

Alva Community Council (Alva CC)

www.alvacommunitycouncil.org.uk

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Monday April 12th, 2021

Venue: Zoom

Lynn Cameron – Chairperson	LC	Anne Spruce - Treasurer	AS
Linda Greig - Secretary	LG	Kathrine Graham	KG
Graham Burt	GB	Iain Craig	IC
Bryan Denny	BD	Holly Craig	HC
Graham Gilmour	GG	Mary Dalrymple (suspended indefinitely)	MD

In Attendance:

Community Councillors – LC, AS, GB, IC, BD, GG

Members of Community (MOC) 4

Local Councillors – Cllr Balsillie, Cllr Benny

Minutes – BD

Agenda Item	Minutes of Item Discussed	Action By
1	Welcome, Introductions & Housekeeping Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2	Apologies Linda G and Kathrine G gave apologies.	
3	Declaration of conflict of interest - None	
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting – Proposed by AS seconded by GB	
5	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes – Item 9.1 (January) - Email sent to Clack Council for a key to the bus stop display board - We should be able to get access to the info board. CC representative will be in touch when he finds out how to access the display boards. Still no further information. Item 7.1 - One bin has been removed and another bin re-sited. There remain two bins on the back road. Enquiries will still be made to see if the missing bin can be returned. Item 7.1 - Future use of the back road behind the cemetery. BD advised confusion over this road as he had believed a permanent closure was being proposed as opposed to a possible temporary closure for repairs.	LG MB
6	Office Bearer reports	

<p>6.1</p>	<p>Treasurer Report – AS April 2021</p> <p>Ordinary account Expenditure Insurance £31.40 BALANCE £2,884.15</p> <p>Special Events Account Receipts</p> <p>Expenditure Microgrant £250.00 ACRT £1,519.13 BALANCE £34,294.48</p> <p>Ring fenced. Lights £10,230.17 Microgrants £1,770.00 Action Plan £3,146.56 ACRT £300.87 Events / Fayre £2,500.00</p>	
<p>6.2</p>	<p>Secretary’s Report – LG</p> <p>Review of the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils – Lesley has added our proposal to change the minimum number of Alva CC members to six members to the Draft Summary of responses for the Council to consider.</p> <p>Alva CC zoom account – I am proposing that we have an Alva CC zoom account. I am happy for it to be linked to the CC email if I do not have to host the meetings as this could be problematic when doing minutes. I can find out about this & carry it forward to the June agenda with a view to setting up for September. It was agreed at the meeting to proceed with obtaining a Zoom account.</p> <p>Alva CC Policies review – Bryan sent our policies to CTSI for advice & it looks like there are a lot of recommendations for change. I am unsure if ACRT will adapt the Policies for their needs or if they want to adopt Alva CC’s when adapted. I am also not sure if Alva CC’s need to be adapted to the extent recommended. It will take some time to adapt our policies if that is what we decide to do. I can send the Policies with recommendation to anyone who requests them. Bryan may have some more info on this. It was agreed at the meeting that Bryan will work on this with Linda. Further discussion will be required later with all members.</p> <p>Accessibility statement for website – Tillicoultry & Devonside CC sent us a copy of their Accessibility statement for their website. It can be adapted for ours. I am happy to support Graham with adapting for Alva CC. Graham suggested asking Phil if he could put this on our website for us. If Graham contacts Phil to ask, can we offer some payment? In the meantime, I am checking the accessibility on all agendas & minutes prior to posting. It was agreed at the meeting that Graham B will approach Philip Ward to work on the website and offer financial reimbursement for doing this work</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>BD, LG</p> <p>GB</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Convenor Reports</p>	

7.1	<p>Planning & Licensing – IC</p> <p>There is an application by Hillfoots Homes for 4 detached houses on the old Steven Clark site, off Ochil Road. The application is verified, case no. 21/00061/FULL</p>	
7.2	<p>JCCF Report - AS</p> <p>April 2021 The meeting was held to discuss The Scheme.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initially spoke of the difficulty in getting new CCs. It was suggested that the formation of development trusts may be splitting people who would be likely to volunteer. 2. Co-options - There was a discussion for and against co-options. It was suggested that co-opted members should count towards minimum numbers. It was good for getting new members, but the ratio should be more generous to allow members to stay when the number of elected members drops. It was a good way to give a "taster" to new members. 3. Minimum numbers - Should be lower when it is difficult to recruit members but this might lead to the public questioning representation. There was a discussion about whether it needed to be set in the scheme or whether it could be based on the membership at any given time. 4. Election - Agreed we should have elections. There was a suggestion that the 4-yearly cycle for elections could be staggered with elections for half the CCs retiring every 2 years. There would be less places to fill and would give experience and continuity. <p>Next meeting, Thursday, May 13th</p>	
7.3	<p>IT – GB</p> <p>There are no current major issues with our website or social media.</p> <p>The cost to retain and renew our domain name for the next 3 years was £20.32. Many thanks to be sent to Philip Ward for doing this work and donating both the cost and charges for this.</p>	GB
7.4	<p>Micro Grants – LG</p> <p>We have allocated an EDF Micro Grant to a lady for her well received community project the Alva Bear Hunt. I have yet to send Graham the updated Micro grant forms but will do asap.</p>	LG
7.5	<p>Education & Environment opportunities – KG</p> <p>Nil report</p>	
8	<p>Sub – committee reports</p>	
8.1	<p>Alva Community Resilience Team – GG</p> <p>The weather has been more favorable for us in the last month, and we are hoping that now we are moving into spring, things will improve.</p> <p>SEPA and Met Office Alerts We did have one SEPA Flood Alert for the Central area around the end of March. The level of rain anticipated did not have a significant impact on us, and continuing work monitoring and clearing the burns meant we had no issues.</p>	

Members kitted out.

Following successful awards from Alloa & District Round Table, the Clackmannanshire Falkirk and Stirling Local Authority lottery fund, and Foundation Scotland, the team have been able to purchase a number of items of kit.

Money from Round table has helped to buy walkie-talkie radios to be used in the event of flooding callouts. In addition, a whiteboard and pin board was purchased to allow the control team to be able to mark who is where and what they are doing.

The donation from CFSLA was used to purchase head torches for each member of the team.

We have also been able to provide masks, sterile and work gloves, eye protection, hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes for each member of the team using the donation from Foundation Scotland.

In addition, the Scottish Flood Forum have provided water proof 'grab bags' for each team member that can be used to keep much of the above kit safe and dry and easily transportable.

Flood Pods

A location for the flood pod around the Grodwell Drive area is still being sought.

Networking Session

A meeting of all the flood teams in the Hillfoots was held on the 18 March.

Teams from Menstrie, Alva, Tillicoultry, Coalsnaughton, Devonside (TiDeCo), Dollar and Muckhart were all represented. Also present were members of Scottish Flood Forum and Clackmannanshire Council.

Among the issues discussed were insurance, risk assessments, training and how teams could support each other.

The insurance is still ongoing but will hopefully be resolved soon. Members of the flood groups could be covered under the Council's policy for indemnity and personal injury as they are volunteer employees working under the direction of the Council.

The group have been investigating using standard risk assessments (with some possible local amendments) which can be used to keep members safe when dealing with any emergency or routine work.

Funding

We had an informal discussion with EDF Burnfoot about our application to the fund which would allow the team to purchase general purpose PPE (waterproof clothing, wellingtons, head torches, first aid kits, etc). This was to find out what, if any, items we could do without to reduce the amount requested. As we have already had funding to buy the head torches (£380.00), we said that we could remove that. We also said that needed, we could forego first aid kits.

Hopefully, with the reduced total, we might be successful.

Local Road Closures

Clackmannanshire Council have been negotiating with the Police and have an agreement that under specific circumstances, the group could enact a closure of Henry Street at the bridge over the Alva Burn. This would be if a sandbag wall had to be erected to channel the water across the bridge to protect neighboring properties. In such cases, the sandbags would prevent vehicles (and pedestrians) passing over the bridge toward Brook Street, and so a closure would need to be made where the Police might not be able to attend in time.

No other locations have been included within our remit. Members of the team would need to stay in attendance at the closure until such time as it could be lifted.

RiverTrack

There has been no repeat of any issues with the RiverTrack system since we took delivery of the new sensor unit. We are still waiting to find out what the

	<p>source of the interference is that caused the old unit to fail. This will be done once travel restrictions are removed, and the team from RiverTrack can visit Alva.</p> <p>Social Media We have placed a number of posts on our Facebook page thanking our donors and showing what we have done with the funds. We continue to enjoy a healthy reach for our posts, and the engagement with the community.</p>	
<p>8.2</p>	<p>Events</p> <p>AGHT- invite for Alva CC to support with an event in October, a lantern parade. Parade will be outside with social distancing. However more detailed information on who will run the event, how the event will be run, insurance details, types of lanterns etc would need to be known before any comment / commitment could be made. Further information is needed from AGHT (Claire Campbell).</p>	

9	Items for discussion -	
9.1	Pedestrian access to Primary School rear entrance - The access to the rear of the Primary School from Greenhead is via a lane with no pedestrian footway. This section of roadway is also the entry and exit to a number of houses which is fraught with issues as space is very limited for both cars and pedestrians. There is a footway adjacent to the lane. However, the footway is behind a 2m high fence which is in part of the High School grounds and the access to this is usually locked when the primary school children are walking to school. Further investigation required to see what can be done to allow safe access during school entry exit times.	DB
9.2	Request for Alva Skate Park Some local residents wrote in enquiring about the potential for providing a Skate Park in Alva. The local residents currently take their children to Stirling as they believe this is the nearest skate park. Councillor Balsillie advised there is a skate park in Alloa and Tillicoultry already has some basic facilities and looks to expand on their current offering. Discussion took place on this type of facility with the possibility of upgrading the BMX track at the side of the southern cycle path in Alva. A figure of £250k was suggested as a possible cost to supply a full skate park complete with bowls and proper drainage. Should there be a drive for this type of facility the locals could consider forming an action group to start to raise funds and advise further information on the type and level of facility required and age groups.	
9.3	Whereabouts of Civic Pride benches A discussion took place on the location of the Civic Pride benches. They have been taken to Kelliebank in Alloa and are currently being refurbished and will be placed where the community wants them to be placed. Ideas for locations to Councilor Balsillie and he will arrange to have them located. There was one suggestion from IC to place one of the benches at the cenotaph which would allow visitors to sit and reflect whilst visiting. As an aside it was mentioned that ACC had paid £2k for new benches and a picnic table which as yet had not been supplied. Further investigation required.	DB DB
9.4	Community Action Plan – CAPlan There is money in the CAPlan budget which could help to fund some street furniture if required when the Stirling Street works are complete. Discussions had been taken with David Ogilvie over the type and style of benches the community wanted and items chosen. An email was only recently received from Sandra at CAPlan advising that the seats had been changed to stone/ concrete benches against the wishes of the villagers. Gary Fraser had advised that these benches or blended seats would be put in place instead. There was considerable astonishment and anger at these proposed changes as there had been no consultation on this. Action for Lynn to form a letter to Councillor Balsillie who will take up the matter. A request was made by GB for a cost breakdown of the Stirling Street works.	DB DB
10	Clackmannanshire Councillor reports -	

10.1	Councillor Balsillie - Alva Glen Hotel redevelopment site is now underway. The site is being developed by BCroft for 6 flats and 2 bungalows. Full Council meeting to approve no increase in rates or Council Tax. Effectively reduced the borrowing policy and saved £30m over the last 7 years. New County slogan "Be the Future" committed to Committed to replacing the Alloa Leisure Bowl, £16m of funding put aside for this. There is a consultation survey available for members of the public to take part in and get their views of what they want to see and be available. Tough books & Chrome books being provided to children. £2m for road / active cycle network routes.	
10.2	Councillor Benny - Involved behind the scenes on City Deal but nothing to announce yet Assisting at Cochrane Hall and with the plans for upgrading the old toilet block in the Cochrane Park Now attending meetings on the "Promise for children of Clackmannan"	
11	AOB	
11.1	Police Report – Community Police Officer Report Attached	

Next Ordinary Alva CC Zoom Meeting – Monday, June 14th, 2021, 7.30pm

Members of the Alva community are most welcome at all meetings and can request to join a meeting by emailing info@alvacommunitycouncil.org.uk

Please make your request to join the meeting 2 clear days prior to the meeting date.

APPENDIX 1

POLICE REPORT

ALVA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

10/04/2021

INTRODUCTION

The community police officers for Alva are PC 247 James Miller and PC 245 Katie Lawson and are both stationed at Alloa Police Station. You can contact them by calling 101 or by e-mail at James.Miller@scotland.pnn.police.uk and Catherine.Lawson@scotland.pnn.police.uk.

Police Scotland recorded 18 crimes in the last month for Alva. Of these, 12 have been detected and the other 6 are currently undetected, most of which are still under investigation.

PRIORITIES

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There were 6 recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area over the last month, they are as follows;

On 16th March 2021 at a residential dwelling in Coblecrook Gardens, Alva, a domestic incident occurred. The male responsible has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for threatening or abusive behaviour.

On 19th March 2021 at Alva Academy, a pupil was found in possession of a small amount of controlled drugs. The matter is being addressed by the Schools Based Officer.

On 29th March 2021 at Beauclerc Street, Alva, a male was found to be in breach of his bail conditions. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 31st March 2021 at Wharry Road, Alva, a warrant was executed at a residential dwelling which resulted in a male being apprehended and reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 4th April 2021 within a residential dwelling in West Johnstone Street, Alva, a disturbance occurred between associates which resulted in a male being reported for a racial offence.

On 4th April 2021 at Blindwells, Alva, a male was found to have breached his bail conditions. He was arrested and held in custody to appear at court.

VANDALISM

There were 2 recorded incidents of vandalism in the area over the last month, they are as follows;

Between 6th and 9th March 2021 at Park Street, Alva a security light on a residential dwelling was wilfully or recklessly damaged. Enquiries have been concluded and no suspect has been identified.

On 18th March 2021 at Queen Street, Alva, a motor vehicle was scratched either wilfully or recklessly. A suspect has been identified and efforts are being made to trace him.

VIOLENCE

There were 6 recorded incidents of violence in the area over the last month, they are follows;

On 20th March 2021 at Carnaughton Place, Alva, a minor non-injury assault occurred within a residential dwelling. A suspect has been identified and efforts are being made to trace this male.

On 20th March 2021 at Beauclerc Street, Alva, a domestic disturbance occurred which resulted in both persons being arrested for assault. The circumstances have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 20th March 2021 within a residential dwelling in Carnaughton Place, Alva, a domestic incident occurred. The male responsible was arrested and has been reported for several offences including assault.

On 26th March 2021 at Blindwells, Alva, a minor domestic assault occurred which resulted in a male being arrested. The circumstances have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

On 27th March 2021 at The Nebit, Alva, a male was arrested after reports of numerous sexual offences being committed. He has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

ACQUISITIVE CRIME

There were 2 recorded incidents of acquisitive crime in the area over the last month, they are as follows;

On 11th March 2021 at the Co-op, Stirling Street, Alva, a quantity of foodstuffs were stolen by a female. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the female responsible.

Overnight from 19th to 20th March 2021 at Greenhead, Alva, an attempt was made to break into a garage. Enquiries are continuing to identify the person responsible.

ROAD TRAFFIC

There was 2 recorded road traffic incident in the area over the last month, it is as follows;

On 11th March 2021 at St Serf's Walk, Alva, a road traffic collision occurred after which the driver of the offending vehicle failed to stop and leave details or report the collision to police. Enquiries are ongoing to trace this driver.

On 2nd April 2021 at Stirling Street, Alva, a female driver was found to be driving without her seat belt fastened and stopped by police. The driver has been reported for this and other offences detected.

It should be noted that other traffic offences are routinely detected and dealt with by police without the need for them to be recorded.

OTHER INCIDENTS OF NOTE

Police Scotland continue to deal with reports of breaches of the COVID regulations albeit these are starting to reduce as restrictions are being eased. Police Officers are still having to expose themselves to potential risk from this deadly disease so we would encourage all to abide by the rules and regulations to help protect all.

ANY OTHER COMMUNITY ISSUES

Community officers have continued to address parking and driving issues in Alva. Numerous tickets and warnings have been issued and will continue to be issued where appropriate. Please continue to report any concerns to police on 101 or directly to ourselves via e-mail.

Illegal and dangerous parking continues to be an issue in Alva, especially in Stirling Street and Queen Street with regular offences being detected in bus stops, disabled bays and double yellow lines. Police would encourage all residents and business owners to adhere to and regulations and encourage others to do so.

Notification has been received that the works to improve Stirling Street, Alva will commence on Monday 12th April 2021. Police Scotland welcomes these long awaited improvements which will include safer areas for both drivers and pedestrians. It is also anticipated that a new CCTV system will be installed adding to the security of the community and visitors to Alva. Please be patient during this period of disruption.

The Clackmannanshire Community Team will continue to target local drug dealers utilising intelligence received from the community. This intelligence is essential to enable officers to act against those involved and we encourage any information to be passed to the police or via Crimestoppers. One drugs search warrant was executed this month.

Facebook and Twitter – Community Messages can be placed on local Police sites via one of the Community Sergeants, currently PS 378 Scott Thomson who is based at Alloa Police Office.