

Lochgelly Community Council
13th Feb 2013
Royal Oak Community Club – 7pm

Apologies: Jon Magee, Jim Haddow, Ernest McPherson, David Hempseed, Robert Miller

Present: Stevie Murray (SM), Brian Schultz (BS), George Kinnell (GK), Jean McDonald (JM), Helen Ross (HR), Alex Sharpe (AS), Tam Durham(TD), Alan Gardiner (AG), James Glen (JG), Christine McGrath (CM)

Councillors Present: Linda Erskine (LE), Mark Hood (MH)

3 members of public also in attendance

- SM welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an update of the Community Council response the Fife Council draft budget. Statement as shown in previous minutes have been passed onto councillors for their consideration.
- Venue costs were discussed in relation to ROCC and Lochgelly Centre. It was agreed to continue using the ROCC for meetings as more accessible to the general public.

Financial Report

Special Projects: £3541.84

General Fund: £1507.39

Accountant still to be paid £100. £50 still to be paid for plaques for the previous winners of Citizen & Young Citizen of the Year. Annual Grant received of £1206. Floral grant awarded for £662.

After all financial obligations met for previous year, LCC will have a disposable income of £1257.39

- Floral display to continue as previous year. Additional costs will be required if LCC wishes to have a plaque for displays. It was agreed that no plaque is required and publicity in local media will be enough.
- 2 barrels are owned by LCC at war memorial, member of the public has been responsible for planting the barrels for the past 8 years. Confusion over the original agreement over the barrels has left member of public without payment for services rendered in 2012. LCC will reimburse member of the public for their work and appreciate their effort.
- Any payments, expenses etc. need to be discussed at LCC meeting and approved by LCC before any reimbursement will be provided.

Correspondence

- St Pats to celebrate 60 years of church being open. Invitation to LCC received for 2 CCs to attend celebration. LCC will send 2 representatives.
- Scottish Natural Heritage having informal meeting sessions. DK, JG and TD interested in attending
- Scottish Government consultation on Criminal Justice system changes.
- Request to publicise Loch Leven Walkathon with funds raised being donated to charity.
- Members of public seeking help in obtaining royal crests of the Lochgelly area and local authority area and any further information. AS highlighted Lochgelly motif 'by industry we flourish' and HR believes that Christina Reid (Fife Council) may have a

Chair: Stevie Murray
stevie.murray95@yahoo.com
07711 549 553

Treasurer: George Kinell
george@lochgelly.org.uk
07751 639 711

Secretary: James Glen
james@concepts.org.uk
01592 782 150

- box of badges with the Lochgelly Crest. JG to contact CR and request some of the badges to send to the member of public.
- National website highlighting public notices from local authorities, etc. JG to examine site for usefulness to the LCC as an alternative/additional source of information.
 - FIFEplan discussed with councillor MH providing overview of document and purpose. Examine public service sustainability, tackling issues of inequality in Lochgelly, etc.
 - 1800 houses for Lochgelly with 5% of housing earmarked for social housing. JM raised concerns that infrastructure is under pressure and should be improved before further strain is placed on local amenities. SM concerned that 5% of social housing is inadequate and more should be provided. MH would like to see 25% of new housing stock in Lochgelly earmarked for social housing. SM expressed concern over existing housing stock, damp, repairs, etc.
 - JG raised concern that development at the South of the town is being earmarked in close proximity to A92, Mossmorran and Little Raith which all have potential health impacts and have noise problems associated with them, and that some residents in the area are currently being negatively impacted upon, which will be worse for residents of the new developments. AG raised concerns over noise impacts from the A92. AS raised concerns that current 2km guideline for wind farms are being ignored, and development at the South of the town will be within 2km of Little Raith Wind Farm. MH highlighted that the charrettes identified inclusion zones & development area but wants these re-examined due to ongoing community concerns over Mossmorran. MH wants to examine ways to reduce impacts of three developments. MH recommended a tree-planting programme as a possibility for reducing some of the impacts.
 - Issues and concerns debated over the South of the town but no action was agreed for the consultation.
 - FIFEplan onshore wind farm development consultation was discussed. JG very concerned that Lochgelly and surrounding areas have been identified as a landscape of handling very large turbines (100m+). Map was shown to CCs with all the current, pending, approved wind turbine applications, which will visually impact on Lochgelly.
 - LE concerned that regardless of local community wishes, Scottish Government mandate will override local planning democracy.
 - General discussion held over alternative renewable technologies and Fife Council plans to build wind turbines at any new school builds.
 - Issues and concerns debated over the Onshore Wind Development consultation but no action was agreed for the consultation.
 - DK raised concern that some private tenants appear to have conflicts towards social housing tenants at New Farm Vales. Concern also raised over the special project area over ownership of the land. MH has documentation which provides details of ownership and will bring this back to the next LCC meeting. It was recognised that there has been animosity towards social housing tenants in the past but councillors believed this no longer to be the case.
 - DK & JG provided an update on the recent Mossmorran visit initiated by Benarty Community Council. Various representations from other Community Councils were in attendance as well as some local councillors. ExxonMobil and Shell do not feel there are any concerns nor impacts and do not feel they should pay for any studies or pay for air quality monitors. ExxonMobil and Shell highlighted commitment to being good neighbours but other reps pointed out that being a good neighbour would be investment of funds for air quality monitors. General consensus that site visit was nothing more than PR attempt with no resolution by plant operators to tackle the real concerns that various communities have with regards to plants known and perceived impacts.

Chair: Stevie Murray
stevie.murray95@yahoo.com
 07711 549 553

Treasurer: George Kinell
george@lochgelly.org.uk
 07751 639 711

Secretary: James Glen
james@concepts.org.uk
 01592 782 150

- AS highlighted that Risk Hazard Assessments were conducted in early days of plants, but as the plant grew RHAs were stopped despite repeated calls by the LCC.
- Concerns raised that current Air Quality review highlighted spikes in local air pollution quality but is then averaged out once yearly pollution levels are calculated.
- Press release to be compiled and published in local media.
- JG, JD, TD, and DK to form sub-committee to represent LCC concerns over the plant to other Community Councils. Meeting with Stephen Nardone (Benarty Community Council) to be sought.
- Other concerns raised over recent flaring events.

Councillors Reports

Councillor report updates will be attached when received.

AOCB

- JM highlighted concerns that wheelchair access at kerbs is very poor in Lochgelly
- Public Park walk around cancelled due to weather and has been rescheduled for 9th March 2013. Anyone is welcome to attend. MH highlighted that funding has been secured for the Public Park.
- Public toilets at Landale Street to be demolished.
- Replacement of skate park needs a bigger discussion and has been scheduled for further debate at another LCC meeting. Views have been received from youths.
- Lomond Homes in administration. MH waiting on outcome of administrators before formalising any type of action. AS highlighted flaws in the Section 75 process. LE highlighted how other areas have handled section 75 agreements differently to avoid a repeat event of Lomond Homes. Concern raised that Lomond the Avenues is still active and proposing developments despite the issues of Lomond Homes.
- Concern raised over closure of Good News and the closure of the Post Office. LCC recognises that this will create impacts on a wide range of residents in the local community, including elderly residents who will now have to travel out with Lochgelly to access certain services. AS advised SM to contact the Post Office General for comment, as to whether or not the closure will be temporary.

Next meeting to be held on **Wednesday 13th March 2013**, starting at **7pm** at the **Royal Oak Community Club**.

Chair: Stevie Murray
stevie.murray95@yahoo.com
 07711 549 553

Treasurer: George Kinell
george@lochgelly.org.uk
 07751 639 711

Secretary: James Glen
james@concepts.org.uk
 01592 782 150