

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 13 December 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library

Chairman Rod Alexander

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Lindsay Paterson, Judith Lowther.
2. **Present:** Coll Gardner, Gordon McGregor, Brian Flanagan, Tim Mitchell, Seonaidh Edgar, Laura Thomson, Charlotte Cowe.

In Attendance: Cllrs. Alastair Shields, Norman Work; PC's Jim Kelly and Ewan Sinclair for Police Report .

3.1 Minutes. The November minutes were approved.

3.2 Matters arising (excluding items scheduled for later discussion)

3a. Parking round the Corbie Café (item 3a in minutes)

Alistair provided an update on the situation but the committee considered that the problem had been outstanding for some time without any progress and decided to pursue the issue directly with the Roads Manager.

3b. Rock falls onto roadways, footpaths and cycle paths (item 3e in minutes)

This matter was carried forward to the January meeting to allow Lindsay to provide an update.

3c. Recycling Bins at Tesco (item 3f in minutes)

It was noted that a response was still awaited from Lesley Hinds regarding the complaint about management of the waste paper re-cycling facility. Tim reported that he had discussed the situation with the Community Service Manager at Tesco who had agreed to monitor the situation and report to the Council whenever the container was approaching capacity.

3d. Humming noise in the Locality.(item19b in minutes)

Tim reported that there had not been any response to the item on www.streetlife.com so the matter was closed.

3e. Replacement/Re-filling of grit bins (item19c in minutes)

It was noted that the grit bin at Silverknowes Court/Road had been re-filled.

4. Correspondence

Charlotte reported that there had been significant levels of correspondence about inconsiderate parking at the junction of Corbiehill Avenue/Road (see item 18) and the proposed BT Broadband Box at The Green (item13). There had been three requests to join the committee from local residents and each had been invited to attend the January meeting.

5. Reports

5a Police Report

PC's Jim Kelly and Ewan Sinclair attended to provide a verbal police report for November. They reported they had attended Davidson's Mains School each day for a week to monitor the parking problem and to provide advice to those dropping off and picking up children by car. They had given warnings and had issued some tickets. There was discussion about vandalism and damage to cars parked at Silverknowes Neuk and it was agreed that the local PIP Officer (Prevention, Intervention and Partnership) would attend to offer advice to the residents.

5b. Treasurer's Report

Gordon reported the balance in the account was £4604.73. Payments during the month had included £546 for the War Memorial Plaque, £25.50 for a memorial wreath, and £215 for printing the Autumn Newsletter and flyers for The Green.

5c. Community Safety Forum.

Tim reported back on the recent meeting of the Forum which had been re-activated after a break for Council reorganisation. Items discussed had included the widespread problem of housebreaking, the risks created by the theft of motor cycles in Muirhouse by youths (a matter being handled by Drylaw Police) , dog fouling statistics and planned action by the wardens, and the problem of vegetation growing across footpaths and cycle-ways. It had been agreed that the priority action list for Almond would be reviewed at the February meeting of the Forum.

5d. Health & Community Care Sub Group

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 26 January.

6. Planning issues

6a. 54 Barnton Avenue

It was noted that the planning application is still waiting to be considered by the Development Management sub-Committee.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

Rod reported that the planned public meeting on 16 November had been cancelled at the request of the Community Councils to allow a private discussion about the functioning of the Neighbourhood Partnership. As one outcome it had been agreed that the Community Councils (and presumably the DMSA) would have more influence on the agenda items for meetings. Rod was pleased to report that an application by the Davidson's Mains Pipe Band to the Community Grants Fund for an award to help purchase new equipment had been successful although it was unfortunate that an unforeseen price rise would mean that some of the cost would have to be met by the Band.

8. Local Action List

Rod and Tim reported on a recent meeting with Peter Keggie the new Roads Manager to discuss the Action List. The purpose of the meeting was to gain a common understanding on short term targets which had been agreed with the Locality Manager and the Environment and Transport Manager. The two main priorities were re-painting of road markings at the Quality Street /Queensferry Road junction, scheduled to be done by 31st December, and the problems associated with Lauriston Farm Road, including replacement of the bollards at the Cramond Road South Road junction. It was agreed that it would be useful to have a site visit to Lauriston Farm Road around the third week in January at which time the opportunity could be taken to look at other project locations in the area. Another issue discussed at the meeting had been footpath replacement in Easter Park where the money had been allocated for about 300 m of re surfacing following complaints by residents.

9. Road and Footpath Maintenance

It was noted that full consideration of the roads and footpath repair programme remains outstanding for discussion once the budget process has been completed but in the meantime the committee decided it would be useful to draw up a revised list of the footpaths in the area which were in very poor condition. It was agreed this would be considered at the January meeting with a view to producing a list of the ten locations which were in the worst condition.

10. DMSA Recurring Issue Log

Following discussion it was agreed to add the parking problem at the corner on East Barnton Avenue to the list. There had been further complaints about the situation when football matches were taking place.

11. Newsletter Review

Rod and Charlotte provided feed back on the local reaction the the recent Newsletter . The main issue had been the controversy over the Blue Lights,Christmas Lights and the decision to cancel the switch on ceremony. The other issue which generated some response was the article about parking problems at The Green which had triggered a campaign to introduce parking restrictions at Corbiehill Avenue.

12. Christmas Lights Review

The committee discussed the appalling situation regarding the cancellation of the Christmas Lights on Main Street without prior notification. Letters of complaint had been sent to Andrew Burns, Leader of the Council and Richard Lewis, Convener of the Sports and Culture committee. An apology had subsequently been received from Paul Lawrence, Director of PLACE who apparently accepted full responsibility for the failure to discuss the issue or communicate the decision. Rod advised that Events Insurance Ltd had agreed to refund the payment of the public liability insurance premium subject to the deduction of a management fee which would be requested from the Council as a matter of principle.

13. Broadband Box

The committee discussed the proposal by BT to position a large telecommunications control box for broadband at The Green in relatively close proximity to the War Memorial. Constructive discussions had taken place with Morrison's, the contractor for BT and they had now agreed to move the location of the box about 15 to 20 metres south from the original position. This was considered to be a satisfactory solution. The situation had been confused by the Council approving the original planning application despite numerous objections but a new application would now be submitted for the revised location.

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

Tim had nothing to report on this and the matter was carried forward to the next meeting.

15. Armistice Day Service Review

Rod was pleased to report that all the feed back from the event had been positive.

The committee agreed to make a donation of £100 to the Pipe Band as usual in recognition of their support for the event and also to give a one off payment of £150 to help offset the expenses of replacing equipment.

16. Dogs in Lauriston Castle grounds

Lesley Hinds has still not replied to questions from the Association seeking clarification on Council Policy with regard to the laws on control of dogs in locations such as the grounds of the Castle.

17. Parking in The Green

The committee discussed the feed back from residents to the suggestion that restricted parking should be considered to resolve parking problems at The Green and protect their interests. The general response had been strongly opposed to the idea so it was decided that no further action should be taken for the immediate future, or until the situation got worse.

18. Open Space Maintenance Policy

The committee is still waiting for a reply from the Environment Manager to a letter asking about a number of issues relating to ground maintenance and weed control at Davidson's Mains Park. It was intended to have these matters discussed at the next Friends of the Park meeting in February.

19. Corbiehill Avenue/Corbiehill Road Junction

Rod and Charlotte reported that there had been a number of representations from local residents in support of double yellow lines being introduced at the junction of Corbiehill Avenue and Corbiehill Road. The committee agreed with the residents and decided to make a formal request to get the matter considered.

20. Local Tree Project

Rod reported that the 30 small saplings had been delivered to Davidson's Mains and Cramond Primary Schools and had been planted by the children at the chosen locations at Davidson's Mains School, Davidson's Mains Park and Cramond Foreshore. Discussions were to take place with the Parks Officer regarding the plan to replace missing trees at The Green and in Silverknowes but it appeared that the cost would be a problem.

21. Facebook page for DMSA

This was carried forward until January.

22. AOCB.

22a. The committee discussed the proposal by RBS to close the local branch in June 2017. It was agreed to further consider the matter, including any possible action, at the January meeting.

22b. Tim reported that he had become a member of Cramond and Barnton Community Council. He agreed to circulate relevant introductory training material which he considered would be equally helpful to committee members of the Association.

22c. Charlotte reported that she had received complaints about the activities of a hot food van operating adjacent to the Norhet. Licensing Officers were to check the situation.

22d. Gordon expressed concern about the surface of the lane the lane between Silverknowes Terrace and Cramond Road South which he said could become very slippery. It was decided to check the situation regarding grit bins for the lane.

23. Date of Next Meeting 10 January 2017 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library