

**DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION**  
**Management Committee Meeting 7 June 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library**

**1. Appointment of chair for meeting**

Tim Mitchell agreed to chair the meeting

**2. Apologies:** Rod Alexander, Councillor Lindsay Paterson, Brian Flanagan.

**Present:** Charlotte Cowe, Judith Lowther, Seonaidh Edgar, Gordon McGregor, Henry Lennox, Laura Thomson.

**In attendance:** Councillors Alastair Shields, Norman Work; PC Gavin Mears (for the police report).

It was noted with great sadness that Jackie Chapman had passed away.

The committee agreed to send flowers with a letter of appreciation for her support to Aileen Venables following her decision to stand down following the AGM.

A warm welcome was extended to Coll Gardner who has offered to sit on the committee.

**3.1 Minutes.** The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

**3.2 Matters arising** (excluding items scheduled for later discussion)

**3a. Parking round the Corbie Café**

Councillor Shields advised the committee that data gathered by parking attendants over a two week period had been passed to the police for assessment. Concern was expressed that parking attendants had not always been available at the times we had expected.

**3b. Plaque for War Memorial**

Charlotte confirmed that she was still waiting to hear from the brassfounders and the matter was carried forward. It was not urgent at present.

**3c. State of the beach at Silverknowes**

It was noted that Rod had contacted the Scouts about the possibility of them adopting a section of the beach as an environmental project. They had expressed some interest and there was to be further discussion after the summer holidays.

**3d. Dog Fouling**

Tim provided feedback from the last meeting of the Almond Community Safety Forum at which he had raised the matter. Margaret Laing, Chair of the Forum, had confirmed there were rules for professional dog walkers about access although this did not address the problem of dog fouling. Following discussion about local problems, including The Green and Lauriston Castle, it was agreed to discuss further action at our September meeting.

**3e. Blue Lights at Holy Cross Church grounds**

Rod had provided a note for the committee on the present situation. The section of the blue lights which had been breaking up had been removed by the Council but the heavy duty cable feed from the street light and the remnants of blue lights which are attached to the trunk and main branches are still in place. The cabling is electrically isolated and safe. A decision was taken to contact the Rector on an informal basis to discuss the possibility of replacing the lights to have the benefit of a display at this location

**3f. Loose slab outside Tanning Salon.**

Brian was not available for comment so the item held over to next meeting.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Charlotte advised that a reply had been received from the Council in response to our complaint about the withdrawal of Horsburgh bus 64. The council reply was as expected stating that the subsidy per passenger was too high due to poor patronage of the service and could no longer be justified.

#### **5. Reports**

##### **5a Police Report**

PC Gavin Mears was welcomed to the meeting to provide a verbal police report for May. The committee were pleased to note that the general level of crime had been very low in a continuation of the pattern over recent months. There was discussion about reports received by the DMSA about inconsiderate behaviour by cyclists on the local pathway and PC Mears asked for details to be forwarded so that a visible police presence could be made in the area.

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

Gordon reported that the balance in the account was £5216.49. This included about £1200 in membership subscriptions and a cost of £195 for printing the recent newsletter.

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

Tim reported on the local policing priorities which had been agreed at the recent meeting of the Forum. These were housebreaking, anti social behaviour and driving offences. He reported that there had been an indication from the police that more priority was to be given to community engagement. Tim provided an update on the re-constituted Almond Community Safety Panel. Its objective would be to co-ordinate activities of local Neighbourhood Watch Groups and their contacts with the police.

##### **5d. Health & Community Care Sub Group**

The committee noted the minutes of the recent meeting including the fact that progress on the development of the Forget-me-not garden at Lauriston Castle was very slow.

#### **6. Planning issues**

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

There was nothing to report for the present.

#### **7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership**

Rod had asked the committee to note two particular issues.

The first is that a retrospective claim against the Community Grants Fund for 50% of the costs of the sound system remains to be done. It will be a modest claim for about £200. It was noted that the normal procedure for awards was that applications should be made in advance. As an alternative, and after the experience at the AGM, the committee agreed to apply for a grant to cover the cost of purchase of additional microphones to enhance the capability of the system

The second item to note was that information has been circulated for a repeat of the Youth Decides initiative where a sum of £2000 is set aside from the Community Grants Fund for awards to youth projects on which young people make the decisions. The DMSA would need to try to encourage applications from youth organisations in the area.

#### **8. Local Action List and 9. Road and Footpath Maintenance**

It was noted that the programme of local actions is in abeyance with the Council restructuring, shortage of engineers and other staff and the priority being given to city centre work. It remains the case that we have had assurances about our priority work being undertaken as soon as resources are available. Once the new Environment Manager is appointed a meeting would be arranged to go over the whole programme and re-establish where we are with priorities and other work.

## **10. Newsletter review**

The committee discussed the response to the recent newsletter and noted that it had been generally positive. The state of local roads and footpaths had been the main topic in feedback from residents. Charlotte confirmed that by the end of the month an individual reply would be given to all residents who had contacted us and who had given their contact details.

## **11. AGM review**

The committee discussed the recent AGM and noted that most of the feedback had been positive. One problem had been that some in the audience had complained afterwards that they could not hear speakers who were not using the microphone and next year there would be a commitment to all speakers using the microphone.

## **12. Membership Renewal Update**

Charlotte provided a progress report on membership renewals. There had been 248 members from 2015-2016 of which 155 had renewed to date. There had been 14 applications from new members. Membership applications and renewals were still being received and it was agreed reminder letters would be sent out around the end of the month.

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

Tim reported that it was hoped to arrange a date shortly to have the outstanding snagging issue dealt with and to allow this matter to be closed.

## **14. Mackenzies**

Charlotte reported that she and Aileen met with Mrs. Maria McGovern the new landlady of the pub. It had been very positive and there appeared to be no grounds for concern about the future management and the maintenance of good order.

## **15. 64 Bus**

The committee discussed the withdrawal of the number 64 Horsburgh bus. It had been clear from communications with local residents that the main concern was that it provided the only direct bus link between Silverknowes and the services in Davidson's Mains village and was appreciated by elderly residents. It was agreed the committee would pursue this matter to see if a direct link could be provided by diverting or extending other services.

## **16. Tracking council performance for recurring problems**

The committee gave full support to an offer by Tim for him to operate and maintain a log of issues to keep a formal record of details, progress and outcomes. It was recognised that the log would be of particular benefit on recurring problems. The log would be public and would serve to let residents know that we had issues in hand.

## **17. AOCB.**

17a. Laura mentioned all day parking in The Green making it difficult for residents to park. Norman suggested that this could be zoned and residents pay for a permit. He agreed to obtain information which could be discussed by the committee at the next meeting.

17b. A complaint was noted regarding cyclists travelling along Silverknowes Drive/Terrace at speed. It was suggested that slow signs should be erected to warn cyclists to slow down in this area. Tim agreed to pursue the matter.

17c. Charlotte had received an email regarding a letter sent in objection to a Nursing Home being built on waste ground on Hillhouse Road east of the junction with Strachan Road. The committee agreed that this was not in our area but would be interested in the outcome of the planning application.

## **18. Date of Next Meeting 13 September 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library**