**Lochwinnoch Community Council**

**INAUGURAL MEETING**

The inauguration of Lochwinnoch Community Council was held at Lochwinnoch Bowling Club, Calderhaugh Lane on Tuesday 4th February 2020 after the Community Council was inaugurated by Anne McNaughton, Senior Committee Services Officer of Renfrewshire Council with Kenneth Graham, Head of Corporate Governance of Renfrewshire Council in attendance.

Seventeen nominated members of the CC were present as follows:

Elizabeth Walker Duncan Adam Kerry Mackendrick Lindsey Duncan

Leslie Duncan Jeannette Cannon Anne Capuano Sheila Briggs

David Mellor Janusz Knepil Karen Malcolm Ross Anderson

Richard Graham Steve Banks Paula Gibson Marion Cochrane

Shona Motherwell

1 **ELECTION OF CC OFFICIALS**

The following officials were nominated, seconded and elected unanimously.

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| **Chair** David Mellor | nominated by Lindsey Duncan | seconded by Sheila Briggs |
| **Secretary**  Lindsey Duncan | nominated by Kerry Mackendrick | seconded by Shona Motherwell |
| **Treasurer** Liz Walker | nominated by Les Duncan | seconded by Janusz Knepil |

2 **CONSTITUTION & STANDING ORDERS**

The Constitution and Standing Orders for the Community Council as provided by Renfrewshire Council were ACCEPTED without amendment and signed by required CC signatories Chairman and Secretary.

3 **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

Annual accounts prepared by Jane Owen as Treasure of the previous Community Council were presented and accepted by the new CC showing a **credit balance of £7,416 with no bills or income outstanding.**

Cheque-books, codes and account details were passed to the new Treasurer with the proviso that both former Treasurer and new signatories to the CC account would need to go to the CC’s bank to effect the official transfer of the account.

4 **VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP & RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM**

David Fowles as CC representative on both these bodies was present at the meeting but not standing for appointment to the new CC. He was thanked for his long and appreciated service to both groups.

New appointments were

* Dave Mellor as CC Chairman to Village Partnership.
* Shona Motherwell and Leslie Duncan as representatives on Community Council Forum

Meetings are held 3 or 4 times a year.

**ORDINARY MEETING OF LOCHWINNOCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

5 A meeting of the Lochwinnoch Community Council followed immediately after the Inaugural Meeting.

**Present**: All 17 CC appointed members were present (See inaugural meeting above)

**Apologies**: None

**Renfrewshire Councillors Present**: Cllrs Andy Doig; Bill Binks; Emma Rodden

**Other Official Representatives**: None

**Members of the Public Present** : **17** David Fowles Sandra Fowles Yvonne Ross Gill Bell

Duncan Bremner Peter Fereday Douglas Wincan Jannis Low Sybil Simpson

Jane Owen Robin Collison Julia Gazi Eric Beattie

6 **PREVIOUS & FUTURE MINUTES**

No previous minutes were presented, as the previous meeting of the CC in November did not meet minimum quorum of 7 members and the CC was dissolved.

It was agreed that current and future minutes would be taken by Kerry Mackendrick, or if not present by an appointed substitute.

ITEMS

7 Police Reports None

8 Agenda

David Mellor opened the meeting saying that a new process of agenda for the meeting would be introduced with main items for discussion posted in advance, notified by CC members to the Secretary. As Chair he would set an estimated time limit for discussion of each agenda item, suitably flexible, but any item exceeding time, *or not reached within normal meeting time of 9.00 pm,* would be carried over to the next meeting, or delegated to nominated sub group of members.

9 Ward Councillors Reports In order to allow more time to cover expected items, and presentations by specially invited speakers, on the CC agenda the 4 Renfrewshire Ward Councillors normally attending meetings were asked to confine their reports in future to main bullet-points and late additions to their regular reports published in Chatterbox. It was suggested that where possible Councillors reports should be provided to CC secretary for circulation before CC meetings to reduce the need for verbatim reporting at CC meetings.

THIS WAS AGREED.

10 Brief summary reports of Ward Councillors reports were given by Councillors Emma Rodden, Andy Doig and Bill Binks of their reports published in Chatterbox. Councillor Rodden reported that introduced one new element due to be considered at the Council’s consideration at their next meeting to decide Budget plans for the coming year. A substantial sum was being scheduled for road maintenance and repair and she asked that CC members should put forward suggestions to her regarding roads, pavements or drains in the village needing attention

11 Community Website The current operator of the Community Website had indicated that was longer wished to maintain this service and it was AGREED that a FUTURE meeting of the CC would discuss creating an alternative website and use of a local Facebook facility to widen CC contact with the younger element of the community.

12 Burnfoot Road Development Councillor Doig confirmed that deadline date for objections to the planning application by Stewart Milne for 122 houses on this site on the fringe of the village had been extended until end of March. In general discussion it was said that current objections to the planning application submitted in November were approaching 600, and more were being sought aiming to reach 1,000.

This was additional and separate from the 880 objections to the site being changed from Green-belt to an area proposed for New Housing in the Local Development Plan.

AGREED That CC Officials and appointed members would liaise with Burnfoot Residents Group and prepare a document for approval by the CC as an official submission from the CC to be presented to the March meeting of the CC.

13 Ashrona Hydro Electric scheme on River Calder Steven Banks reported that SEPA had submitted an objection to the proposed pipeline project which effectively prevented approval by Scottish Government, although this did not prevent future hydro electric developments on the River Calder if water flow and technical construction proposals were acceptable.

14 Parish Church Closure / Sale & Redevelopment of the McKillop Hall

Discussion about impending closure of the Parish Church at Easter (April 12th) approved by a congregational vote (19 in favour and 17 against) centred on the loss of the amenity to the village for public events and local community groups, Choir, Arts Festival, Boys and Girls Brigade.

AGREED To leave discussion and potential CC involvement to a later meeting when more information about alternative uses by interested parties may be forthcoming.

15 Councillor Rodden was asked about the intended alterations and refurbishment of the McKillop Halls in view of the current surveys being conducted by architects and surveyors of the building. SHE REPORTED THAT as yet reports, proposals and allocation of finance, had not been submitted to Council. SHE WOULD REPORT BACK TO CC when such information became available, but it had been agreed that closure of the facilities would be scheduled for summer, to maintain availability for Lochwinnoch Arts Festival.

16 Due to an administrative problem some current events scheduled for this year’s Arts Festival in March were having to be moved from the McKillop to other venues in the village, but it was hoped that the Drama Group would be permitted to continue scheduled Drama Group performances as part of the Arts Festival.

17 Presentation by Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust

Martin Mansell, chair of the Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust, gave a brief verbal report on the proposal to use the underground water source previously used by Struthers Soft Drinks Company at Church Street as a source of community benefit for the village.

The Trust had been meeting,investigating the potential for the project and negotiating with Renfrewshire Council for nearly two years. They had submitted an application to Renfrewshire Council for an Asset Transfer to acquire the vacant site at Lochhead Avenue for a test borehole to prove the viability of the project, and raise funding of £ 10,000 for this purpose. The decision from the Council was awaited.

The LCDT was also considering other possible schemes for the benefit of the village, which might include acquisition of the Parish Church after closure.

18 Under Any Other Business Sybil Simpson asked as a member of the public that in any response the CC might make to the Planning Application for Development on the Burnfoot Road site, that it should consider the unsuitability of the proposed Emergency Exit at Corsefield Road, which was a narrow road, steep hill with no passing places.

A member of the public commented on the presence of woodsmoke in the village, which as a new arrival she had not expected. This was felt to be outwith the remit of the CC. But the comments have been noted

19 Social Event After the meeting a special social event was held to allow new members of the CC to socialize and meet with Renfrewshire Ward Councillors, and members of the public, to discuss future participation in CC and Community interests.

Prepared by Kerry Mackendrick

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