

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 12 April 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains
Primary School Library

Chairman – Rod Alexander

1. **Apologies:** Judith Lowther, Gordon McGregor, Laura Thomson, Jackie Chapman, Aileen Venables.

Present: Seonaidh Edgar, Henry Lennox, Brian Flanagan, Tim Mitchell, Charlotte Cowe.

In attendance: Councillors Lindsay Paterson, Alastair Shields and Norman Work;
PC Aidan Douds for the Police Report.

2. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

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

3a. Proposed Local Electoral Ward Boundary Change.

Rod reported that flyers had been distributed to the houses affected by the proposed change and information had been placed on the website.

3b. Parking around the Corbie Café

Councillor Shields advised the committee that parking attendants had visited the area again and he had asked for this to continue until May including evenings and weekends. Rod reported that the matter had been added to the action list for attention from the West Team.

3c. Heavy Lorries accessing Tesco ground at Silverknowes Road Bridge

While the committee do not necessarily support the policy, the Council often leave damaged ground to recover naturally through growth of new grass. It appeared this was the approach being taken for the damage to the grass surface at Silverknowes Road East. It was noted that there had been some recovery and regeneration and the committee decided to take no further action.

3d. Plaque for war memorial

Charlotte reported that she had received an email from Laing's Foundry stating that the plaque would be made and then a site meeting would be arranged to discuss installation.

3e. Planning and Environmental Appeals Division

Charlotte reported that a reply had been received from the Planning and Environmental Appeals Department regarding giving reasons for planning decisions in writing instead of online. The letter stated that very few people want to know the reasons for decisions but re-iterated that the results could be found on the website if required. The committee did not agree with the Council's position but decided to close the matter.

3f. Toilet Facilities at Silverknowes Promenade

It was noted that the toilet facility at Silverknowes had been sold under the contract for sale of the café and would only be available for use by customers.

3g. State of the Beach at Silverknowes.

Rod reported that he had discussed the problem with the Marine Conservation Trust who organise periodic beach cleans. It was now clear that the same section at Cramond was being cleaned and monitored each time for continuity and research and that the exercise did not extend to Silverknowes. The Trust had offered to advise and support any local group who wished to take responsibility for cleaning stretches of the beach. Following discussion it was agreed the Scouts should be contacted as they had previously approached the DMSA regarding possible environment projects.

4. Correspondence

Charlotte reported that all relevant email correspondence from the Council had been circulated by Rod including planning lists. Charlotte had received a reply from Planning and Environmental Appeals Division which has been reported in matters arising.

5. Reports

5a Police Report

PC's Aidan Douds was welcomed to the committee to provide a verbal police report for the month of March. The committee were very pleased to note that there had been a very low level of crime in the area during the month. PC Dowds gave information on a small number of housebreakings and urged residents to take care with security and to remain vigilant.

A request was made for a police representative for the AGM on the 25 May.

5b. Treasurer's Report

Rod reported from Gordon that the balance in the accounts was £4340.99p. Gordon had advised that the preparation of the accounts for the AGM was in hand and he would present them to the May meeting for approval. It was agreed that a submission would be made to the Community Grants Fund for a contribution towards the cost of the recently purchased sound system.

5c. Community Safety Forum

There had not been a recent meeting of the Forum. It was noted that the next meeting would be in June.

6. Planning issues

6a Lauriston Farm Road

It was noted that revised plans to show the means of assured ongoing right of access to the east gate of Lauriston Castle grounds had not yet been received. These would have to be available in association with the necessary re-application for planning approval so the current situation was not a concern at present.

6b Plans for 1200 houses at Craigiehall

Rod provided a report on a meeting which had been arranged by Queensferry CC to allow representatives from local community groups to hear from the company who were acting for the MOD and Lord Roseberry regarding the development of the site. The main issue for the DMSA was that this represented a further extensive development on the north west side of the city without any appropriate investment on infrastructure with a consequential adverse impact on the existing roads network

It was noted that the deadline for comment was the 29th April.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

Rod reported on the meeting of the 9th March. The most significant issue had been a report and discussion on the re-structuring of the Council and the implications for support for community services. The community representatives had expressed strong concerns about the forthcoming changes, particularly regarding what many considered to be an unrealistic timetable. It was noted that the next meeting would be at Davidson's Mains Parish Church Hall on 27th April and would be a public meeting.

8. Local Action List

The committee discussed the current list, particularly the priority items which had been carried over from last year and all of which remained outstanding. It was clear the shortage of technical staff and the re-allocation of manpower to the centralised potholes team was having a serious effect on completion of local projects. Rod said he had discussed the matter again with the Environment Manager and had been advised it was still the intention to allocate a team to Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes within the next few weeks for about three days to clear a number of the priority projects.

9. Road and Footpath Maintenance

The committee noted the local roads which had been included in the 2016 capital renewal programme. It was agreed further discussion would be left until the next planned meeting with the Environment Manager.

10. Pedal for Scotland

It was noted that the main 2016 event would terminate at Ingliston and also that there was no intention to plan the usual local event. The committee welcomed the decision regarding Ingliston although some were disappointed that the local event had been discontinued.

11. Dog Fouling

It was noted that the problem of dog fouling had been discussed at the most recent meeting of the Community Safety Forum and Tim is following up on what action has been taken by the West Team regarding local complaints

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

It was noted that a reply was still awaited from the Environment Manager regarding certain issues which remained outstanding relating to the safety audit of the project. Tim agreed to follow the matter up.

13. Planning for AGM

The committee reviewed the arrangements for the AGM on 25th May. It was noted that everything was in hand regarding the agenda and speakers. Duties for members of the committee would be discussed at the May meeting.

It was agreed individual membership renewal letters would again be sent and consideration would be given to using separate membership application slips with the Spring newsletter to allow more space for news items.

14. Newsletter

The timetable for the Spring Newsletter was discussed. It was agreed it would be distributed to deliverers by the week-end of 7th/8th May which meant that it would need to be ready for printing around Monday 2nd May.

15. AOCB

15a. Charlotte reported that she had just been contacted by a representative of Holy Cross Church regarding a problem with the “Blue Christmas Lights” which appeared to be in an unsafe condition and were presenting a risk to children playing in the grounds. The initial response from the Council had not been helpful and Rod agreed to report it immediately to Clarence stressing the need for urgency.

15b. Charlotte informed the committee of the revised date for the June committee meeting. It would be on 7 June.

15c. Charlotte stated that she would attend the meetings of the Health and Community Care sub group and report back to the committee. The next one was on 27 April.

15d. The committee noted that the Council is actively encouraging the Street Play initiative where streets can be zoned for children to play at certain times. The council is intending to reduce the cost of street closures and simplify the application and approval procedures.

15e. It was noted that there is a loose slab outside the Tanning Salon. Brian agreed to report this to Clarence for attention.

16. Date of Next Meeting 10 May 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson’s Mains Primary School Library.