

Dalton and Carrutherstown Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2025
in
Carrutherstown Primary School commencing at 6.30pm

Present: Chair B Crombie, Secretary S Marshall, L Cannon,
K Edgar, C Fitzsimon, S A Marshall

Apologies: Treasurer M Macpherson

Also present: J Nicholson (D&GC)
G Wilson, V Salthouse, R Salthouse (DVH representatives)
T Harkness (Carrutherstown Resident)

Minutes

1. Chairperson's welcome

B Crombie opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance

2. Apologies for absence

M Macpherson (Treasurer). B Crombie informed the meeting that M Macpherson has been very unwell and has undergone surgery since Christmas and has been in and out of hospital a several times in the last few days.

3. Secretary S Marshall confirmed that we have a quorum and that the meeting is properly constituted. A notice was read out outlining public participation guidelines and general behaviour at CC Meetings.

4. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting

L Cannon asked for an amendment to the minutes so that they include her reference to where the minutes were displayed - such as on social media, to be discussed at this meeting. L Cannon has now volunteered to post the minutes on our face book page.

The minutes were then proposed by B Crombie, and seconded by L Cannon (with the amendment).

5. Police Report

PC Barnfather was unable to attend this evening and has put a request into his sergeant but we have not received a report as yet.

6. Matters arising

L Cannon has volunteered to deal with our social media Facebook page and will need to get admin access to the page. It is though that the Facebook page was set up by P Cosgrove: we will need to find out - he is not on the CC anymore.

K Edgar asked if this was the best platform for reaching out to everybody. L Cannon stated that there is also Neighbours news on Facebook and a lot of the villagers are on

that. She can see if we can get a bit more engagement with it, and she will also consider what other social media we could use . It was agreed that we still need the physical copies to be posted too.

S Marshall referred to matter of public participation and general conduct at CC meetings which was brought up at the last meeting - we now have a note on the agenda to advise on behaviour and participation of people attending our CC meetings - this information will also read out by the secretary at the commencement of each meeting. Hopefully this will address the issues that we have had in the past.

7. Correspondence

S Marshall referred to an email circulated to CC members today regarding the proposed new National Park in Scotland - for members to read and consider.

S Marshall referred to an email circulated to CC members regarding the national speed management review - for members to read and consider - there is one meeting in our area that you may wish to attend at Loreburn Hall on 21/1/25 - details are in the email. The general proposal is to reduce the general speed limit on normal roads in Scotland to 50, and increase the speed limit for lorries to 50.

S Marshall stated that she has an email from ANCBC (Lorna McDonald) we don't have a representative for this group at present. It is the Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefits Company. C Fitzsimon was interested in representing our CC and a copy of the email was passed to her for her consideration.

S Marshall stated that she had received a response to two CCES mailbox enquiries raised by C Fitzsimon. One regarding lack of warning signs for the low bridge on B725 - the response states that they consider there are already sufficient signs in place. The second CCES response was in regard to potholes on the B725 - the email response states that these potholes will be checked and dealt with as necessary.

8. Treasurer's report

There is no report from the treasurer due to his health issues. B Crombie stated that there has been no movement on our bank account that he is aware of.

9. Financial irregularities update

S Marshall briefly outlined the financial irregularities for the benefit of the newer committee members and stated that we had an issue where a previous sitting chairman and previous Treasurer took it upon themselves to remove a lot of money from our CC funds - in the region of eight and a half thousand pounds, without authority. The rest of the committee didn't become aware of this until lockdown. We have delved into records re this matter and presented evidence to the police. The £2,000 Hairstaines account is part of the money that was taken, so we do not currently have any funds from Hairstaines and as it was not spent legitimately Hairstaines say we still have it and cannot have more. The matter is in the hands of the Police and we are waiting for results. The Police officer dealing with the case informed us last April that the Previous chairman concerned had been arrested and charged regarding the theft and a report was being submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Communications from the police officer dealing have been very poor and MP D Mundell has been helping us find out more about the police action.

10. Hand prints / sand stone block memorials

B Crombie stated that some of the handprint tiles came of the Monument at Dalton a few years ago and he had glued them back on - the rest of them are boss - this is because they are on a sandstone block. The sandstone is very porous and that particular piece of sandstone has got a flaw in it so there is actual movement in it and you'll never get anything to stick to it for long. The Carrutherstown monument is the same but we got round this by fixing a large slab of slate to the sandstone and then fixing the tiles to the slate. This cost about £680 seven years ago. Not sure who organised these monuments originally but we don't think it was the community council. We were contacted by Ross Taylor regarding the Dalton tiles. To affix a slate to the Dalton monument could cost £1000 now which we don't currently have.

B Crombie offered to remove the existing tiles and keep them safe until we can get slate fitted. The Carrutherstown slate was fitted by D Little (stone mason), L Cannon asked if we could approach him to see what the cost might be now. B Crombie said he could get a quote for the next meeting.

G Wilson asked to be heard, and stated that he has large slates in his garden that could be used. C Fitzsimon stated that she also had slates that could be used. K Edgar stated that this was very positive if members of the community could pull together and maybe raise the money and even have people who can help with the work.

11. Monitoring planning applications.

B Crombie stated that we need a volunteer who would check the planning applications information on the emails sent to us from D&GC for any matters that may be of interest to the committee and our area.

L Cannon volunteered to take on this responsibility. The secretary will forward the emails to her.

B Crombie stated that the first planning application that L Cannon should look into is a sign in Carrutherstown for a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) on a pole by the Kinmount Hotel - for the Kinmount Hotel. Could this be for Immigrants? Or what could it mean? L Cannon stated that she didn't know what was intended but it could potentially be for a change of use for the hotel - perhaps away from commercial use. B Crombie had heard that the government were going to be moving immigrants out of some cities and into the country areas now. L Cannon will look into this for us.

R Salthouse asked to speak and stated that HMO was unlikely to be used if they intended put immigrants in because it actually made less dwellings as it would mean putting in kitchens, which would leave less room for separate dwellings. L Cannon stated that it may just be to comply fully with the change of use to staff accommodation.

12. Dalton Village Hall funding application - Telephone Box

A copy of an email was handed to Committee members - from Dalton Village Hall requesting £500 funding to move and restore the old Dalton telephone box and use it to house a defibrillator which they wished to place next to Dalton Village Hall.

B Crombie stated that we will need full costings before we can take this further.

G Wilson stated that they already have the defibrillator. R Salthouse stated that they will get the closings to the CC by the end of the week. B Crombie asked them to email the costings to S Marshall the secretary.

G Wilson asked B Crombie if we have any objections in principle?

S Marshall stated that we don't have any money at the moment.

G Wilson stated that DVH committee have been in conversation with the wind farm people and been told that the CC can get £4000 from them every year.

J Nicholson Confirmed that regardless of what has happened previously, this is now a new council and any money from the minsca fund accumulates over the years and you should be able to get that money.

S Marshall asked J Nicholson about the Harestaines funds as they said we have £2000 of their money but we don't as it was taken.

J Nicholson stated that she believes that this is the same now that we are a new community council but she will check with James Parker about this and let us know.

L Cannon stated that she thinks we can also apply for community benefits funds for any construction project that is taking place (there is an online form). J Nicholson believed this to be the case and will check with James Parker as he is the liaison officer for all the community councils.

K Edgar stated that this seems a good idea for a community book swap and defibrillator.

C Fitzsimon confirmed that the school has a defibrillator but it would not be accessible out of school hours as it is a private one.

13. Any other business

G Wilson asked what the decision was in principle regarding the telephone box funding? And stated that they would provide an estimate to the CC by the end of the week. B Crombie stated that it would then be put on the agenda for the next meeting. S Marshall stated that it will also depend on the CC getting money, and J Nicholson is going to help us with that.

S Marshall stated that once we are sure that we have the funds available and DVH committee has provided us with the costings breakdown, our committee will then need to meet and discuss the funding application and vote must take place, the majority vote counts. The result of the vote must be minuted for that meeting. No funds can be issued unless has been carried out correctly.

T Harkness stated that there is a lot of water coming through Carrutherstown village off the fields by his house and they flood his car park area at Carrutherstown Court. T Harkness stated that he thinks there may be a sink-hole there in the car park, he also thinks a lot of bottles of wine have been left in the hedges recently, and the hedges have not been cut this year in Carrutherstown.

B Crombie stated that the Hedges referred to are scheduled to be cut as per the contract. B Crombie stated that regarding the water coming off the fields - that water comes down from Hetland stables initially. The council were approached some years ago about the water by B Lockerbie and they were going to put a French drain right along to help, but when the council realised that the properties affected were private and not council houses, they withdrew.

G Wilson again asked for a decision regarding the £500 for DVH for the telephone box and was again informed that once we are sure that we have the funds available and DVH committee has provided us with the costings breakdown, we will put it on the agenda for the next CC meeting - the committee need to meet and discuss the application and vote on it and the result of the vote must be minuted for that meeting.

R Salthouse asked if it was the community councils responsibility to go collecting funds and apply for lottery funding for the community or anything like that?

S Marshall stated no, that is not the purpose or responsibility of a community council, the CC only has the responsibility of administering funds that have been given to them. J Nicholson confirmed this.

L Cannon asked J Nicholson if there was any other funding such as the community benefits and wind farms that the CC could apply for? J Nicholson stated that it would depend on what the projects were. The only allocated funds that the CCs usually have is the minsca funds that they can get annually for preset projects.

C Fitzsimond volunteered herself as a contact and support to work with the treasurer regarding funding as she already has good experience in this field.

L Cannon asked if it would be possible to hold alternate meetings at Dalton Village hall. B Crombie stated that DVH has no heating so its too cold at present - it should be ok in the warmer months.

14. Date, time, venue of next meeting

Tuesday 11th March 6.30pm - Carrutherstown Primary School
(cold weather taken into account)

7.40pm Chairperson closed the meeting.