeting with him to keep matters under review. The committee welcomed the assurances and an offer of meetings but did not think meetings would be necessary if the pub was going to be well managed. Nevertheless the matter would be kept under review.

3b. Grit Bins. Considered under item 17.

3c. Bus Shelters. Charlotte reported that a reply had been received from Councillor Lesley Hinds in reply to the DMSA complaints about the design of the new shelters. Cllr. Hinds had defended the new design as providing improved disabled access but the committee remained of the view that they did not provide adequate protection from poor weather. No further action was proposed.

3d. Plaque for War Memorial. Charlotte provided the committee with an update on the situation regarding quotes from engravers. These would be considered at the January meeting.

3e. On Street play facility. The enquiry from a local resident about setting up an on street play facility had been investigated and discussed with the council and it was clear that under current legislation it would require a statutory Traffic Regulation Order with all the associated organisation and controls. As such the proposal was unrealistic from both a practical and financial point of view and would not be taken further.

3f. The complaints about parking on the pavement outside the Tanning Salon, Vet, Coral and Mains Beauty had been reported to the police who had agreed to monitor the situation.

3g. Parking outside Corbie Café. Rod reported that the complaints about inconsiderate parking outside the Corbie had been referred to the West Team for monitoring and assessment.

4. Correspondence

Charlotte confirmed to the committee that email correspondence from the Council to her had failed to be transmitted on to committee members due to an unexplained fault with her system. It was agreed that for the present Rod would circulate any emails received by him and Charlotte from the Council.

5. Reports

5a Police Report

PC Colin Cursiter provided a verbal report on police matters during October. The committee welcomed the fact that the incidence of local crime remained relatively low. PC Cursiter confirmed that the issue of vehicles being parked on the pavement on Main Street was being monitored. The committee welcomed the fact

that a meeting was being planned between the Police and community groups in Almond to discuss improved communication and engagement, including the possible reinstatement of written monthly reports.

5b. Treasurer's Report. Gordon reported that the balance in the account was £5021.38. Payments had been made for the Armistice Day Service and the Christmas Lights event.

5c. Community Safety Forum. Rod reported that Tim had let him know that he had been unwell and had not been able to attend the meeting earlier that afternoon. The Minutes of the meeting would be considered at our January meeting.

6. Planning issues

Number 5 Vivian Terrace. The committee discussed the current situation and noted that a complaint had been received by the applicant regarding the circulation and content of a DMSA Flyer to let residents know what was happening. The committee regretted the fact that the applicant had been troubled by the flyer but considered it had reflected the interests of other residents and the substance of complaints made by them to the Association. The situation regarding the application would be kept under review.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

The committee were pleased to note recent awards had been made to local groups by the Neighbourhood Partnership. The Scouts had received £250 under the Youth Decides Initiative towards improving the environment around the scout hut, while Cramond Boys Football Club had received £500 from the Community Grants Fund to clean and re-paint the storage container which is used to store their equipment at Davidson's Mains Park.

8. Local Action List

Rod reported on a recent meeting which had been attended by Seonaidh, Henry, Tim and himself, with George Kennedy and Corrie Boucher to discuss the projects on the action list. Following George Kennedy taking over as the new Roads Manager the meeting had been seen as important to ensure there was a common understanding about the scope and timetable for each of the projects, particularly those for which commitments had previously been given for the current financial year. Rod was pleased to report that there was agreement on all of the projects. There had been a number of new additions to the action list and the next review on progress would be set up for January.

9. Christmas Lights Switch- On

Henry was commended for his efforts in organising a very successful event with approximately 200 people attending. Only one or two minor points were raised. The music could not be heard at the rear of the car park. This will be addressed when the DMSA purchases a new sound system (see item 10). There was some discussion about the cost to the Association but it was accepted that a significant proportion of the costs related to the purchase of a tree and decorations and these would be available for future years. It was agreed consideration would in future be given to seeking sponsorship and perhaps donations to help cover the costs. It was decided to make donations to a charity supported by the primary school and to the pipe band in recognition of the contribution of each towards the success of the event. It was agreed that letters of thanks would be sent to the school choir, the Pipe Band, Tesco's manager and staff as well as Bo and Tim for helping with the refreshments.

10. Purchase of new sound system

Following the failure of the sound system at the recent War Memorial Service and the limited sound carry of the equipment borrowed for the Christmas Lights switch-on the committee agreed in principle to consider the purchase of a sound system for use at external events. It was agreed that provisional estimates would be brought to the January meeting and also that an application would be made to the Community Grants Fund to seek 50% funding.

11 Proposed electoral ward boundaries.

It was noted that this matter remained outstanding due to the pressure of more urgent time critical issues. Rod confirmed that the matter was in hand and that a flyer would be delivered before the January meeting advising residents who would be adversely affected by the proposed boundary changes.

12. Design Review of Barnton Avenue/ Cramond Road South Junction

It was noted that a technical audit into the planning and design of the junction had confirmed that it had complied with the appropriate standards in all respects but had identified three matters on which corrective action was required. Two of these were for repairs to the “bubble” crossings and the other related to the speed bumps at the junction which the report suggested were inappropriate at that location. A subsequent site meeting with the Roads Manager had reached agreement that these bumps would be removed and that consideration would then be given to a review of other speed limiting features on Barnton Avenue

13. Travelling People at Silverknowes

Following complaints from local residents and discussion at our November meeting clarification had been sought from the West Team Manager to ask for details on what policy and actions were being pursued by the council regarding the occupation of the former bus park site at the north end of Silverknowes Road. It had been pointed out that earthen barriers had been put in place a number of years ago specifically to prevent any access and this differentiated this location from others being used by the travelling people. A reply was awaited and the content would be circulated to the committee.

14. Living Landscapes.

A report from the Council on the results of the changes to the landscape maintenance programme was discussed. It was noted that the report reflected our own local experience that the changes had been implemented with very little opposition or complaint, although it was agreed that any extension to the scope of the initiative would need to be monitored.

15. School Crossing Guides

Cllr Work informed the committee that the proposal to save costs by terminating the use of crossing guides at lunch time had been dropped because of the emotive nature of the issue.

16. Date and Planning for AGM

Following discussion it was provisionally agreed to plan the date of the 2016 AGM for the end of May and to fix the exact date at our January meeting.

17. Grit Bins.

Complaints by local residents about the unacceptable length of time being given by the Council to refill empty grit bins (up to eight weeks and more) had been followed up by the DMSA and assurances had been received that complaints would be acted on within ten days. There was one long standing complaint regarding a bin at Silverknowes shops and the situation would be monitored.

18. AOCB

18a. Progress was noted on the replacement of missing lampposts. The one at Silverknowes Drive was now operational, while the new post had been installed at Corbiehill Place and was awaiting recommissioning by Scottish Power.

18b. Brian reported that the notices at the junctions of Vivian Terrace and Corbiehill Crescent with Corbiehill Road had been changed to reflect the new 24 hour no-parking restrictions. It was anticipated that the double yellow lines would be painted shortly.

18c. The committee agreed in principle to a request for next year's Poppy Collection to be promoted in our Autumn Newsletter.

18d. It was noted that there had been a further incident of the bin lorry failing to gain access to the cul-de sac in The Green due to parked cars on the corner. It was anticipated the double yellow lines would be painted shortly so no action was proposed.

18e. It was reported that the recycling facility at Silverknowes Golf Club was in a very muddy state once again after the recent heavy rain. It was agreed that this would be reported to relevant department for attention.

19. Date of Next Meeting 12 January 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library