

MENSTRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held 9th March 2021 at 19.00

Due to Covid restrictions this meeting was held online

Present: Dave Sharp (Chairperson), James Bull, Les Sharp, Evelyn Stalker, Oonah Richards, Mandi Murray, Craig Wilson, Gary Richards (Minute Taker)

Apologies: Sarah Ridley, Irene Roseweir, Leah Brown (who was a late joiner)

Dave welcomed everyone and noted that although this was the 3rd consecutive meeting without any apology from Obaid that all were happy to leave things as they are for now with discussion.

Previous Minutes: The minutes of 9th Feb were agreed; proposed by Evelyn and seconded by James.

One matter arising:

There has been nothing minuted previously to state that the Menstrie Resilience Group come under the MCC umbrella for Insurance purposes, and it was agreed that they should and this needs minuting.

Discussion:

1/ School Update. This was given by Mandi, who informed the meeting that P1,P2 & P3 were now back in schooling after a long break with the other pupils returning on Monday 15th March. Mandi asked if the last week in March would be a suitable time to put up the bird and bat boxes. This would be okay at a push but it was suggested by Dave that it would be better to return them as and when they are handed in and Mandi agreed to aim for a final date of 22nd.

Parking is once again becoming an issue around the school gates and parents will once more be requested to avoid this in the next newsletter. It was not considered necessary for an intervention by the MCC just yet.

2/ Planning. Plans have been submitted to demolish Broomhall Cottage and erect 3 dwellings with parking on the site. Les informed the meeting that the Clacks Council has received 6 objections to this from residents concerned about access for emergency vehicles and the fact that the landslip of 1987 has still not been rectified. James also raised concern re the water course that is known to pass beneath this property.

3/ Funding Applications. Dave informed that the EDF deadline has been missed with the next opportunity in August. Stirling Environmental Trust cut offs are 5th May and 29th September with a grant of £7.5k for Public use. As the village has several disparate groups Dave proposed that a village group is set up to work together and enable the village as a whole to push for greater funding. Dave has been working with Les to draw up a high level strategic plan as there are numerous big funds available.

It was noted that there is a lack of facilities in the village for the 10 – 15 age group but lots that could be looked into such as a BMX park. Likewise there could be funding available for Allotments and Orchards and Dave and Les are looking for experience to assist in this. Craig

agreed that he could pick up this idea with the MCAG members with the aim being to avoid overlap of work. James suggested that the structure needed to be looked at along with a decision on the chair. Dave agreed to contact his counterparts to discuss setting this up.

4/ Insurances. Dave and James attended the recent Joint Community Council Forum (JCCF). From the documents it would seem that Clacks Council do not pay for insurance of the Gala, Festivals or the Resilience Group. The current invoice is £143. Dave is looking for a volunteer to check that insurance is still covering all MCC activities. Discussion was had over whether or not MCC is classed as a "Public Body". This is unsure and the JCCF is a little vague over the actual wording of the law. James is expecting an answer by the 18th of March to settle the position regarding the Resilience Group. Les agreed to speak with Lyndsey Thompson who it is hoped will have knowledge of this.

5/ Treasurers Report. Oonah gave an overview of the MCC financial position. The main items of expenditure for February were the return of the Lunch Club Funds of £3,500, payments for the Midtown Gardens of £1,200, Micro grants of £770 in total and Food Fund spend of £2,000. This left a bank balance of £25,385 of which there are restricted funds of £11.5k, unrestricted funds of £6.5k and a general fund balance of £7.3k.

6/ Council Business. Report provided by Les. The Capital Budget is now to be phased over a 20 year period to allow for ease of forward planning. His work with the NHS Board, has given him an insight into Integrated Health & Social Care Partnership which aims to assist Mental Health by Social Prescribing – lots of work is due to start on this backed by the NHS which has put aside considerable resources for Mental Health Care. The aims will be to look at how things can be better managed to improve mental wellbeing by signposting as we rebuild the economy.

7/ Menstrie Resilience Group. Report provided by James, who reported no Incident Alerts or group call outs in the period. MCG Forum is still paused due to inability of members to perform any actions due to the CV19 lockdown. It is hoped to restart meetings in late March. The Rest Centre team is also paused on Clacks Council advice. Any evacuations will occur direct to B&B's via Council Incident Officers. Refreshments for emergency workers should not be provided at this time.

An application has been made from the OVHA's micro community fund of £160 to provide thermal layers for volunteers and more Hi-Viz tabards will be provided by Clacks Emergency Planning Officer for the volunteer go bags as some new members do not have them.

County wide Hillfoots resilience group are holding a virtual forum on 18th March.

MCRG is checking with Clacks Council regarding insurance cover. For public liability and personal injury insurance see item 4 above.

The group can be reached via

menstriecommunityresilliance@gmail.com

8/ MCAG. Report given by Craig. There is still no movement on the lease of the Dumyat Centre. It was discovered that in September 20 the legal department had advised not to undertake any changes to leases. Les became involved in late January and reported that the Legal Dept were unaware of the background to this issue and have advised that the restriction should be lifted to allow finalisation of the lease. Craig reported that once this was sorted, remedial work could get underway. The financial position showed a loss of £5k last year bolstered by £16k for the cycle hub. £218k has been received to cover payroll etc for the next 18 months so any income can go into unrestricted funds. Last year income was

£8.8k – down from the previous year of £20k. Once the lease is in place there are funds available to undertake work on boilers, insulation and lighting. Funding for a Youth and Events Worker for 5 years has been applied for from the Robertson Trust. The AGM will be May / June and it is planned to reopen fully once allowed.

9/ Covid 19 Food Support. Evelyn reported that this is still ongoing. Dave brought up the subject of Easter eggs. 530 eggs have been ordered from Morrisons supermarket. The school has room to store 410 for Nursery and Primary school children and these can be dropped off week commencing 15th March. The Family and Seniors food packs are forecast to run until the end of May. Any remaining stock can then be distributed.

10/ Planning. Covered in item 4.

11/ Policy and Documentation. James reported that the Menstrie.org website is significantly out of date and as such is effectively closed. Old Photographs of the village will be placed into an album using Flickr for anyone visiting the site. Viewership is low and a cost has been requested to mobilise a new website with the intention to show only useful things for the village or MCC. Other more touristy things can be added at a later date. A very rough estimate of £800 was quoted and this will cover service costs and hosting. Les will try to get this fee reduced to include an annual fee and upkeep. Some internal upkeep could be undertaken. James will put together a storyboard to pass over as a starting point. The link for MCAG and MCRG will be retained. Any comments please speak to James or Dave.

12/ Police Report. 4 crimes reported:-

- Theft of a pedal cycle from Craighorn when left unlocked in front of the owner's garage. Still missing.
- Theft of Cat – returned safely to owner with police warning given to male perpetrator.
- Report of minor assault by a juvenile on a family member, dealt with by Early and Effective Intervention.
- Female received an indecent call via Whatsapp. Limited line of enquiry.

A.O.B.

Dave gave an update on the Stan fund. Just Giving raised £3250 with fees of £136.54 and the Scot Mid bucket raised £495.95.

Plans are still to commission a memorial for the Community Garden as previously.

Les raised the planting of trees in Midtown Gardens for deceased Community Councillors. Clacks council charge a fee of £108 + VAT to provide, plant and stake an Acer tree. Les put it to the vote to purchase two – one for Stan and one for Jim Gardner who passed away last year. Dave proposed and James seconded to pass the motion to purchase these trees.

Community Garden – Les thanked James for disinfecting. Three x 1 ton bags of compost will be purchased from Gilchrist's. The white board inside the poly tunnel has jobs listed for each week and seeds and compost have been left out for the use of primary school children. Dave will arrange paint for the back walls and gate.

Next meeting – 13 April @ 19.00 (virtual)

Meeting closed.

