



CCA Meeting 29 November 2023

Minutes

This meeting followed the AGM and hence it was agreed that items in the AGM are not repeated in this meeting save in summary.

Apologies for Absence: Rob Wells, Suzanne McIntyre, David Pickett, Councillor Malcolm Johnstone, Chris Woodness, Councillor Keith Walters, Alison Robertson.

Minutes of last Meeting: These had been posted on the Website and hard copies were available if required. The minutes were accepted as drafted.

Financial Position

The detailed financial statement being agreed at the AGM was not discussed further. In summary, the CCA account has a positive balance of £19,886.48. The Budget having been discussed and agreed at the AGM is £11,850. This includes a number of capital items.

The Chair also advised that the claim for over £600 of damage to the motorhome window had been resolved with insurers covering the cost less CCA excess of £100. This was a very satisfactory outcome. In response to a question he advised that our insurance provided cover for CCA Officers, Public liability cover and Employers liability cover at a moderate cost annually. That might though increase as a result of our claim.

General Reports:

Community Police - The Chairman had received a report for previous months but had received nothing recently. Manpower difficulties precluded attendance at community meetings generally and the Chair had pressed for an updated report. Whilst the pressure on our police service was noted it was disappointing there was no recognisable support for communities. Councillor Campbell said he would raise this with the Councils Police liaison next year when it was hoped that police may be up to speed next year

D&G Council – Matters for John Campbell to raise at the Council. Kelly Green stated that School Buses were not turning up and children were left waiting, sometimes in appalling weather. This also raised safety concerns.

Fred Trigg raised the issue of the continuing lack of attention to the collapsed banking at Bankend and failure to deal with the oil spillage in the village causing a health and safety issue with a slippery road surface.



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SNH – Suzanne McIntyre was unable to attend but had nothing much to report from the NNR side, all well, only thing to note is that, subject to budget allocation from Scottish Government for 2024, we are hoping to put the contract for the proposed new viewpoint / welcome structure back out to tender early in the New Year in the hope we will get more reasonable bids this time around and will be able to take the build forward in 2024.

Caerlaverock Estate - Anna Austin mentioned TV had been featuring the Treehouse and ecolodges with George Clark present. This should air next year. The Estate was undertaking a risk assessment on trees that need attention either maintenance or felling dangerous trees and branches. If anyone is aware of any, please let Anna know. There will be replanting at Craigs Wood after the felling. The pond work has been completed.

The section of steps etc has collapsed in part and is under review for work as part of the “Corepaths” policies and responsibility of government bodies to maintain. John Campbell mentioned the Coastal Benefit scheme grants available

Caerlaverock School – Karen Scriven thanked everyone for the lovely welcome she and the new teaching team had received. The school represented the school really well at Remembrance, Beacon lighting and the pumpkin picking session. They had a walk around Glencaple with the Children to get a feel for the nearby environment. A meeting with Anna Austin is also planned. A communication tool was mentioned but is no longer available so other platforms are being considered to spread the word. The Chairman mentioned the School section of the website and this could also be used through Fred Trigg. Karen will liaise with School Secretary, Joanne Spence.

Pupil Roll is currently 28 and all seems to be going well.

Barbour Hall – Alice Wilson introduced herself as Chair for Barbour Hall. Most importantly the toilet renovation is completed. Next in line is the Kitchen renovation subject to fund raising. Alcie would like to see us working together as a community as we have a lot of demand for help from a small community. Saturday Christmas Fair is upcoming and raffle tickets available and at The Boathouse.

Allotments Rob wells forwarded the following report:

All is well. Some changes in plot holders - but all full plots and half plots are taken for the next year. If anyone wants to be put on the waiting list - please email me and Alison Robertson. Plot rents are held at £15.00 for a half plot - £30.00 for a full plot.

We had a very successful pumpkin distribution day, when the entire school (28 children, I think) and three staff came over one lunchtime, and each child picked up their own



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pumpkin, which were then wheelbarrowed over to the school. The Standard and the Courier gave the event very good coverage.

Nith Inshore Rescue -, No report

Caerlaverock Kirk – Services as normal commencing at 09.45 each Sunday. No changes noted for Christmas.

Hutton Hall – Claire addressed the meeting and drew attention to the notice of a meeting on Saturday 9 December at 14.00 to discuss critical issues. Due to oil thefts funds did not allow a way of keeping this open for more than a month or two. That would mean hand back to the Council after 15 years. The Committee does not wish to see development but keep this in community use. Kelly Green added that there are only five on the Committee, all work and more help and funding is required. Issues with lack of response from the Council has led to groups cancelling and hence loss of income. The Council have finally resolved things, but it all takes too long.

John Campbell will raise these issues with the Council and feedback.

The Chair confirmed that £200 was available for Christmas and it was agreed that could be made available for at least a Childrens Christmas Party

Website – Fred Trigg – Had been doing a lot of work in the background on updating, security etc Analytics showed 2,000 unique site views in the last 30 days. Motorhomes attracts the most attention so requires update and most look from a mobile device. We have moved to a cheaper platform and have removed features we don't need to save money. We do need more content, particularly for the new features like events. Simplification will take place but Fred needs input from the community including possibly merging sites like Barbour Hall and Hutton Hall. To be discussed with Kelly and Alice.

Definitely need more posts so please provide title, text and photos!

AoB:

Committee Members - The Chair commented that there remains a place for one more member under the constitution with the positions of Vice Chair and Secretary not being filled either.

Community Website – It was with relief that the Chair announced that Fred Trigg from Bankend had taken over from Malcolm Laurie dealing with our IT and website. Fred addressed the meeting.



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Grass Cutting and community projects - Thanks were given to all who had helped over the year with things, particularly Dick McKune who had cut the grass. It was just the small efforts which cumulatively made Caerlaverock such a wonderful and beautiful place to live. We do need more people to help particularly projects like the Beacon and Benches, dog bin emptying.

Benches - We still have benches to repair and improve. Thanks go to George Moffat and the unpaid works team at Dumfries and Galloway Council for constructing and donating the new Bench at Big Rock. Whilst not wishing to be greedy the Chair will make contact to try and get help on other projects in the community. He was also still in discussions about a replacement bench for the Quay End.

Speeding, limits, and roads - Rona and John Carson continue to express concerns about speeding and the dangers on "Kelton Corner" which are not improving. A request for monthly speed data from the electronic speed signs was requested with a copy to the Chair. Council Campbell will follow up with that team but confirmed they can only monitor speeds as a whole. It was agreed that unless number plate evidence can be provided the police are powerless to act and it is their responsibility. With the School Bus stopping there our children are in danger on a daily basis.

Hutton Trust – The Chair stated that he was a member of the Hutton Trust and also a Trustee on the Dumfries Educational Trust. The Hutton Trust benefited elderly in the parish with small contributions to living costs. It could also help with small grants to young people undergoing apprenticeships etc to assist with things like tools. He encouraged anyone who knew people who may benefit to apply to the Trust for grants.

Remembrance Sunday – A big thanks to all who attended the two events. The service at the memorial was the best attended the Chair had witnessed. He was particularly grateful to the children of the parish who had contributed to laying wreaths, piping and lighting the Beacon. The latter had not been as well attended as previously but it had been a wet and cold night.

Bus Stop Bank End – Kelly Green raised a possible replacement as it is getting to the end of its useful life. John Campbell confirmed it is a Council responsibility and will raise it. We have also asked for a price from Jock Anderson for a traditional structure.

Cycling Dumfries - Have a possible opportunity to upgrade or create a new cycle route from Dumfries to Glencaple. The footpath has been a long-term issue as the bridge has not been replaced whilst being on the radar for a long time. If the two could be used to get this improved for cyclists and pedestrians it would help. Discussions with the Council would be helpful. It may also help cyclists in a safer environment.



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Macmillan Coffee Morning - Sue Gilbert confirmed that she had raised a total of £430 and thanked everyone for their support especially Alice and Liz.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 28 February 2024 at 19.30.

ADDENDUM

WWT whilst unable to attend reported that:

- WWT Caerlaverock should be appearing on BBC Scotland Landward on Thurs 30 Nov night (and available on iPlayer etc) . Not sure how we will look but the film crew had a fantastic sunrise and a huge fly over of geese so the reserve did its best to look good for the cameras.
- We had a very busy Wild Goose Festival week at the end of October with lots of events and during the week we ran a pop-up café serving food from the Boathouse such as light lunches, etas and coffees and cakes. Unsurprisingly it proved to be very popular and we will look to put on a pop-up café for other days when we have events and busy days. Find out more by following the reserves social media channels and checking our website.
- we have launched a nature reserve blog on our website where short pieces of writing about varied aspects of the reserve are put up 2—3 times a week. So if you want to learn more about the reserve and the work we do to manage it and get the up to date happening just go to our website.