

Chairman Rod Alexander

1. **Apologies:** Brian Flanagan, Gordon McGregor.
2. **Present:** Coll Gardner, Judith Lowther, Tim Mitchell, Laura Thomson, Seonaidh Edgar, Charlotte Cowe ; Cllrs.Lindsay Patterson, Alastair Shields, Norman Work ; PC.Jim Loosemore (for Police Report only).

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

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

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

Alastair provided an update report on the problem but it was noted that the Police had not yet provided their analysis of the problem and that was required before any further consideration could be given to the question of statutory parking restrictions at the location . Alastair undertook to pursue this matter with the Police.

3b. State of the beach at Silverknowes (item 3b in minutes)

It was agreed that this matter would be carried forward to the Spring when the Scouts would be asked again if they would be interested in taking on a stretch of the beach as an environmental project. Tim reminded the committee that the steward of Lauriston Castle was looking for volunteer help in the glasshouses and Rod agreed to ask the scouts if they may be interested.

3c. Blue Lights at Holy Cross Church grounds (Item 3c in minutes)

The committee had a full discussion about the problems with the Blue Lights and it was accepted that with the doubts about who had responsibility for any liability and risk there had been no option other than to cancel the switch-on event for the Christmas Lights . Correspondence with the Church was ongoing but it was also accepted that there may be a requirement to remove the lights from the trees and such a development would raise further questions about who should cover the cost. The committee again expressed its full support for the idea that it would be appropriate for an Events Committee to be raised from interested individuals and groups from the community to plan and manage the event for next and subsequent years .

3d. Loose slab outside Tanning Salon (Item 3d in minutes)

The committee were appreciative of the role of the staff in the Tanning Salon in ensuring that the broken slab had been repaired outside the premises. It was agreed that Charlotte would send a letter of thanks.

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

Lindsay reported that she was still waiting for a response from the Council regarding the wider issue of monitoring for risk of rock falls at certain locations across the city. The matter was carried forward.

3f. Recycling Bins Tesco (item 18a in minutes)

Charlotte reported that the Council had claimed that they had not received the letter of complaint about mis-management of the waste paper re-cycling facility at Tesco. It had been re-sent by email and had now been acknowledged but a response was still awaited. The delay had permitted ongoing monitoring of the site and it was noted that a full two weeks had elapsed between a subsequent report to Clarence and the contents being uplifted by which time there was much loose waste paper lying at the site. Tim agreed to seek the views of the Manager at Tesco about the problem. It was noted that the Council had not yet provided hard standing for the unmade ground between the car park and paved area at the waste bins at Silverknowes. They had given an assurance it would be given priority before the winter and Rod undertook to raise the issue again with the Environment Manager.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Charlotte reported on the exchanges of correspondence with the Secretary of the Vestry Committee of the Episcopal Church ( as detailed in item 3c) and other correspondence with the Council. As always, all relevant correspondence had been forwarded to the committee.

#### **5. Reports**

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

PC Loosemore attended to provide a verbal report on the previous month's crime statistics. He could not break down the figures for our area but there were 54 crimes reported in the whole beat which also covered Cramond. Operation RAC is still targeting housebreaking and is operating with dedicated officers in both plain clothes and uniform throughout the city. The main problem discussed was the theft of motor cycles in Muirhouse and Pilton and the police efforts to try to stop them. The police helicopter is used whenever necessary and there has been success in locating the bikes and thieves. It was noted by the committee that from press reports there had been over 30 arrests. Other matters raised were the problem of cars speeding on local roads and the recent spate of egg throwing. There was discussion about the best way to contact local officers following recent changes and PC Loosemore confirmed that it was best to do so by using the Almond police mail box as this is monitored all day.

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

In Gordon's absence Rod reported that the balance in the account was £5391.23. The only payment made in the past month had been £209 for the public liability insurance for the Christmas Lights.

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

Tim reported that a meeting had been arranged with Jim Connor to try to reactivate the forum. There was nothing immediate to report.

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

Charlotte advised that the next meeting is on 26 January 2017.

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

##### **6a. 5 Vivian Terrace**

It was noted that the planning application for this had been approved. A number of conditions had been set but it was now likely that the new property would be built. The matter is now closed.

##### **6b. 54 Barnton Avenue**

Charlotte confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Planning Department to inform them of resident's concerns regarding the taking down of mature trees for this development. The planning application for a new property on the site had not yet been considered by the Development Management Sub-Committee.

##### **6c. 16 Barnton Avenue**

It was noted that a full planning application had been submitted for a new house to be built in the rear garden of the property. Approval had previously been given in principle and this was the follow up detailed design. The committee were not minded to comment.

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

Rod advised that the public meeting of the Partnership scheduled for 16 November had been delayed until 30 November. At the request of the Community Council's on the Partnership, the Convenor had agreed to the 16 November now being used for a private business meeting to discuss the implications of Council cuts and re-structuring on the operation of the Partnership and the difficulties for Community Councils and Community groups in trying to represent the interests of local residents.

Rod reported that The Davidson's Mains Pipe band has asked the Association to support an application to the Community Grants Fund for the purchase of new equipment to replace worn out items. The committee were fully supportive of our involvement with a very worthy and justifiable application to the fund. The need for new equipment reflected the significant success of the band in attracting new members.

## **8. Local Action List**

Rod confirmed that the updated Action List would shortly be posted on the notice board and website. It was important to let residents know of revised target dates which had been agreed for some long standing delayed projects.

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

Rod again confirmed it was the intention to request a meeting with the newly appointed Roads Manager to discuss the latest capital programme for roads and footpaths in the area, although the programme would be dependent on the budget process going through the Council at present. It was resolved to keep the matter on the agenda until it is resolved.

## **10. DMSA Recurring Issue Log**

Tim reported that there were no additions to the log,

## **11. Newsletter**

Rod reported that the Newsletter would be going to the printer on Wednesday 9 November with a view to getting the bundles to deliverers by the weekend after this date.

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

Tim reported that a date has still to be decided to complete the work to correct the remaining snagging issues at the junction and the crossing. He has been informed that the work will necessitate the use of temporary traffic lights.

## **13. Armistice Day Service**

Charlotte advised the committee that the organisation of the event was in hand and all the relevant organisations and people have been contacted and informed . The police had confirmed they would be on duty to stop the traffic and Rod agreed to ask the Council if the bleeper at the pedestrian crossing could be silenced for the duration of the service. Brian had asked for his family's thanks to the DMSA to be minuted as they were delighted with the plaque and the recognition his brother has received. In his absence Brian was thanked for his comments which were appreciated but for the record the committee wished it to be recorded that this had been considered as a matter of principle and the correction of a long standing injustice.

## **14. Parking in The Green**

Rod reported that an article regarding this problem has been written for the Newsletter. The Council refer to this kind of parking as priority parking and in other areas of the city the cost for a resident's parking permit ranges from £38 to £95 per annum depending on vehicle emissions. Residents would be asked for their opinions about such proposals and the responses would help to inform the committee on whether any action should be pursued.

## **15. Open Space Maintenance Policy**

Charlotte reported that the Environment Manager had been asked for an explanation of Council Policy regarding a number of aspects of ground maintenance at Davidson's Mains Park, including grass cutting and weed control. This followed complaints from residents over the summer and the intention was to have these matters reviewed before spring 2017. It was recognised the Friends of the Park would have a significant interest in any discussions and they would be invited to participate.

## **16. Local Tree Project**

Following on from last month's discussion when it was discovered that the trees being supplied were too small to be placed in an urban environment it was reported that the 30 small trees had been divided between Cramond and Davidson's Mains Primary School's. The 15 for Cramond were to be planted in a secure location close to the beach and of the 15 for Davidson's Mains, 6 were to be planted in the grounds of the school, and the other 9 were to be planted at a quiet location in the Park. Discussion about replacing damaged and missing trees in the area was continuing but the cost for larger trees was a problem.

## **17. Dogs in Lauriston Castle grounds**

The committee were informed that a letter has been sent to Councillor Lesley Hinds asking her for clarification of the law in relation to dogs and Lauriston Castle grounds, specifically:

1. Is a ban on dogs using the grounds of the castle possible under any of the exemptions to the 2003 Act ? We have been advised that exemptions apply elsewhere in the city.
2. Is it possible to insist that dogs in the grounds of the castle must be kept on a leash?

3. As a compromise, would it be possible to have part of the grounds fenced off to create a “dog free zone”?

This approach was merely to establish the official Council view on these options to allow further discussion.

#### **18. Facebook page for DMSA**

The committee again discussed the case for the Association setting up a Facebook page as a means of reaching out to younger people. It was stressed this would not affect the way the committee currently operates (by communication by email) nor would it change the other methods we use to communicate with local residents. Laura agreed to set up a page which would initially operate as a closed system for restricted access to gain experience by the committee in how it would operate before it was made open access.

#### **19. AOCB.**

19(a) Donation to animal charity in memory of Jackie Chapman .

The committee discussed the sad passing of Jackie who had been an active member of the committee for several years and there was support for the expression of concern that there had not been any opportunity for any of Jackie’s friends or acquaintances to pay their respects.

Accordingly, as a mark of respect and in her memory, the committee decided to make a collection for a donation to be made to an animal charity known to have been supported by Jackie. This was a private matter for the committee but is minuted for the record because some local residents have expressed the same concerns to the committee.

19 (b) Tim advised of social media reports of a humming noise in Silverknowes which can be heard at night. He undertook to ask those reporting the noise where they stay to see if this can provide any clue as to the possible source of the problem.

19 (c). Laura raised the ongoing problem of the salt bin at the bus terminus on Silverknowes Road. The problem is that the contents of the bin have become consolidated into a solid clump with water on top and the bin is being avoided by Council workmen who replenish the bins. The problem was reported several times last winter and is still not resolved. The solution is to provide a new bin and to fill it. Rod undertook to pursue the issue. It was known there had been complaints to the Council from local residents and the current situation was not acceptable.

#### **20. Date of Next Meeting 13 December 2016 at 6.45 pm in Davidson’s Mains Primary School Library**