



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Community Council Meeting - Monday 9th April 2018
7.30pm - Elsrickle Village Hall

1. **Present**

Committee

Pauline Irwin (PI) - Secretary (chaired)
Michelle Walters - Treasurer
Nicola Levy (NL) - Elected Member
Nicholas Tucker (NT) - Elected Member

Members of Public

Richard Bond (RB)
Patrick Pollock (PP)

Councillors

Alex Allison (AA)

2. **Apologies**

Sam Cassels (SC - Chair
John Hoskin (JH) - Elected Member
David Darling (DD) - Associate Member - Website
Anne Hutchinson (AH)

3. **Minutes of the BMCC meeting dated 5th March 2018**

Minutes approved by MW & PI.

4. **Matters arising:**

a. **Poor state of roads**

AA reported that a new road drain had been approved and work scheduled by SLC at the west end of Dunsyre to capture water running off Dunsyre Hill. AA reported back that the Back Road in Dunsyre does not yet meet criteria for maintenance work.

New road drain by Peggies Knowe also approved and work scheduled by SLC.

b. **New Walston School**

Cladding will be changed to render instead which should improve look.

SLC do not foresee any need for an extension in the next 50 years. This was considered a bold and short sighted assumption by the BMCC.

AA reported that SLC had acknowledged issues of bowling board storage and a shed addition may be added. The BMCC highlighted that the practical aspects of bowling users manhandling large and heavy bowling boards would need to be taken into account by the architects when considering the positioned of any storage.

The new School will be locked separately when open for Community use in the evening.

PP reported on Elsrickle community's concerns around speeding cars though the village, especially around the planned new school entrance. An informal survey of the number of times the Elsrickle speed sign was activated had indicated that around 60% of vehicles were activating the over 30mph warning. It also indicated that the mornings were the busiest for traffic and the night time was worst for speeders.

The 30mph sign seemed to be being used as the point for slowing down when the sign flashed and perhaps if the sign was moved further away then this may result in the traffic being at the legal limit by the time it is near the school. It was also suggested whether a 20mph limit also be in force at main school use times when children are out and about arriving and leaving.

Specific concerns were raised around traffic-naive-children negotiated a busy A road where drivers appear to be regularly disobeying the legal speed limit. It was expressed that SLC should be proactive in their safety policy around the new Walston school and not just wait until an incident or tragedy actually occurs. Better to resolve this before the school is operating and significant numbers of children are using the road rather than after an accident or death.

The BMCC were supportive of PP and it was suggested that PP write a letter to SLC referencing the new school, the survey and village community concerns.

c. Future of Halls & Community use of new school

AA reported that SLC had no proposed plans for closing any of the Halls.

SW to talk to the Head Teacher about community use.

d. The Great Get Together

BMCC involvement in The Great Get Together discussed and PI and MW volunteered to lead on if and how this can be organised. If held any money to go towards Community Bonfire Night and the Community Christmas Dinner. The Bugle could be used to advertise.

Concerns raised over BMCC liability insurance aspects of the running the event as well as the date clash with the Royal Highland Show.

e. Wind Farm and other Monies

PI to contact Councillor Eric Holford and report back on potential wind farm monies available. BMCC is generally out of the area for many of the funds, but some fund rules may allow some leeway for expenditure outside of direct area. Kenny Lean and Glen Erkie mentioned as possible contacts. Renewal Energy Fund, available across the whole of Lanarkshire, may be a possibility.

MW had tried contacting Muirhall regarding Aggregate Funds, but had received no reply. AA reported that the Aggregate Fund is actually managed by SLC, so PI to contact Kenny Lean at SLC.

PI had contacted Co-op about their community funding, has applied for a grant and is awaiting results.

f. Local Nature Conservation Sites

SC to look at whether there are any that the BMCC may want to highlight.

g. Little libraries box at Dolphinton Hall

NL passed details to AA for to check SLC approval to place this at Dolphinton Village Hall car park. Suggestion that a link could be made with the Scottish First Minister's reading Scheme reading monies for building the box (it would be built at cost by a volunteer).

h. Local RBS branch closures

Biggar, Carnwath, Penicuik scheduled for closing. However Biggar has received a temporary reprieve, if many new local accounts opened this could be extended further. Concern expressed over where businesses will be able to go to pay cash in and where cash can be withdrawn from. Also where people go when they have issues that require face to face banking interaction, such as worries over telephone and internet account fraud.

May local area's still have very poor internet connection making internet banking difficult and impractical for many.

5. Social Group

No new update.

6. Bugle

Bugle to be kept at 16 pages. Birthday's, obituaries, and similar considered to be a good addition.

Hedgehog item to go in the next Bugle.

Dunsyre road update to go in next Bugle - NT to provide text.

Threatened closure of bus route 101/102 along A702 to be highlighted in next Bugle - NT to provide information for text.

7. Planning

No planning has come in.

8. Report by Local Councillor

AA reported the SLC budget had been passed. The roads have been affected severely by the long period of bad weather and snow clearing work. However no extra money is available. Pavement maintenance being prioritised by SLC.

School transport for Walston discussed.

9. Treasurer's Report

Account 1 (SLC) balance +£0.53p

Change from last report:

Bugle distribution and printing costs.

Account 2 (BMC) balance +£1,122.10

Change from last report:

Payment out for Bugle costs due to account 1 shortfall of Bugle circa -£20.00

10. A.O.B.

Concern over recent petty vandalism in Biggar and used needles discovered in the park.

Sympathies expressed at the news of the death of Anne Hutchinson's husband. Anne is a longstanding and active member of the local community and supporter of the BMCC. A card expressing sympathy to be sent by SC on behalf of BMCC.

101/102 bus link which operates along A702 under threat as a result of funding being withdrawn by Borders Council one of the funding partners. Great concern, dismay and disbelief expressed on the impact this will have on travel options for the community. A note to be put in the Bugle to highlight this and encourage views to be expressed to decision makers at SLC, Borders council, local MSP and MP. NT to provide information to NL for inclusion in Bugle.

Draft minutes of BMCC can be posted before approval. Chair (or Chair's nominated delegate) to review and approve draft before posting.

Venue & Dates for 2018 meetings:

Elsrickle Village Hall - Monday 4th June 2018 from at 7.30pm

Dolphinton Village Hall - Monday 3rd September 2018 from 7.30pm

Dolphinton Village Hall - Monday 1st October 2018 from 7.30pm

Elsrickle Village Hall - Tuesday 6th November 2018 from 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.05 pm

Next meeting Elsrickle Village Hall - Monday 4th June 2018 at 7.30pm