

MENSTRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 1st Dec 2020 at 19.00.

Due to Covid restrictions this meeting was held online.

Present: Dave Sharp (chairperson) Stan Paterson, James Bull, Les Sharp, Leah Brown, Evelyn Stalker, Obiad Rehman, Oonah Richards, Gary Richards, Mandi Murray, Sarah Ridley (minute taker)

Apologies: Leigh Allen, Police Constable

Dave welcomed all participants.

Previous minutes: The minutes of 3rd Nov 2020 were approved by Stan and seconded by Evelyn. No matters arising except confirmation needed of who approved the previous minutes; Dave has this information and will pass this to Sarah.

Discussion:

- 1) Police update provided by Dave in Leigh's absence. One incident reported in Menstrie, also some parking issues near the school. There was a fire in a bin near the school on Sunday evening. The bin will need to be replaced; Les is following this up.
- 2) School update from Mandi. Mandi thanked MCC for the Halloween gifts and stated that both the children and the parents had been positive about these. The school are doing as much as possible for Christmas in a Covid secure way. The selection packs are in the school. The new Acting Deputy Head will be coming to Menstrie on Dec 21st.
- 3) Correspondence. "Thank you" cards have been received from people who were given food parcels in the summer. A letter has been received from the farmer about the Community Woodland, see below.
- 4) Community Woodland. This was purchased in 1997. There has been little or no management of this land during this time. The farmer has written to express concern about the land and Dave has met with him. Nine trees need to be removed due to a problem with fungus immediately with a further 15 trees requiring remedial works during 2021. This will be between three and five days fulltime work, which could be done in January or February. This work will be expensive, possibly twelve to fifteen thousand, though Dave suggested that Iain McCloud could do this more cheaply. Iain is self-employed and has been doing this type of work for at least twelve years. Some funds might be made from selling the wood. Volunteers will be needed to ensure safety and to keep people away from the area. The area is fourteen and a half hectares. A management plan could be four to five thousand and would be required if we sought any kind of funding. MCC will need to consider whether we can continue to maintain the Woodland or whether we should consider selling this. More work will be required through the CC on how best we approach this.
- 5) Treasurers report. Balance as of 27/10 £30350.35, general £12266.22, restricted £18084.13.
- 6) Councillor's report. Les has been working with MMRA and contracts have now been signed so that Scottish Water now own this and will do the maintenance. This has taken four years to achieve as land issues prevented progress.

The speed control at Victoria Terrace is not yet active; Scottish Power need to deal with this. Les has had reports of damaged pavements and potholes; he has prepared a report for housing.

There is restorative work to be done on Menstrie Castle, due to dampness. James offered a

domestic de-humidifier. Next year is the four hundredth anniversary of the founding of Nova Scotia; there had been a plan for a trip both ways but this had to be abandoned due to Covid. There is now a plan for a local celebration in September 2021.

A grant has been given for the walkway to give access to Fox Boy and Dave has applied for a grant for signage and a refresh of mid-town seated area.

- 7) MCRG Report from James. No incidents recorded during November. Next MCRG forum meeting Jan. Grab bags and additional equipment distributed to volunteers. Spare items retained for new volunteers as they join. Alva Community Council now have a resilience group and a Rivertrack system installed with 2 displays monitoring the Alva burn. <https://map.rivertrack.org/location/alva-burn-alva> MCRG has reached out to the two coordinators to build a relationship. Brian Denny and Graham Gilmore. The group can be reached via menstriecommunityresilience@gmail.com MCRG expresses its gratitude for the £50 float for incidentals from the community council team and will draw down on expenses as it has been doing previously using the funds it acquired from other funders via the MCC treasurer and Chair. THANK YOU!
- 8) Covid Support Food Group. One hundred and thirty-one food parcels were sent out during November to our seniors in the village. Vouchers have also been given and will go out to children/families who are considered to be in the vulnerable category.
- 9) Planning. One minor application. There is also some site clearance at the garden centre which has taken place due to drug taking and metal theft at the site. No definite plans for use of the site yet.
- 10) Documents. GDPR, finance and data protection documents have been sent out and some people have replied. Dave requested more input from MCC, due to the importance of these documents. Dave and James attend the joint Community Council and can discuss these there.

AOB

- 1) Litter. Council have been asked to provide for a new bin to be sited at Burnside foot bridge area. Litter can be a problem in the village, Scotmid funding may offer litter pickers and bag holders, this has been applied for.
- 2) Community Gardens. EDF Micro grant funding requested for landscaping tool, pruners and gloves. Unanimous agreement to approve. Total spend £
- 3) WhatsApp Group for MCC. Dave suggested this will enable easy communication. James offered to set this up. Anyone who does not wish to be put into this group was asked to send a message to Dave or James.
- 4) Foodbank in Alloa. The foodbank in Alloa is sometimes short of food donations. Dave suggested MCC can organise a drop off point for food in Dumyat Car Park. Volunteers will be needed possibly in the New Year?
- 5) Planters. These are all emptied and re planted with bulbs, James and Stan have volunteered to put in more bulbs near the bridge/fox boy area.
- 6) January meeting postponed due to public holiday, the Chair wished all a Merry Christmas and festive wishes. Meeting closed 1950.

Next meeting 2nd Feb 2021 at 19.00.