

**DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION**  
**Management Committee Meeting 10 May 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library**

Chairman – Rod Alexander

1. **Apologies:** Seonaidh Edgar, Gordon McGregor, Councillors Lindsay Paterson and Alastair Shields.

**Present:** Brian Flanagan, Judith Lowther, Jackie Chapman, Henry Lennox, Laura Thomson, Aileen Venables, Charlotte Cowe

In attendance: Councillor Norman Work, P.C. Aidan Douds (Police Report)

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

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

3a. Parking round the Corbie Café

It was noted that the Council is continuing to monitor the situation during May. The long term plan is for double yellow lines on the corner of Main Street with Corbiehill Road.

3b. Plaque for War Memorial

Charlotte provided an update. Laing's Foundry had advised that our request had been delayed due other more urgent work. The company have agreed to provide a mock up of the plaque for consideration at the June committee meeting.

3c. State of the beach at Silverknowes

The Marine Conservation Society had suggested that local groups may be interested in "adopting" a stretch of beach to keep clean. In the first instance it was agreed that the scouts would be contacted to ascertain if this was a project which would interest them.

3d. Dog Fouling

The committee once again discussed the problem of dog fouling. Incidents at the Park and The Green were discussed including an issue relating to commercial dog walkers in charge of a number of dogs and whether they were subject to any licensing regulations. Tim undertook to raise these matters with the wardens at the next meeting of the Community Safety Forum.

3e. Blue Lights at Holy Cross Church grounds

Rod reported that the Council had responded to our request and the blue lights had been removed on safety grounds. The heavy duty cable from the trees to the lamppost is still in position but has been made safe. The situation was now that the Church was requesting that the cable be removed to allow tree pruning to be undertaken.

3f. Health & Community Care sub group

Charlotte stated that she had been obliged to make her apologies for not being able to attend the recent meeting of the group. She will circulate the minutes round the committee.

3g. Loose slab outside Tanning Salon

Brian reported that this the problem had not yet been fixed. There was a query as to whether the businesses in this area are aware that the ground directly outside their premises belongs to them and is their responsibility to maintain. A further response is awaited from the Council.

4. **Correspondence**

The usual email correspondence plus planning lists had been circulated throughout the month. Charlotte reported on the latest correspondence with Planning and Building Standards with regard to 44 Main Street. An updated list of no waiting restrictions on corners around Vivian Terrace, Corbiehill Road and Corbiehill Crescent had been received.

## **5. Reports**

### **5a Police Report**

PC Douds was welcomed to the committee to provide a verbal report for the month of April. The committee were very pleased to note that the recent pattern of low levels of crime had continued. PC Douds advised that the Police were trying to organise a Home Security Event but following discussion, with the light nights coming in and the opportunity for residents to raise local law and order issues at the AGM later in the month the committee suggested that it would be better to hold the event in Autumn. A suitable venue would be required and the committee agreed to help with the funding if that was necessary. The question of press reports of a reduction in community policing was raised but, understandably, PC Douds stated that he was unable to comment.

### **5b. Treasurer's Report**

In Gordon's absence the Chairman presented the 2015/2016 accounts which were formally approved by the committee. Rod reported that the balance in the account was £4240.99.

### **5c. Community Safety Forum**

It was noted that the next meeting is in June which Tim would attend.

## **6. Planning issues**

### **6a. Craigiehall Village**

Rod reported back on the public display he had attended at Queensferry and the discussions he had had with representatives of the lead company for the development (RFA). The main concern was the impact of the additional traffic on the Queensferry Road corridor and the resulting detrimental impact on our area. These concerns had been fully described in a letter from the Association to the RFA.

## **7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership**

Rod reported on the recent public meeting of the Almond Partnership on 27 April which had been in Davidson's Mains. The meeting had provided an opportunity for Peter Strong, who had recently been appointed as the Manager for the new North West area, to introduce himself and to talk about the restructuring of Council Services. His main message was for the public to be patient and understanding until the changes could start to take effect. He acknowledged the current difficulties but said that he expected things to be much better once things had settled down during the course of the year. A number of residents had raised local issues with potholes and footpath repairs generating the most comment, including the concerns that priority for repairs was being directed to other parts of the city.

## **8. Local Action List**

Rod reported on recent discussions with the Environment Manager about the complete lack of progress on items on our action list, including priority items which had been carried over from financial year 2015/16. The difficulty was the lack of technical staff and manpower which had been transferred to other parts of the city and which had made an underlying problem even worse. Assurances had been given that once resources were available a high priority would be given to certain local projects although some, such as bollard work would have to wait longer.

## **9. Road and Footpath Maintenance**

It was agreed this item would be carried forward. The plan would be for discussions to take place with the future Environment Manager after an appointment had been made.

## **10. Planning for AGM**

The committee discussed and approved the detailed arrangements for the AGM on 25th May, including individual responsibilities for the event. Aileen intimated that with reluctance she would need to stand down from the committee and role of Deputy Chair due to pressure of work. Following discussion she was asked to remain as a committee member and agreed to give the matter consideration prior to the AGM. Rod thanked her on behalf of the committee for all she had done as deputy chair since taking over in 2014.

All the other committee members and office holders intimated that they were willing to stand again for re-election for a further year.

## **11 Design Review of Barnton Avenue/Cramond Road South Junction**

Tim reported on correspondence he had received from Bryan Mackie who was the new project manager for the remaining work yet to be completed on the project. Tim had received confirmation that the items which were outstanding from the Stage 3 Safety Audit and certain road marking issues identified from the Design Review would all be carried out in advance of the stipulated closure date on the contract for payment of the final retention moneys to the contractor.

## **12 Progress on the proposed Almond Community Safety Panel**

Tim reported back on the inaugural meeting of The Almond Community Safety Panel which had been re-activated. The priority for the Panel will be principally to provide a forum for Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators to discuss local policing issues and priorities and to engage with the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership sub group for policing and community safety.

## **13. Mackenzies**

The committee noted that Aileen had set up a meeting between the new tenant of the pub with herself, Charlotte and Laura to discuss the management of the pub in relation to the interests of nearby residents. The committee welcomed the fact that the new tenant had indicated she very much wished to make the premises an attractive local asset and to be a good neighbour to local residents. It was agreed that Charlotte and Laura would provide feedback to the June meeting.

## **14. RHS Athletic Club**

Rod reported back on a meeting which had been held for Robin Boog, the Chair of the club to present his case for wishing to revise the opening hours for the club to local residents and other interested parties. It had been a highly contentious meeting with strong opinions being expressed on both sides of the debate. Following discussion by the committee it was agreed that the formal position of the committee would continue to be that any future planning application would be considered on its merits when submitted.

## **15. AOCB.**

A request had been received from Eunice for a notice board at the child playpark specifically for children. The committee agreed to ask Eunice for more details to be discussed at a future meeting.

## **16. Next meeting to be held in Davidson's Mains Primary School on 7 June at 6.45 pm.**