

## **LOANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Loans Village Hall**

### **Meeting Minutes 12 Mar 2025**

**PRESENT:** David Chalmers, Sheila Paton, Fred McCrory, Keith Mason, Veronica Hickman

**APOLOGIES:** Audrey Gatt, Katy Busby

There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

#### ***1. Welcome by Chairman***

DC welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

#### ***2. Police Report***

PC Connor and PC Dickie from the police were in attendance tonight.

The Police Report from 11<sup>th</sup> February-11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 provided these updates:

- No reported incidences of violence or drug supply
- No incidences of anti-social behaviour
- No house breaking or fraud
- No incidences of domestic abuse reported
- No substance abuse issues
- One instance of speeding/no insurance recorded around 15:00 on the day of monitoring. It was noted that it is a requirement that the police make themselves visible which may have had an impact on the number of people who were speeding during the monitoring period
- Three calls received which related to sheep on the road

DC said he observed/heard issues almost every day at the traffic calming chicane on the way into the village from Barassie. Alternative traffic calming solutions were discussed again. SP confirmed that a letter to ARA has been drafted and it would be more beneficial to discuss any potential improvements or enhancements to the current measures in partnership with ARA. It is hoped we will get a response in time for the next meeting with options to move this ongoing discussion forward.

There was a question from the floor on whether there was any action the police could take in relation to cars being parked in vehicle turning areas. The

police confirmed they cannot get involved unless the vehicle is causing an obstruction or if the vehicle was found not to be taxed or insured.

It was also noted that speeding had been discussed at the Stable Wynd grounds maintenance meeting. Specifically, there were concerns raised about the main exit and access from Old Loans Road and Stable Wynd and the danger caused by speeding traffic on Old Loans Road.

### ***3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 12 February 2025***

The minutes from the previous meeting have been circulated and commented on. These minutes were proposed by Fred McCrory and seconded by Keith Mason.

### ***4. Matters Arising***

#### ***4.1 Place Planning Update***

Apologies were received from Audrey ahead of the session. Audrey Gatt and SP had a meeting to look at the Action Plan structure and how this ties back to the Thriving Communities survey. It was confirmed that in-flight and funded activities should be in scope of this document. SP has produced a draft for review and shared this with Audrey and Community Council members.

#### ***4.2 Village Hall Garden Project 'The Walkers Rest'***

There was no update on progress of the funded project to make the garden into an outdoor information centre for the walkers. The original scheme prepared in partnership with the Hall Committee in 2016 has trickled through the system but we need to better understand how this will be 'approved'.

DC believes we can write (with permission from VH) to the residents of the adjoining properties and ask them to get the overhanging trees cut back and debris removed.

VH raised concerns about 'unruly walkers' disturbing classes that have booked the Hall. It was suggested the final design may need to include a notice to mitigate against this.

There was some confusion about whether there would be less available funding for the car park work if money was spent to upgrade the paths at the reservoir. We need to get clarification from KD on this point.

SP will contact AG/KB and KD ahead of the next meeting requesting an update.

FM asked if anyone had come forward as a volunteer to help in the garden. SP confirmed that there had been no volunteers but noted that the SAC Connect Hub is another place we can get this promoted – fliers were being sent round the village about this just now.

DC noted that, depending on the final design of the garden, there may be less upkeep i.e. if the grass was reduced/removed. This could be a factor in the design discussion.

## ***5. Report by Treasurer***

**5.1** Our account presently stands at £2401.96 which includes the £125.20 to Zurich Insurance and the ICO (Information Commission) annual payment of £52. This also includes the £1665.00 donation for a new notice board and the £500 defibrillator maintenance fund.

**5.2** No other questions on the accounts.

## ***6. Any other Business/ Forum***

### ***6.1 Tree overspilling onto pavements***

It was noted that the hedge in the property adjacent to the Hall had been cut back on the pavement side, however, the trees that overhang into the Hall gardens are still encroaching over the wall.

### ***6.2 Storm Damage***

There was a question about storm damage in Craiksland Place beside the Scouts Hall and who was responsible for the repairs. DC suggested that property owners who were impacted could check their title deeds to assess their liability. It was confirmed these owners pay for the communal grass to be cut, so, it was likely they may also be liable for the cost of fixing the fences.

### ***6.3 Loans Hall AGM***

VH confirmed that the Loans Hall AGM is scheduled for Friday 29th March @19:00. SP confirmed she will put up a notice on the Facebook page.

### ***6.2 Volunteer support***

VASA has removed the request for volunteers to support the now disbanded 'Hub'.

### **6.3 Local Consultations**

Email requests have been made for feedback on the following SEPA and SPT proposed changes:

- SEPA is seeking feedback of changes around who can hold an authorisation. They are updating their approach to how they determine if an applicant is a fit and proper person and can hold a registration or permit
- SPT are seeking feedback on their draft bus strategy which describes a future bus network

The details can be linked to from the 'What's On' page on the website if anyone wants to participate. SP will also highlight the SPT survey on the Facebook page as bus service has come up at the Committee meetings in the past.

### **6.4 Facebook Poll on Park**

SP placed a survey on the Life in Loans Facebook page on Monday. 'The question posed was 'How would you like to see Loans Park improved? If you have another idea, just add it to the comments'. A summary of the results (at the time of the meeting and in priority order) was as follows:

1. Improve the drainage so it can be used year-round – 32 votes
2. Create a proper path round the whole perimeter – 30 votes
3. Add some lights/solar lights – 20 votes
4. Add a Community garden area – 18 votes
5. Add more picnic tables or seating areas – 17 votes
6. Create access to the park directly from Collins Drive – 6 votes

There was strong feedback about having play/fitness equipment similar to Struthers Park 'Trim Trail' and someone also suggested a Community orchard.

### **6.5 Pathway alongside reservoir entrance**

We have received a complaint from a property owner living on the Collenan Reservoir Road addressed at our Ward Councillors advising that their property is often affected by unauthorised parking blocking their driveway. They are also seriously affected by littering, dumping of rubbish and dog waste. There are no rubbish/litter bins on this well trodden stretch of road which serves the Reservoir, a popular picnic and fishing spot, as well as being a major stretch for

walkers on the well known Smugglers Trail. This owner has apparently tried to contact our Ward Councillors without success. We would ask at least one of our Councillors contact this owner to take up this matter. Our Secretary has contact details.

### ***7. Next Meeting***

**7.1** The date for the next meeting is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 19:00.

**END**