

Maryburgh Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29th March 2017 at 7.30pm

Present: - Morris Colven (MC) Jenny Maclennan (JM) Tom Thomas (TT) Liz Sinclair (LS), Andrew Steel (AS) John Linley (JL)

Apologies for non attendance were tendered by Andrew Matheson, Jamie Dunsmore, and Cllr A. Maclean, Cllr A. Mackinnon, Cllr G Mackenzie, Cllr M. Paterson, Sgt Martin Turner (Police Scotland) and Fiona Macintosh (Conon CC Rep).

1. Chairperson's Remarks.

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed all present and accepted apologies on behalf of those unable to attend. No councillors were in attendance due to the 'purdah' legislative rulings, barring pre-election involvement by those already in office seeking re-election.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were duly confirmed and adopted. Proposed by TT, seconded by LS.

3. Matters Arising

a) Maryburgh Roundabout (Newsletter).

LS updated the meeting regarding the Roundabout newsletter which will be distributed to all households again in June prior to the Gala week. Advertising revenue raised £290 for the previous edition and most advertisers are keen to continue using this medium to promote their services locally, so the newsletter appears to be 'self funding' at this time. In order to simplify accounting, future advertisements – including 'one of' inclusions - are to be paid for in advance of publication.

b) Website

Work on making access to hall bookings easier is still ongoing.

c) MAC update

Clarification received over the £47,000 for community. Letter to be sent to MAC shortly re same. Asset board meet in June, business plan to be submitted by then. SLF application to run concurrently. AGM to be held in May. Bookings continue to be very good.

d) Grow Your Own Cinema (GYOC)

A recent screening of 'The BFG' took place on 4th March at a cost of £70 for equipment hire, funding for which had been agreed and granted by MCC at the February meeting. Although entry was 'free' donations were accepted,

however these fell far short of the cost to run the event. Approximately 25 adults and children attended. Future film screenings will continue to take place, including a 'themed' event during the Gala week, however it is proposed that a fixed entry fee, as opposed to a 'donation' may have to be the way forward in order to try to break even with the running costs.

e) Participatory Budget Meeting

This was recently held in Dingwall with JM (on behalf of MAC) bidding for new floor exercise mats for use by groups utilising the Amenities Centre facility.

LS (representing GYOC) included a bid for funding for a projector and screen to be used mainly by GYOC, but also for use by any other supervised groups utilising the Amenities Centre.

TT entered a bid for paint/wood preservative for fence maintenance in the community garden at Wrightfield Park

Only TT was successful..... and £100 was awarded for community garden maintenance in Wrightfield Park. The mats and Projector will have to wait until next time.....Whenever that is?

4. Financial Report.

JD was unable to attend due to work commitments, but had circulated an email outlining our current financial status

Jamie reported that we are continuing to cover our forecasted expenses.

With 'The Roundabout' now being self-sustaining and not being a drain on our resources, our current Balance is £1460, but with outstanding payments of circa £600 awaiting deduction, it will leave £800 (approx) in the fund.

A cheque for £100 had been received in respect of the community garden in Wrightfield Park which TT successfully 'bided for' at the recent Participatory Budget Meeting in Dingwall (Further discussed later).

Jamie added that he will be standing down as MCC treasurer due to his work commitments after this year's accounts are finalised.

5. Correspondence

One item of correspondence was received by the Secretary, an email regarding local concerns regarding 'fracking'. Although individuals may have their own views on either the benefits or dangers of fracking, our area, due to the geology is unaffected and therefore this is not something the CC will engage in at present.

6. Police Report.

Sgt Martyn Turner was unable to attend due to exigencies of the service, but did send a report regarding local policing matters, a précis of which is below; A total of 9 incidents required a police response/action in the Maryburgh area during the last month including road traffic matters, a road traffic collision currently under investigation, an assault, also being the subject of ongoing

enquiries and several instances of scam/cold calling. Residents are advised NOT to give any personal or banking information over the phone to any such callers.

7. New/Old Business.

a) A formal letter of the offer of £47,000 made by Highland Council had yet to be received. Although the Secretary has been advised by Cllr Maclean that it has been 'seen' and was due to be sent, it has at the time of this meeting not yet been received. **(AP01/17 refers)**

b) The request for a crash barrier at the Dunglass Road/Back Road junction still awaits update. Cllr Maclean was to liaise with Cllr Mackenzie regarding this matter, however due to Councillors currently invoking pre-election 'purdah' any update is still outstanding. This particular matter concerning a serious road safety issue was first raised in early 2015 and appears to have 'disappeared from the radar' in terms of further action being taken to suitably resolve. **(AP/02/17 refers)**

c) The stile crossing/right of way, whereby gated access as opposed to a stile should be in place at the pedestrian rail crossing at the bottom of Stuarthill Drive still awaits an update. Again, Cllr Maclean will liaise with Cllr Mackenzie who was also dealing with this matter, regarding any progress made by him and Scotrail regarding the issue. **(AP/03/17 refers)**

d) The next Leanaig Centre Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 26th April, where a place is 'reserved' for any MCC member available and wishing to attend.

8. AOCB.

a) Dunglass Road Verge

JL asked if Highland Council could be approached regarding scraping back the weed/grass overgrown onto the road surface on the north side of Dunglass Road approaching the Rosshill Drive junction from Maryburgh.

Approximately 18 – 24" of road width was being lost due to the overgrowth causing unnecessary problems for drivers, particularly when two large vehicles approached from opposing directions at this point. **(AP/04/17 refers)**

b) Memorial Garden

TT proposed that the raised flower bed outside the Amenities Centre be improved and changed to an Alpine style 'Memorial Garden' where residents could lay tributes to loved ones who paid the ultimate sacrifice in all conflicts. TT stated that cost (if any) would be minimal. No planning permission was required and the members present all agreed with TT's suggestion. Funding would be sought if deemed necessary.

c) Tree 'interfering' with phone line

The Secretary had received information from Mhairi Mackenzie that a cherry tree on the MAC land to the south of the building had branches growing which had a potential to perhaps bring down the overhead phone line. TT would take a look during daylight hours and assess what needed to be done.

d) Community Garden (Wrightfield Park)

TT reported that recent excavations by Scottish Water whilst repairing a fractured water main, thereby causing damage to the garden area had been resolved. The insurers had accepted liability and a £1000 payment to repair the area and replace damaged flora would be met without contest.

e) Maryburgh Gala Day is being held on Saturday 17th June. As usual, the week preceding the gala day event will have various other events running throughout that week. Details are yet to be finalised in this respect, but with all our new notice boards in the Maryburgh area, the public will be fully informed as to exactly what/where and when anything is due to take place.

9. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday **26th April 2017 at 7.30 pm** in the Portacabin

ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR NEXT MEETING

Action Point Ref Date Raised	Issue Arising	Action Required	Responsibility	Remarks
AP01/17 22 Feb 2017	Formal Letter of offer for £47,000 from HC required by MAC/CC	Formal letter for amount to be sent to MAC/CC by Highland Council	Cllr Maclean following up (See item 7a above)	Awaits receipt (First raised 2016)
AP02/17 22 Feb 2017	Crash Barrier at junction Dunglass Rd/Back Rd	Highland Council responsible for installation	Cllr Mackenzie to follow up (See item 7b above)	Awaits update (First raised 2015)
AP03/17 22 Feb 2017	Stile Crossing at foot of Stuarthill Drive	Stile x-ing to be replaced by Gated x-ing as this is a public right of way.	Abelio/Scotrail Cllr Mackenzie liaising (See item 7c above)	Awaits update (First raised 2016)
AP04/17 29 Mar 2017	Dunglass Road Overgrowing Verge between j/w Rosshill Drive towards Maryburgh for approx 100 m	Highland Council to undertake removal of excess growth	Highland Council Awaits initial contact (See item 8a above)	Awaits contact with Councillors when they are next available after election