



MEETING
Monday 13th March 2023 at 7:00pm
Letham Village Hall

Monimail Community
Council

MINUTES

1	Welcome. David Hamilton, welcomed everyone to the meeting.	Actionee
2	<p>Attendance & apologies</p> <p>CC Councillors David Hamilton (DH), John Vaughan (JV), Karin Vaughan (KV), Juliet Forrest (JF), Willy Fenton (WF) and K Stuart (KS)</p> <p>Local Community J Finnie (JF) A Finnie (AF), S Imber (SI), M Imber (MI), M Farrell (MF) and D Smiles (DS).</p> <p>Apologies: There were no apologies</p>	
	Fife Councillor in Attendance: Donald Lothian (DL).	
3	Minutes of meeting on 9th January 2023 Approved by JF and seconded by WF	
4	Matters Arising from the Minutes All matters arising are covered within the main agenda.	
5	<p>Councillor Questions</p> <p>School Brae</p> <p>This was issue was addressed to Cllr Donald Lothian by AF a resident on School Brae who stated that the road, that is the only access to Letham Primary School was in a very poor state of repair. DL stated that this issue was raised at the January Community Council meeting where excessive rain water 'run off' from the fields during the winter storms caused the road surface to be lifted and leave large holes and fissures in the surface of School Brae. Fife Council budget runs from April to March and the intention is to make repairs to the surface with a technique called 'Jet Patches'. JV asked when this was likely to happen DL suggested this would happen in May</p> <p>A further issue for School Brae is the amount of traffic using the narrow road that has no pavement for pedestrians. Navigating the problems of this road are stated in the school travel plan.</p> <p>The Chair undertook to contact the Primary School and the Flexi Friday Woodland group seeking cooperation from parents in not parking or uplifting children at the School/ Woods road</p> <p>It was clarified that parents of children attending Letham Primary School and the Secret Garden, the pre school education provider, should park their vehicles at the Village Hall or next to The Well Tree, not on School Brae or next to the steps of Letham Primary School.</p> <p>The meeting agreed that the priority was that the Council should maintain the road.</p>	DH

	<p>Speed Bumps</p> <p>These were to be implemented on The Row to ensure traffic adheres to the 20 mph speed limit. The Chair, DH stated that he had spoken to a representative of Fife Council stating that the Community Council in January did not consider them appropriate for Letham.</p> <p>The Fife Councillors for our ward had told him that the recommendation for these speed bumps originated through a separate assessment of road safety within the Council. The originator of the report had now left the Council.</p> <p>Speed control bumps of any type were not part of the school travel plan. The CC reiterated that the community do not want the speed bumps installed on The Row for the reasons articulated in January.</p> <p>SI and MI thought that a speed bump would be better placed on Monimail Road at the entrance to the village. It was also agreed that the road marking on the junction of Monimail Road, The Row and School Brae need repainting. The Chair reassured the meeting that both these safety priorities had been intimated to the Council officials.</p> <p>Repairs are required to the existing pavement outside the houses at the top of The Row, that was been ripped up by excessive rain water rushing down the hill during winter storms.</p> <p>DH requested that there will be confirmation that these issues will be addressed.</p>	DL
6	<p>Planning Applications Review Mayfield, Monimail Road</p> <p>JV reported that in the latest communication from Fife Planning that an application had been received from the owners of this property adjacent to The Pleasance. He summarised the major changes that were shown within the plan.</p> <p>The main house was to have new door and windows and an extension to create a sun room facing the main garden. En suite showers were to be installed in two of the existing 4 bedrooms alongside the existing bathroom.</p> <p>He pointed out the existing Byre was to be converted into a new 2 story separate entity.</p> <p>We have been informed that our ancient sewage system is already over capacity. This will also involve more traffic across a private road, that joins onto Monimail Road.</p> <p>DH stated that the community council's remit is to consider our infrastructure and character of Letham. Individuals should make separate personal observations if they want to raise issues beyond that He suggested a strategic position document could be designed for the CC outlining what our position is likely to be for future applications.</p> <p>The CC agreed and DH said he would bring this back to a future meeting.</p>	
7.	<p>Secret Garden</p> <p>Following the action from the January meeting, the Chair had drafted a letter on behalf of the Community Council and shared that with the community councillors. He awaited some further feedback prior to sending but asked the meeting that it was content with the approach being followed.</p> <p>While there was one contrary view, the decision was unanimous to challenge the Secret Garden on its approach and actions in relation to the placing of an office in the woods out with the planning envelope.</p>	

	DH summed up by reiterating the community's support for the initiative but highlighting that there needs to be some compromise from the nursery as an important issue of planning precedent at stake here.	DH
8	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The Treasurer reported that there had been no change to the balance over the past two months . The balance in the bank stands at £2977.60 and he is holding £5.94 in cash. There were no questions for him from the floor.</p>	
9	<p>Community Groups</p> <p>Letham Nights</p> <p>Saturday 18th March 2023</p> <p>There is currently a double project. Letham Nights and a Dance Project Letham Nights have a band from Orkney booked for Saturday 18th March. This event is a sell out.</p> <p>Village Hall</p> <p>Saturday 25th March</p> <p>Fleur Darkin, International dance choreographer will be directing a performance of the dance with her team of dancers 'My Muses take Care of Me' on Saturday 25th that was performed at The British Museum in London last summer. Cost for a ticket is £10 or £5 (concessions).</p> <p>Different Lighting in the hall is being trialled for this special event as a potential for different approaches to events in the future. This event is a joint one between the village hall and Letham Nights.</p> <p>JV reported that a new access ladder had been installed to provide safety access to the main hall attic area. The black out curtains on the stage had been reinstalled onto wooden supports.</p> <p>MF stated that he and JV are working on a project to further reduce the hall's carbon footprint. An initial grant was approved to enable an energy evaluation of the hall to undertaken. This is being done through the auspices of Business Energy Scotland.</p> <p>Once this has been completed JV and MF will be able to apply for funding to improve the halls insulation and examine energy sources such as solar or air source amongst other ideas.</p> <p>MF would like to see an improved booking system for hall users including internet access and Wi-Fi so that the hall booking system can be improved and done remotely. This would enable the heating changes to be done remotely as well</p> <p>The "Art House" in Ladybank has installed Wi-Fi for a cost of about £100 a year. DH suggested that CC funds could be provided funds for the installation of Wi-Fi in the hall. This needs further discussion.</p> <p>DH advised that a booking system for the Village Hall would soon be added to the village web site. He stated that his daughter had volunteered to create this as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award.</p> <p>Letham P S</p> <p>MF reported that the pupils had been planting trees to make a hedge in Letham Park. There are some left over plants available if anyone can utilise them in their gardens</p>	

	<p>He suggested that the verge at Nisbetfield cottages would benefit from having saplings planted to absorb water run off from the field and hold the soil together.</p> <p>Letham Primary School children have been working with Fleur Darkin and on Friday 10th March they has been guests of the V & A. The pupils had been given a descriptive architectural tour of the building and had looked at the exhibits. After lunch they had danced in the outside pool much to the surprise of the visitors!</p>	
10	<p>Solar Farm</p> <p>JV reported that he had received notification of an outline planning application for a Solar Farm on the outskirts of Springfield.</p> <p>It is called Peterhead Solar PV Farm The provider is Elgin Energy EsCo Ltd from Northern Ireland. It is in Solar PV and energy storage system with capacity to generate power for 18,100 homes</p> <p>A consultation was held in Springfield Community Church Hall at the beginning of March to which JV and KV attended.</p> <p>The proposal covers approximately 248 acres stretching in the west from Springfield then to the east of Bow of Fife to Pitlessie road and up to the railway. No trees will be removed and the current paths / track in the area will be protected. Further details on www.peterheadsolarfarm.com JV to keep up-to-date with the project</p>	JV
11	<p>AOCB</p> <p>DS stated that her daughter Madeline was fund raising for a karate event in May as no other funding was available for her to make an application. She would be very grateful for any contribution anyone would make to help her. .</p> <p>KS announced that Letham Doocot Preservation Group are now active in researching care and maintenance of the Doocot on School Brae and would be happy to welcome any volunteers.</p> <p>DH reminded everyone that there is litter picking equipment stored in the telephone box. His family had been cleaning up litter in the area while out for walks and encouraged others to do so too.</p> <p>A turbine at our local recycling area is being dismantled so it can be replaced.</p>	All KS
	<p>Date of Next Meeting 8th May 2023 at Letham Village Hall at 7:00 p.m.</p>	