

MENSTRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 9th Feb 2021 at 19.00.

Due to Covid restrictions this meeting was held online.

Present: Dave Sharp (chairperson) James Bull, Les Sharp, Evelyn Stalker, Gary Richards, Oonah Richards, Mandi Murray, Sarah Ridley (minute taker)

Apologies: Leah Brown, Irene Roseweir

Dave welcomed everyone and spoke of the sad loss of Stan. Facebook has been full of messages paying tribute to Stan and "Just Giving" has raised £2,700 to create a memorial to him in the village. There is also a collection bucket in Scotmid which will add to this. The memorial will be created after lockdown and will be discussed with Stan's family. The group acknowledged the huge loss which Stan's passing has been to MCC and to the village.

Previous minutes: The minutes of 1st Dec were agreed; proposed by Gary and seconded by James.

Two matters arising:

Evelyn has resigned from the role of treasurer, which will now be taken by Oonah; proposed by James and seconded by Sarah.

Sarah to become a signatory for the account; proposed by James and seconded by Oonah.

Discussion:

- 1) **Police update.** This has been provided by PC Leigh Allen in a report which has been distributed to MCC. Note: this states February but should read January. This report also acknowledges Leigh's sadness at the loss of Stan, describing Stan as "community spirit personified."
- 2) **School update.** This was given by Mandi, who thanked the Council for the selection boxes and Santa's visit. Mandi also thanked MCC for the support in buying bird and bat boxes; twenty have been ordered and another thirty were provided by Graeme Abel, a member of the community. Some will be installed in the wood.
The school now has a new Acting Deputy Head, Emma McDade. There continues to be remote learning for all children except those of key workers and those considered to be from vulnerable families, however P1 to P3 will be able to return to school on Feb 22nd. Staff will be tested for Covid twice each week, with tests giving a result in thirty minutes. The school has achieved gold accreditation for reading, from the Book Trust.
- 3) **Correspondence received.** A letter has been received complaining about the trees on Burnside Road, stating that they block light, cause cracks in the pavement and the leaves are causing a slip hazard. These complaints have not been upheld by the Council and there seems to be only one person complaining. Les has investigated this and there does not appear to be a reason to take the trees out. Dave will respond to the letter.
- 4) **Community woodlands.** The woodlands have been checked by Iain McLeod. End February / early March may be an appropriate time to do the work. Volunteers will be needed (see previous minute.)

- 5) **Treasurer's report.** Balance at the end of January was 32,759.64; restricted 18,888.33, unrestricted 6,550.03 and general 7,356.28.
Bank books and a small amount of money have now been given to Dave by a previous treasurer. Dave will write to ask whether there is anything else to return.
- 6) **Keys / storage.** Dave has requested another lockup. James asked whether it is possible for James and Sarah to have keys in case MCRG need equipment while Dave is not available. It may not be possible to have Stan's key to the sheds or the community garden returned. The notice board at the Dumyat centre needs a key but will anyway require to be replaced.
- 7) **Councillor's report.** Report provided by Les. There is flooding on a cycle path; Les is organising the repair of this. The flooding seems to have been caused by a blocked drain. Tarmac to be laid on part of the path.
Painters will be able to start the castle commemorative room, in two weeks' time. The damp has been found to be just surface damp and therefore not as major an issue as was first thought.
Fences on Alva and Menstrie are due to be repaired soon. Any fence requiring repair should be reported to Les.
The midtown area is being developed. Les has the benches.
The path up to Foxy Boy will be put down in mid-April.
The Dumyat Centre lease has not been agreed. Les has become involved to try to resolve issues between the solicitors.
- 8) **MCRG.** Report provided by James. Incidents to report during December / January into February:
4th December – Menstrie Burn breached the monitor 850mm and advise 1000mm water level marks – Carehome internal barriers deployed and message of prepare posted on community facebook page – Level Reach 1190mm – Call out is at 1200mm
27th December – Storm Bella didn't reach the monitor water level
5th February – Menstrie Burn breached the monitor 850mm levels for a sustained period – No further actions taken.
Resilience plan updated and reissued for 2021, quick plan for burn available here – <http://menstrie.org/mcrg/resources-int.html>
MCRG forum paused due to stakeholders and their teams unable to perform any actions due to the Covid19 Lockdown
Rest Centre team also paused on Clacks Council advice around gathering during Covid19 pandemic. Any evacuation will occur directly to B&Bs via council incident officers.
Refreshments for emergency workers shouldn't take place at this time.
Both coordinators attended a Cold Water Immersion online course – Advised to increase teams equipment with Throw Lines and Thermal Layers for volunteers.
The group can be reached via menstriecommunityresilience@gmail.com
- 9) **MCAG** No report available. MCC requires a volunteer to attend this group.
- 10) **Covid Food Support Group.** Dave and Evelyn continue to organise this on Tuesdays. The funding should last until the end of May. Food and toiletries are provided and are delivered to the same families each week. Food is stored in the lockup near the Community Garden.
- 11) **EDF Meeting** was held last week, James represented MCC. A large grant was given to MCC last year which must all be spent before another application is made.
Applications for micro grants are for an orchard at the woodland, more bird boxes for the school, work on a tree behind the United Free Church and funding for the Covid Support group. £135.80 will be left to carry over or to spend on compost or paint in the Community garden. £2,500 was also provided for the Christmas lights. In the opinion poll on social

media, 83% were in favour of lights on the side of the burn and the trees; there will also be new lights for the bridge. As previously agreed, £3000 for summer events was repurposed for Covid. £2,500 could go to renewing the church kitchen, which was used for Covid support, also funding could be used for the Senior's lunch club and for Easter Eggs for the Primary School.

- 12) PTA** This was attended by Evelyn. It was noted that the Nursery do not attend this. Dave suggested that a member of the Nursery staff could attend MCC meetings.
- 13) Planning.** No significant issues. Requests for conversions to garages. The remainder of the work on the road surface at Middleton has been postponed. Note: Scottish Gas will be continuing ongoing replacement work throughout the village.
- 14) Website.** MCC may need someone to take on the work needed on this. At present there are only about ten visits to the website each day so consideration needs to be given to whether paying for someone to do this is a good investment. Decision made to leave this until tourists can visit, which could mean more use of the website.

Next meeting Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.00. More members of the public to be encouraged to attend.