

# DAVIDSON'S MAINS AND SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2011 at Davidson's Mains Primary School

**Chairman:** Rod Alexander

**Minutes:** Keith Hannay

**Present:** Jo Butt, Jackie Chapman, Charlotte Cowe, Keith Hannay, Patricia McCulloch, Gordon McGregor, Eunice Smith

**In Attendance:** Councillors Kate MacKenzie and Norman Work

### **Lauriston Farmland initiative**

Before the formal business of the meeting a presentation was made by Kirsty Sutherland concerning possible usage of the Council-owned land in the area surrounding Lauriston Farm. She had gained experience in agriculture based community projects at Craigie Farm and considered that a viable alternative to allotments could be introduced by way of a mix of a commercial fruit orchard and community land which she would manage. She believed that social enterprise and Forestry Commission start-up funding for this could be obtained. The land lay on registered farmland which restricted the uses to which it could be put. Committee members reviewed the proposal and posed questions on funding, management, security etc and considered the plan well thought through and offered to assist in any public consultation. Ms Sutherland's next step was to continue discussion with the Council on the lease of the land, currently on a one-year rolling basis which was too short, and on the potential use of the old farmhouse, currently vacant and deteriorating.

### **1. Apologies**

Mary Rose Caden, Seonaidh Edgar, Heather MacNaughton, Councillor George Grubb

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 September 2011 were approved.

### **3. Matters Arising**

**a) The Green** – work on the bollards and replacement lighting had been completed, with the latter seen as a good example of co-operation between local residents and the Council. There were no outstanding matters apart from work at the War Memorial where the appointed contractor for Craigleith stone slabbing had failed. This work would be postponed until after the Armistice Day service next month.

**b) April 2012 meeting** – the Church of Scotland Hall had now been booked for 10 April.

**c) Parking** problems continued at the entrance to DM Park and differing views were expressed. Jo Butt stated that he could not represent the views of the majority of the Committee at the Friends of DM Park meeting and it was agreed that this should be carried out by Eunice Smith.

**d) Planning permission** for 19 Main Street – it was thought likely that this would be turned down in the light of traffic objections from City Development.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Letter from the Council re the 7 ton weight limit at the old railway bridge to Ferry Road.

#### **5. Reports**

**a) Police:** A brief written report was presented in the absence of attendance by L&BP. Lesley Abbott had relayed thanks for the opportunity of attending the previous meeting in connection with youths at the Barnton Lawn Tennis Club. The police had added it to their patrol matrix. It was considered that the fall in nuisance there and around Tesco was largely seasonal. There was to be a community meeting between representatives of Tesco, the Council and the police. A letter was noted that had been circulated by a resident of Barnton Gardens regarding vigilance against the theft of lead.

**b) Treasurer:** Balance on current account - £4,811.94 with £26 due to be deducted for a wreath for the Armistice Day ceremony. A revised presentation of the previous year's accounts was tabled presenting the liability for fund matching for the Woodland Grant by way of a note. It was agreed to remit this to the Chairman, the Treasurer, Eunice Smith and Keith Hannay to finalise. Funds held in the junior association account on behalf of the youth group had now been transferred into their own account in the name of the Rannoch Association and the former would now be closed.

**c) Friends of Davidson's Mains Park:** The Woodland Management Plan had been issued and would be presented to the next meeting of the Friends on 20 November. Work continued on dealing with invasive non-native species, typically Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. These should be removed wherever seen as, while quite easy to uproot, they were beginning to seed. Notices regarding the potential fine of £50 for littering had been erected in the area of the Park. The Council litter clear-up at lunchtime around the High School was being reduced. Mrs Smith again appealed for information on any local features that were regarded to be heritage interest.

#### **6. Almond Partnership**

The new Community Plan had been issued on the day of the meeting and would be circulated. Some local concerns were not fully reflected such as traffic issues and it was agreed to review the document at the next Meeting

Severe Weather Initiative. The Council had published revised gritting and bus routing details so that they all ran on priority 1 roads in bad conditions; further details had also been published including gritting plans, location of of gritting bins and clarification of public liability when pavements were cleared of snow. These details will appear on the Council website and would be included on the DMSA website.

#### **7. Newsletter**

It was proposed to issue a newsletter at the end of October or early November; this would be circulated with the Council's severe weather leaflets, which would be available at the same time.

#### **8. Christmas lights**

Jackie Chapman was awaiting a response to a request for the Royal High School choir to attend on 2nd December. Charlotte Cowe is to confirm that the Holy Cross Church Hall is available that evening. A quote for insurance for the Christmas lighting for £202 had been received. It was agreed

that Messrs Gordon and Work should look at alternatives used elsewhere.

### **9. Mackenzie's**

There had been little improvement in the noise situation. There was continued correspondence between a local resident and a representative of Trust Inns, the owner. It was noted that the Norhet had a notice regarding extension of opening hours and that this should be reviewed further

### **10. Tesco**

Largely covered earlier in the meeting. Maintenance of the path continued, if sporadically.

### **11. Membership**

It was reported that out of a total of approximately 2,000 households, 143 were members of the Association and that 103 had lapsed. Peak membership had been approximately 250. Various strategies for addressing lapsed members were discussed and it was agreed in general that an increase was highly desirable from whatever source.

**12. Theft of Lead.** This had been dealt with under the police report

### **13. Safer Routes to School**

Aileen Venables reported concerns about lorries manoeuvring on the pavement at Black Moon Lighting at times when schoolchildren were going to and from the primary school and enquired if bollards could be installed. It was agreed that she should communicate with Cllr Work on this matter.

### **14. AOCB**

The Chairman confirmed that he would represent the Association at the forthcoming armistice Sir ceremony

**Date of next meeting** – 8 November 2011 at Davidson's Mains Primary School