

Broughty Ferry Community Council

Minute of Ordinary Meeting held in Broughty Ferry Library on Tuesday 5th December 2023.

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

1. Community Councillors Present

Neil Cooney (Chair) Doreen Phillips (Vice-Chair), James Doig (Secretary), John Watson (Planning Secretary), David Easson (Treasurer), Stan Nutt (Licensing), Fiona Potton, Lorna Murray, Chris Johnson, Kenny Matheson, Tara Javed, Isobel Mclean, Charlie Delaney.

In Attendance

Christine Rea, PC Steven Wallace, PC Stewart Merchant.

Ex-Officio

Bailie Derek Scott.

Apologies

Norma McGovern, Doug McLaren, Joanne Kelly, Cllr Craig Duncan, Cllr Kevin Cordell, Cllr Pete Shears.

Members of the Public Present

5 members of the public were present.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting (7th November 2023)

The draft minute of 7th November 2023 was agreed as a true minute, proposed by John Watson seconded by Kenny Matheson and agreed by the members present.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minute

Lack of toilet facilities in central Broughty Ferry; discussions still ongoing ?.

The Library toilet is considered unsuitable for general public use.

A sign stating the nearest toilet is located in Queen Street car park is still in situ and requires removal. Bailie Scott to check. Sign has been removed.

Joint Forum of Community Councils across Scotland. Update from Chair Neil with regard to joining the group. Update ?. Chair Neil intimated, Community Councils in Moray and East Lothian shared information. Community Councils within Dundee did have a forum with shared information but fell by the wayside. Neil will investigate further and produce a paper for possible reinstatement to share information.

Jim Roger, missionary executed in the Belgian Congo, installation of blue plaque in his honour (2024 being the 60th anniversary). No further information at present.

New driving restrictions around Eastern Primary school. Update report available ?. John Berry indicated at the LCPP meeting; the restrictions seemed to be working well with no adverse comments. Some vehicles still using the roads during restriction times. Better signage is required at the Queen Street / Church Street junction as the present ones are mainly visible coming up Church Street from Brook Street. PC Steven Wallace to contact John Berry regarding the problem. Fisher's buses still sit in Claypotts Road with engines running when waiting for Grove Academy pupils.

Plant labels on the wall along the Grassy Beach walkway west of Douglas Terrace in poor state of repair.

(There is provision for local community projects with possible funding available, but a group (external to the council) would be required to submit a proposal and estimate of the cost of the work prior to possible funding). Update ?.

The labels were put up approximately 20 years ago and there is presently no group looking after them, it is hoped a group can be formed in the near future and apply for a grant from the Active Travel Project Fund for their repair / maintenance.

Presently, there is no group or persons willing to take on this task.

Various emails from Hugh Begg; *Chair Neil to respond stating his comments had been discussed in full at previous BFCC meetings as stated in the May 2023 minute the matter was closed.* Update information; Chair Neil had sent a formal letter.

4. Chairs Report

Nothing further to report, as items discussed in this minute.

5. Matters raised by Members of the Public (Previously intimated)

Many pavements in the Broughty Ferry area, (Cedar Road, Grove Road, Fintry Place) to name a few are slippery at this time of year due to a large amount of wet leaves, which block drains & gullies. A mechanical sweeper was promised to sweep leaves in Strathmore Street but has presently not been done. Baily Scott intimated street sweeping is presently ongoing, with the council bringing in outside contractors to assist with the problem.

6. Police Report

PC Steven Wallace gave a verbal report, stating the 20mph within Broughty Ferry and prohibition of parking at schools on zigzag lines were not being adhered to, it is hoped a physical presence in these areas will help resolve the problem.

The Christmas lights switch on went well with no incidents.

Police continue to give talks to primary and secondary schools especially with regard to anti-social behaviour and shoplifting which seems to be a recent concern.

Coffee with a cop will continue at present, although not well advertised, it could be intimated in the Broughty Ferry Spotlight.

Barnhill blethers will also continue and is well attended.

Police will be out and around public houses etc within the Ferry, mainly as a deterrent.

It was highlighted that older school children were pushing younger ones on to the road in Queen Street (Bullring) in front of buses. Police will highlight the dangers at their school talks.

7. Secretary's Report (Previously Distributed)

Correspondence

25/11 Info from Derek Scott regarding the accessible swing in Castle Green play park, which was funded by BFCC as highlighted in November's Treasurer's Report, DCC has indicated it is not included in the proposed upgrade as it is presently considered fit for purpose.

8. Planning Report 20th October – 1st December 2023 (Previously Distributed)

12 planning and 2 tree applications were validated and examined during the above period, one deserves mention.

23/00759/TREE – Broughty Ferry Community Library, Queen Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2HN. Tree Works.

One silver Birch – Prune lower branch towards disabled access door. Two Willows – Remove self-seeded. Roots cause issues to path and pond. Branches could cause damage to library. Stumps will be treated. One Spruce, remove. One Holly, trim and retain. Two Cyprus, remove and replace with one native tree. One Silver Birch, trim lower branches. This is for advice only and no response is necessary from BFCC.

Short Term Lets Applications

Members will remember that at previous meetings some concern was expressed in regards to BFCC's Statutory role as a consultee in the planning process when examining short term lets applications. The Planning Secretary at BFCC's November meeting, reported that he would seek further advice from Gregor Hamilton, Head of Planning and Economic Development at Dundee City Council on the matter.

In response to a request for that advice, Gregor Hamilton responded on 14th November 2023. The relevant advice in his response is as follows, quote: *'It is ultimately the Community Council's decision on what planning applications it wished to comment on.'*

This diplomatic advise is no more than expected in the circumstances, however, the correspondence serves to record BFCC's concerns. Mr Hamilton offered that Mr David Gray (Senior Manager – Planning) or Gabrielle Hayes (Private Sector Service Manager) would be happy to attend one of BFCC's Meetings to explain the legislation further should that be considered a benefit.

It was agreed a short presentation on short term lets would be beneficial and give members an insight into the new regulations.

It was suggested Planning Officer be invited to the March 2024 meeting.

Given the advice received it may be best for the time being if BFCC remains silent on such applications in its area, unless it should be made aware by its Community of good reason why it should respond.

It would be useful to record whether members agree this approach for the time being. [Agreed by members present.]

421 King Street; As previously reported. This application was initially refused and a new application was withdrawn. Further discussions are now taking place to resolve the problems.

9. Licensing Report.

No Licence applications received.

10. Public Relations Report

No approaches to BFCC for comment.

11. LCPP Report (Meeting of 16th November 2023)

Items highlighted / discussed; Cost of Living , there is £500 available for distribution, (available in £30 gift cards). Barnhill St Margarets – Giving Tree.

Ferry Fridge is progressing.

Broughty Bowling Club Charity donations (£450 each to Dundee Bairns &

Broughty Ferry Lifeboat).

Dundee Ex-Presidents Bowling Association Charity Donations (£1000 each to Dundee Disabled Children, BRAE Riding for the Disabled & Ward 34, Ninewells for purchase of an infusion pump), (£400 each to Roxburghe House Patient Comfort Fund & Ward 32, Ninewells day cancer ward).

DCC Funds are available (£16,000) for individual groups special projects.

Christine gave an update on the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership, (£3000 is available for Broughty Ferry).

Dawson Park Bowling green Pavilion may be utilised as a Community Café, progressing and may require a planning application for change of use.

Despite media attention regarding hospital delays at various Scottish A&E hospitals, there are no delays at Ninewells Hospital.

The next LCPP Meeting is 15/02/2024 in Balmossie Fire Station.

12. Matters Raised by Community Councillors

The Ferry Fridge as mentioned in the LCPP report now has a preferred property, and may require a change of use planning application. Banking details are presently being set up.

It was noted 'Friends of Broughty Ferry Library' have donated two new clocks for the library.

Bushes at the Campfield Square car park along Nursery Road have been removed which makes the sightline easier for vehicles exiting the car park.

13. Contributions from Elected Members

Bailie Derek Scott's Report (Previously distributed)

Accessible swing; At the November meeting I was asked whether the Community Council facilitated accessible swing in Castle Green would be replaced as part of the proposed park enhancement work. I have been advised that the swing is still in good working order so won't be replaced.

Winkie; many thanks to those Community Councillors who attended the unveiling of the Winkie sculpture. It's impact far exceeds my expectations. The media coverage of its unveiling was amazing. It featured in all the national newspapers, national television, and radio news broadcasts, it really does seem to have caught the

imagination. The statue is a wonderful example of the positive impact public art can make to a local area.

Residents have asked if any additional information is to be provided other than the inscription on the statue. The council has advised that due to the positive response and feedback, it is investigating ways additional information on Winkie and the Lifeboat Davits memorial at the harbour can be provided. If the budget allows it then an information panel will be added. I don't have any timescale for this yet.

Storm Babet; Householders and businesses flooded by Storm Babet can apply for financial support. Flat rate grants of £1,500 are available to people whose primary residence was flooded. Businesses, charities, and community groups which cannot operate, or which sustained significant damage and can only carry out limited work due to flooding, will be able to claim £3,000.

The council will contact directly those it has a record of entitlement to invite them to apply for the grant.

Dawson Park; The council has agreed a number of environmental improvements at Dawson Park. The Arbroath Road entrance will get a better path surface, improved drainage, and additional planting to bring more structure and colour.

The sunken garden will also get some much-needed attention. There will be drainage works to the west of the garden, which currently pools quite badly in rainfall, and the establishment of new accessible pathways, seating, wildflower panels and trees. To add visual and seasonal interest to the garden, there will be planting similar to what was used at Queen Street Car Park.

Cllr Craig Duncan's Report (Previously distributed)

Broughty Ferry Nature Reserve Flooding; Following complaints from residents about what appears to be flooding here at spots not previously troubled I visited the site and encountered a Countryside Ranger also investigating such reports and he agreed that although flooding is usual this seems to be different and accordingly officers will carry out fuller investigations to look into causes and suggest solutions as I am keen that access is maintained to this popular spot.

Bus Shelters; The weather is increasingly inclement and as many people will be only too well aware a great many bus shelters remain open to the elements following repeated instances of glass panels being smashed to smithereens by vandals and I have reiterated my calls to the council to investigate options to restore the shelter element to these structures as many residents have complained off putting it is to expect potential travellers to wait sometimes for many many minutes in structures effectively open to the elements and I can personally attest to what an unattractive prospect that is particularly on dark cold windy nights. The previous glaziers used by the council went into administration but matters cannot reasonably be left as they are.

Esplanade Litter Bin Provision; I have received complaints about the lack of litter bins on the new waterfront walkway east of the castle to the Windmill car park but am assured that bins will be installed as soon as works at and around the car park have progressed to a point where service vehicles can access this area.

Potholes; I continue to report potholes at various locations such as Abernethy Road, Navarre Street, Balgillo Road and many locations partly as a result of complaints received and partly as a result of my own observations.

Tom Johnston Road Closure; I was recently deluged with complaints from drivers frustrated at delays as long as 40 minutes trying to leave Sainsburys car park owing to congestion caused by the temporary closure of Tom Johnston Road leading to the A92. Accordingly, I contacted the council to request that better and more prominent signage be deployed and that the closure be as short in duration as possible and I have received assurances that signage has been improved and that whereas a four-week closure was sought, the council have only agreed to a two-week closure, meaning that proper access will be restored in time for the busiest festive shopping period.

14. AOCB

It was noted previously that West End Community Council were looking to elect new members, Christine intimated there has been no response at present.

Although Community Council elections are due in 2024, a review of Community Councils is presently in progress and will not be completed until summer of 2024.

It was asked if BFCC could produce their own flyer to recruit new members, paid for out of BFCC funds ?.

Tara Javed stated they were looking at possible activities such as gaming within school for young people.

It was also asked if we could have a combined meeting with members attending via Zoom. The library Wi-Fi presently goes off at 7.00pm.

Date of next meeting;

There is no meeting in January, due to Tuesday 2nd January 2024 being a public holiday.

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th February 2024 at 7.00pm in Broughty Ferry Library.