

LOCHNINNOCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2004

PRESENT: C.Fraser (chair), G,McKee, A.McKee, J.Farquhar, M.McGuffie, B.Brown, D. Mellor

APOLOGIES: D.Arthur; arrived late: G.Reynolds, R.Neilson.

NON—MEMBERS: J. Kirriemuir, R.McCutcheon, P.C. Tracey Knox—McLean, Cllr.A.Nimmo, C.Gould, C.Woodward, R.Milne, T.Milligan, G.Blair, E.McIver, S.Morrison; and from Roads Dept., Renfrewshire Council: Iain Hamilton (Director), Peter Low (Structures Engineer), Robert McArthur (Asst.Principal Engineer).

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING were read and approved - proposed A.McKee, seconded J. Farquhar.

ROADS DEPT.DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANTS were then questioned, principally on the matter of the weak bridge in Main Street and also on other matters.

1. A full survey of the bridge has not been carried out, but it is believed to be too weak to take the weight of vehicles exceeding 7.5 tonnes,
2. Repair may be possible; in the worst case, replacement of the bridge is roughly estimated at £480,000.
3. The budget for Roads Maintenance is separate from that for Capital Expenditure; due to the amount of money required, repair or replacement of the bridge would come from the Capital Budget.
4. Neither repair nor replacement of the bridge is listed in the Capital Programme for the next five years.
5. Requests for funding have been made to the Scottish Executive, but have not received a favourable response.
6. The diversionary route, over the hump—backed bridge, and along Lochlip Road and Church Street, was considered by the Roads Dept. to be adequate, despite the fact that the hump-backed bridge had not been surveyed to establish its weight-carrying capacity. Concerns expressed re the congestion and danger of sending heavy vehicles along this route were dismissed by the Director, who expressed the opinion that the problem could be solved by forbidding residents' parking along this route. When asked what alternative parking should be used, he was only able to suggest "further up Church Street".
7. The Director suggested that the Community Council, and any concerned individuals, should write to the Minister for Transport, Nicol Stephens, M.S.P., and to our local representative, Trish Godman, M.S.P., to request their support for any further applications for funding. The question was asked: "if funding is received by the Roads Dept., would it be ring-fenced for this bridge?" and the reply was that this would probably not be the case.
8. On the matter of the diversion of traffic from A737 when that road is e.g. blocked by an accident, the officers advised the community to put pressure on the police to avoid this. The officers from the Roads Dept. then left the meeting.

CO-OPTION of John Kirriemuir was proposed by Robert Neilson and seconded by Charles Fraser, and agreed.

POLICE REPORT: 13 crimes were reported in the last month, some of which had been detected; enquiries were ongoing in other cases. In the matter of dog fouling, it was reported that the Dog Warden had visited the village; Fixed Penalty notices were being posted at various locations.

Provision of dog bins:

Cllr.Nimrno explained that each ward was allowed 4 free bins, i.e. 2 in Howwood and 2 in Lochwinnoch. Local funds have already provided 2 extra in each village. Each bin costs approx. £280, and a similar sum for servicing each year. No further funds are currently available.

The police asked us to note that many of the reported thefts had been “sneak-ins”, i.e. the thief had entered through an unlocked door while the householder was e.g. in the garden. Villagers should be warned to be aware of this danger.

TREASURER REPORTED — that the bank account stood at £1300; and that he had applied for the usual funding for Chatterbox; no response had yet been received.

STATION CARPARK was identified as the property of the railway authority, not of Renfrewshire Council.

LMEG NOTICEBOARD: quotation still awaited.

PLANNING: the final brief for the Cooperage site has been received. It was requested that copies should be placed in the library and online.

NEW YEAR DANCE: accounts not yet available — no representative at the meeting. To be continued.

VISIT TO RADIO CITY: D. Arthur wrote that he had joined this visit and would report at a later date. Thanks to LMEG were recorded for making this opportunity available.

A.O.C.B. Cllr Nimmo was asked to enquire about the state of the area adjacent to the Kier Homes development where the old railway embankment had been removed; no landscaping has been carried out and the area is muddy and weedy.

It was requested that the agenda for the next meeting should allow for (a) a discussion of the forum on the village website; (b) discussion of better publicity for the Community Council’s meetings.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 4th May 2004.