Quarterly meeting of the West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum

Wednesday 7th 2023 @ 19:00 in Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick

1. Welcome

Present :

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alexandria  | Tilda McCrimmonBarbara Barnes |
| Balloch and Haldane | David KeownLynne Somerville |
| Bonhill and Dalmonach  | Jack FordyFiona Jenkins |
| Bowling and Milton | No rep |
| Clydebank East | Alistair Conaty (CCF Treasurer) |
| Dumbarton East and Central | Dorothy Heron |
| Faifley  | Tricia Lorimer |
| Kilmaronock | Andrew Sinnott (CCF Secretary) |
| Linnvale and Drumry | John HaineyMary McAleerGavin LawsonApologies from Lorraine Hamilton |
| Old Kilpatrick  | Rhona YoungRena MackenzieApologies from Isobel Plunkett (CCF Chair) |
| Parkhall, North Kilbowie & Central  | Drummond McNairApologies from Anne MacDougall |
| Silverton and Overtoun  | Rona Wilkinson (CCF Vice-chair)Linda McCowatApologies from Rose Harvie |
| WDC Your Community Team | Alan Karas |

Rona as vice-chair chaired the meeting.

Andy apologised for the confusion about the start time in the invitation. Future meetings will start at 7.30pm. Each CC provided their latest contact details.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.

Rona provided a correction to the previous minutes which were then adopted.

Rhona Young (OKCC) requested a hard copy of the minutes as she has no computer. Maybe others have a similar issue. There is a need to be inclusive.

**Forum secretary to ask each CC contact person to create and distribute hard copies as needed by their CC members.**

The constitution was signed by vice-chair and secretary.

**A scanned copy will be made available for anyone who wants one.**

The CC liability insurance has been renewed by WDC. The forum was asked if they could take over the responsibility for this going forward.

**After discussion it was agreed that we do not have the capacity to do this so the responsibility will remain with WDC.**

The forum agreed that the existing cover was adequate and that if CC’s want to hold an event that is not covered then they should contact the insurance company direct to arrange any additional cover as necessary.

**The contact information for the insurer will be provided to all CC’s by the forum secretary.**

WDC had proposed that the Forum assist in the allocation of any surplus CC admin grant money each year by helping identify worthy proposals from CC’s that wish to apply.

**The Forum agreed to do this and will discuss the mechanism with WDC.**

1. Executive Reports

The treasurer presented a hard copy of the bank statement.

Current balance is £4000

The balance is from WDC grant for this year and the last (both £2000).

It was noted that the Treasurer has tendered his resignation and therefore there is a call for a volunteer to take over.

**Forum secretary to ask for volunteers when sending out the minutes.**

1. Guest speaker

Elaine Troup was to give an update on the structure of the Communities Team post budget cuts. Alan Karas explained that so far there has been no final decision on the make up of the teams going forward hence the Forum exec agreed to postponed her address.

**The Forum expressed appreciation and gratitude for the support of the communities team workers especially those in the front line like Alan Karas and Megyn Tyrell.**

The following were suggested as future attendees :

Peter Hessett to address slow response times (no response sometime) of WDC chief officers

Andy Devine/Ian Bain – Greenspace to talk about ground rent and community growing spaces, grass and hedge-cutting scheduling etc.

Rose Harvie (SOCC community councillor) to talk about food growing

Scottish Water to talk about roadworks and reinstatement of roads and verges post-work and waste treatment.

SEPA to talk about pollution of watercourses.

**Exec to discuss and send out invitations.**

Rona promoted a Community Green Energy meeting to be hosted by SOCC and asked all CC’s to come along.

In discussion it was asked whether the Forum itself was a Statutory Consultee on any matters. It was thought not, just the individual CC’s.

**The exec will follow up to confirm.**

1. Community Councillors Discussions

Andy (Forum exec) presented the findings and suggestions from a review of the Handbook in relation to meeting minutes, IT policies, Email address consistency and provision of IT equipment and consumables for CC’s and ideas for a website and formal email address for the Forum itself.

The Forum needs an official Email address and will set up a domain for this. There was a discussion on the option to use subdomains for CC’s to give consistency.

**CC’s will continue to use their own email/online resources but it is noted that this could change in the future should they wish.**

Same for websites, the forum will wait until the uses for a Forum website is more clearly defined and needed.

**Exec will ask WDC if we can load Forum minutes & agendas on the WDC Community Council part of their website.**

Temporarily the minutes and some other documents are being hosted on the Kilmaronock Community Council website (<https://kilmaronockcc.org/cc-forum-info>)

In discussion, some representatives proposed a WhatsApp group for those interested.

**David Keown (BHCC) will follow up (Exec to send latest CC contacts to David)**

Rona (Forum exec) presented some legal advice given on following up on breaches of the Code of Conduct. Several other CC’s have had issues within their committee which have been handled in different ways with different outcomes. The forum noted that there is no provision for de-selection of a committee member (other than removal of an office bearing position). The forum agreed that there ought to be a mechanism in the Scheme of Establishment and wonder why there is not, it was suggested during the recent review but was not included. It is 4 years until the next review but we can look start looking into it now.

**The Exec will follow up to see if this is an oversight or legal reason for not having a dismissal clause.**

Drummond (PNKCCC) spoke on WDC response times. There is a stated 10 working day limit to respond to any query which is never adhered to. In fact, multiple requests sometimes never responded to.

In discussion it was found that most if not all CC’s have experienced the same issue. Sometimes appealing to an elected member helps as they often prompt the officers to reply. It was noted that some elected members are more helpful than others. Some CC’s have elected members attend all their meetings, some have none at any. At least one elected member cannot do Mondays due to a clash with a political party meeting.

It was discussed whether elected members are duty bound to attend CC meetings.

**The Forum executive will look into this and kindly remind them if so.**

**Peter Hessett is top of the list for an invitation to the next Forum.**

1. AOB / Positive News Stories

Both Balloch & Haldane and Linnvale & Drumry CC’s have been revitalised and are represented tonight. Well done to the volunteers stepping up to stand for election in sufficient numbers.

Bonhill & Dalmonach CC will be holding a Dr.Bike event at the Lomond Church Eco-

Fair on Saturday 10th June. Also, a project to upgrade the Dalmonach steps to include an accessible ramp has started.

After the meeting closed, David Keown (BHCC) discussed the idea of providing ID cards for community councillors.

**Exec will check if any other CC’s wish to have ID cards.**

1. Date of Next Meeting

The next business meeting will be 6th September @ **7.30pm**, notices will be sent out in good time but please send in any items for discussion as early as possible. The executive will meet as needed before then.

**Appendix 1 – Community Councils Info**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Community Council** | **Contact** | **Meeting Schedule**  | **Email** |
| Alexandria  | Harry McCormack | Second Wednesday  | harrymccormack.alexandriacc@gmail.com |
| Balloch and Haldane | David Keown |  | david.keown@gmail.com |
| Bonhill and Dalmonach  | Jack Fordy | Second Monday  | bonhill-dalmonachcc@outlook.com |
| Bowling and Milton | Shona Brown | Third Tuesday | secretary.bowlingmiltoncc@gmail.com |
| Clydebank East | Alistair Conarty  | First Monday  | clydebankeasttreasurer@gmail.com |
| Dumbarton East and Central | Dorothy Heron | Second Tuesday | adheron@gmail.com |
| Faifley  | Tricia Lorimer | Last Thursday | faifleycc@outlook.com/triciafaileyevents@hotmail.com |
| Kilmaronock | Andrew Sinnott | First Monday (alternate months) | secretary@kilmaronockcc.org |
| Linnvale & Drumry | Lorraine Hamilton |  | linnvaldrumrycc@gmail.com |
| Old Kilpatrick  | Isobel Plunkett | Second Tuesday  | chair@oldkilpatrickcc.org.uksecretary@oldkilpatrickcc.org.uk |
| Parkhall, North Kilbowie & Central  | Anne MacDougall | Second Tuesday  | pnkccc@yahoo.com |
| Silverton and Overtoun  | Rona Wilkinson | Second Thursday  | soccdumbarton@gmail.com |
| Dalmuir and Mountblow |  |  |  |
| Dumbarton North |  |  |  |
| Dumbarton West |  |  |  |
| Renton  |  |  |  |