

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Management Committee Meeting 10 January 2017 at 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School Library

Chairman Rod Alexander

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

In Attendance: Cllrs. Lindsay Paterson, Alastair Shields, Norman Work; Sgt. Richard Homewood and PC Jim Loosemore for the Police Report.

A welcome was extended to Carolyn Williams who was co-opted onto the committee.

3.1. Minutes: These were approved as a true record subject to a minor clarification regarding the operation of the Police PIP Officer.

3.2 Matters arising (excluding items scheduled for later discussion)

3a. Parking round the Corbie Café

Rod confirmed this matter would be discussed at a forth coming meeting he and Tim were to have with the Roads Manager.

3b. Rock falls onto roadways, footpaths and cycle paths

Lindsay reported she was still waiting for a reply to the query about policies for monitoring the condition of rock faces adjacent to roads and footpaths and the matter was carried forward.

3c. Recycling Bins Tesco

It was noted that our complaint to Lesley Hinds about the management of the waste paper recycling container had been referred to the company contracted to operate the facility for a response. A reminder had been sent to Cllr.Hind's office.

3d.Proposed Closure of RBS Branch Office .

Following discussion it was agreed to make a formal complaint to RBS about the planned closure of the local branch and the impact on local residents. The committee noted that the location of the Association Notice Board within the RBS cartilage was an issue that would have to be addressed.

3e. Hot food van at The Norhet.

Charlotte reported that it appeared that hot food van was no longer operating but she was still waiting for a reply from Environmental Health regarding our concerns about the matter. She agreed to report back to the next meeting.

3f. Lane between Silverknowes Terr and Cramond Rd South (item 22d in minutes)

Following discussion it appeared that the grit bin which had previously been positioned at the Cramond Road South end of the lane was no longer present .It was agreed to request a replacement in view of the complaints about the slippery nature of the path on the steep section near the crossing.

4. Correspondence

Charlotte updated the committee on recent matters of correspondence. All significant issues were already in hand or were otherwise covered on the agenda.

5. Reports

5a Police Report

Sgt. Richard Holmwood and PC Jim Loosemore were welcomed to the meeting to provide the verbal police report for December. The committee welcomed the fact that the total number of crimes in the area had been relatively low and that this had particularly been the case with anti social behaviour, house breaking and the impact of motor bike crime which had all been matters of concern in previous months. Sgt Holmwood advised that the problem of vandalism and damage to vehicles at Silverknowes Neuk had been resolved by the residents closing of access from the cycle path and there had been no need for a PIP officer to get involved. Sgt Holmwood advised that it had been agreed in principle to reinstate written police reports and this was very much welcomed by the committee. He asked what content the committee would like to see in the report and it was agreed this would be discussed at the February meeting.

5b. Treasurer's Report

In Gordon's absence Rod reported that the balance in the account was £4477.39, with no significant transactions in December.

5c. Community Safety Forum

Tim advised that the next meeting of the forum will be on 16 February and confirmed that the intention would be to re-set current policing priorities which had not been reviewed for some time. He also reported on the Community Safety Panel and its activities in relation to Neighbourhood Watches. From the committees perspective it was reassuring to note that the police are closely liaising with Neighbourhood Watch Groups although Tim described how steps were being taken to encourage more existing groups to become more active.

5d. Health & Community Care Sub Group

Charlotte advised that the next meeting of the group was planned for 26 January.

6. Planning issues

6a. 54 Barnton Avenue

It was noted that the current application had been withdrawn.

6b. Lauriston Farm House

Charlotte reported that the proposals for modification and upgrading to the farm house had been approved, including the new access road. Previously the committee had represented concerns from residents and the custodian of the Castle (Mike Durnan) about the need to ensure that there was continued access to the east gate in view of the fact that the new access path was shown to cut across the existing access path to the gate. This was particularly needed for coach parties requiring access from the Toby car park and Rod agreed to contact Mike Durnan to check that he was content with the approved plans.

7. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership

Rod reported that the next meeting of the Partnership was a business meeting on 25th January.

8. Local Action List

Rod reported that he and Tim were to meet with Peter Keggie, Roads Manager, to discuss the design and positioning of replacement bollards at the junction of Lauriston Farm Road with Cramond Road South and it was intended that the opportunity would be taken to look at the location of other projects on the list to familiarise Peter Keggie with the area. The committee were concerned that re-painting of the road markings at the junction of Quality Street with Queensferry Road remained outstanding despite a promise to get the work done by the end of December, particularly given the road safety implications.

9. Road and Footpath Maintenance

Following discussion the committee again recognised the need for an updated list of the roads and footpaths in the area which were considered to be in worst condition. This matter had been delayed from last year but was now a priority and it was agreed a provisional list would be considered at the February meeting. Rod agreed to circulate an email for committee members to contribute suggestions.

10. DMSA Recurring Issue Log

Tim provided an update on the items on the log, including the recent addition of the request for double yellow lines on the corner of East Barnton Avenue to prevent parking when football is being played in the park. The committee recognised that the log was a useful means of maintaining a record for future reference of issues which had been raised with the Council but for which action had been refused.

11. Christmas Lights Review

The committee discussed a range of issues following the travails of the programme for 2016 which had ultimately resulted in the cancellation by the Council of Christmas Lights on Main Street without any prior notification. The following was decided.

11.1. It was not known if the unsafe Blue Lights had been removed as promised. Rod said he would check this as soon as possible.

11.2 It was noted that reimbursement had not yet been received for the third party liability insurance payment. Charlotte said she would follow this up.

11.3. It was noted that a reply was still awaited from the Director of PLACE regarding our further complaints to him about the activities of the Council and our request for compensation for the admin costs deductible from the insurance policy.

11.4 It was agreed that discussions around all aspects of any possible programme for Christmas 2017 should be deferred until February when the Council's intended funding provision would be clearer.

12. Broadband Box at The Green

Following discussion it was noted that the next step would be for BT to submit a revised planning application for the agreed revised location for the control box. As an associated issue, Rod reported that a resident had raised the issue of the waste bin being close to the Memorial and it was agreed to give consideration to moving it to a position nearer to Main Street.

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

Tim reported that the traffic management arrangements necessary for completion of the outstanding remedial problems had now been agreed and he anticipated the work would finally be completed within the next two or three weeks.

14. Dogs in Lauriston Castle grounds

It was noted that while a reply had been received from Councillor Lesley Hinds regarding clarification on the interpretation of Council Policies regarding the rights of dog owners under current legislation, it had not really addressed the matters we had asked about and she would be asked for a further response .

15. Open Space Maintenance Policy

It was noted that a reply is still outstanding from the Transport and Environment Manager regarding aspects of ground maintenance policy, particularly in relation to Davidson's Mains Park. It was planned to discuss the matter at the next meeting of the Friends of the Park group in February and it was hoped a reply would be received shortly.

16. Corbiehill Avenue/Corbiehill Road Junction

Charlotte provided an update on the issue. A formal complaint had been made by the Association to which a reply had been received confirming that a traffic survey would be put in hand. It was agreed that Charlotte should feed this information back to those residents who had contacted the Association.

17. Local Tree Project

This issue was carried forward pending discussions about costs.

18. Facebook page for DMSA

This matter was carried forward to the February meeting to give Laura time to look at the issues.

19. AOCB.

19a. Laura raised the issue of three street lights being out of operation on Ferry Road near the junction with Silverknowes Road East . It was agreed this would be reported on Clarence. This led to further discussion about how dark it was in the vicinity of the new pedestrian crossing on Ferry Road, just east of the junction with Silverknowes Neuk. It appeared that part of the problem was due to at light from two lampposts being cut out by tall trees in the curtilage of the properties at Silverknowes Neuk and it was agreed Charlotte would raise this with the Manager for Street Lighting. In addition there was a broader concern about the design of lighting for the crossing and the need for more visibility for the protection of pedestrians at a busy location. This had been raised previously by the committee, including the possible question of traffic light controls, and this would be raised again with the Transport and Environment Manager.

19b.Charlotte reported that an email request for assistance with technical problems on the website had been successful and the matter had been resolved. The help from the member had been very much appreciated and this was supported by the committee.

19c.The committee were fully supportive of a request by Charlotte for a contribution of £40.00 towards the cost of a new printer given the high volume of printing attributable to the work of the Association.

19d.The committee agreed to a request by Tim to draw up a programme of dates and events for the remainder of the year. This would be discussed at the February meeting. .

19e.The committee supported a suggestion by Tim to consider seeking sponsorship from local businesses for Christmas decorations in the village.

19f. Brian raised the issue of the published programme for household waste collections only up until February. Norman said that he was unaware of any proposed changes to the programme but agreed to check the situation.

20. Date of Next Meeting 7 February 2017 6.45 pm in Davidson's Mains Primary School.