

Giffordtown & District Community Council

DRAFT - Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 2th November 2020 via Zoom

1. Chairs Welcome:

2. **Present:** M. Sanders (Acting Chair/Treasurer), N. Brooks (Secretary), A. Emler, W. Munro, J. Wightman, S. Brydon. D. Ellison. Also present were A. Christie (Co-opted member) and two members of the public.

3. **Apologies:** D. Lothian.

4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2019 having been distributed after that meeting were not presented for approval. However, if there are any discrepancies can you make it known to the secretary by 9th November otherwise, they shall be deemed as correct and will be duly approved by the Chair.

5. Chairs Report:

Chair Jane Hutchison started last year's report at the 2018 - 2019 AGM, by saying the year had been "fairly quiet". The year 2019 - 2020, I think all would agree, has been anything but quiet, with a string of issues, exacerbated by a pandemic.

1. In December 2019, patience finally ran out with the smells from the Lower Melville Refuse Site. A public meeting, ably arranged and presided over by Neil, attracted a large attendance. In January, a Facebook site and campaign, Stop the Stink, was started. The smells have improved, but are by no means totally eliminated.
2. In January, Jane Hutchison, our able chair for over nine years, resigned, due to a move to England where, according to a recent email, they are now happily settled. Monique stepped up to the plate on a temporary basis.
3. The speed-watch group that was established last year (with the help of CPLO PC Parker) was unable to run new campaigns due to the Covid restrictions. Co-Ordinator is Dave Ellison, with side-kicks Sandy Brydon, Neil Brooks and John Sanders. Unfortunately, both traffic speeds and the number of heavy lorries and high-sided vehicles using the B937 have greatly increased during the lockdown. The campaigns can only be operated during British Summer Time.
4. The Community Council (CC) removed an unauthorized access across a strip of community land on the Kilwhiss Road. Ideas were sought on future use of the land, the verges of which continue to be battered by heavy farm tractors.
5. The hamlets joined the rest of the UK in a lockdown, due to the start of the pandemic. Regrettably, a VE Day celebration in May had to be cancelled. However, weekly clapping for the NHS went ahead at socially maintained distances.
6. Fife Solutions submitted a planning application to store and process Incinerator Bottom at LMWLS; the CC received no notification of its submission. When it was discovered, the CC immediately started a media campaign, with articles in the Fife Herald and the Courier. FC planning department was contacted and persuaded - eventually - to ensure the correct consultation time was adhered to. 79 objections were posted online, including one from MSP Willie Rennie, who was at all times very supportive, as he has been over the smells from the LMWLS.
7. CC meetings moved online with the use of ZOOM, where they are likely to remain for the foreseeable future.
8. The spring litter-pick was cancelled; however, several community members have continued to regularly pick up litter as they walk the highways and byways; overhanging branches were also given a trim on the 'new' Loftybank to Edentown footpath; the undergrowth has since been cut.
9. Neil has been assiduous in reporting any necessary road repairs to Fife Council; fly tipping has also been reported and generally promptly dealt with.
10. Councillor Andy Heer is helping to broker a solution to the footpath between Kinloch road end and Trafalgar.
11. The CC objected to another planning application to build houses at the Trafalgar Crossroads. Initially refused, the application was granted on appeal, with stringent conditions imposed.
12. Andrew Christie has been co-opted to the cc. with the special remit of core paths. We are pleased to welcome him and note the first meeting by ZOOM of those interested took place on Tuesday last week.

13. Road-works on the A92 over two weekends (and three weekday nights) recently caused disruption to the hamlets. The CC would have welcomed advance warning. Intervention by the chair appeared to somewhat ameliorate the disruption during the second weekend (details in the meeting following).
14. A second tranche of “wind turbine” money has been received. (Details in treasurer’s report).

Thank you to all council members for their support and attendance throughout the year and especial thanks to our hardworking secretary, Neil, “an ever-present help in times of need”. Thank you, also, to Donald and Andy for their support and guidance, and to Willie Rennie for a sympathetic ear.

6. Treasurers Report: Funds are healthy with a balance that is well in the black. £7586.68

1. Confirm with Fife council if there is a recommended figure above which we should not let the funds go above before annual Fife Council grant is not forthcoming. Also check whether there is a recommended amount to be kept in reserve. **Treasurer.**
2. Wind turbine has long periods when it does not operate. Confirm why this is and whether it is to do with over supply of electricity. **Secretary**

7. Councillor Lothian’s ‘few words’. n/a as Cllr. Lothian was unable to attend.

8. Chair Closing Remarks

Monique will step down from Acting Chair immediately but will continue as Treasurer. Self-nominees were sought to take up the place of Chair and none were forthcoming. Monique therefore proposed Neil as Chair and this was seconded by Angie and Sandy. Monique asked for agreement and there was consent. Therefore the motion was carried and Neil becomes Chair in future meetings.

9. Date of next meetings in 2021 – all at 1930hrs via Zoom until further notice: 4th Jan, 1st Mar, 3rd May, 5th Jul, 6th Sept, 1st Nov (plus AGM at 1900hrs)