

SALSBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL - 13th FEBRUARY 2003

Minutes of the meeting of Salsburgh Community Council held in the
Community Hall on Thursday 13th February 2003

PRESENT

J. Wilson. [Chair] W. Queen, N. McCann, J. Keir, O. McAvoy, G. Stephen, M. McLaughlin.

APOLOGIES

H. McColl.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 9th January 2003 were submitted and approved.

BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES

WARD 52 BUSINESS

2. Members were informed that correspondence had been received to the effect that the Springfield area will be cleared and progress will be advised.
Other outstanding matters from previous community council correspondence from last year [2002] is still awaiting reply.

B7066 FOOTBRIDGE

3. No information has been received regarding the B7066 footbridge.

FOOTPATHS

4. Members were informed that the repairs required to the steps at Sighthill terrace/Muirhall Avenue have not been attended to.

CORRESPONDENCE

North Lanarkshire Council
Karen Whitefield MSP
Disease Prevention Organisation
Arts Association
Yell {Yellow Pages}
SEPA
MAVS
Scottish Water
SLGIU

GENERAL BUSINESS

SALSBURGH SURGERY

5. Response was received from Karen Whitefield MSP regarding GP services in Salsburgh.
The GP practice has monitored demand for evening surgeries and concluded it would not be efficient to have several evening surgeries with no patients attending.
Various Health & Safety issues would also require attention given;

- The local Post Office being held up.
- Damage caused by individuals entering the building undetected.
- Staff working alone in the premises.

In respect of patient choice a GP rota system is in operation and the same GP cover could not be the same each time.

Since monitoring attendance's the practice found on the vast majority of occasions more than half of the appointments, including emergency appointments, have not been taken.

A number of members highlighted the fact in relation to Health & Safety that there is no emergency exit available to doctors, staff or indeed members of the public to exit the recently completed 'Health Centre' in the event of an occurrence or emergency.

It was also highlighted by members that having progressed the upgrading of the previous inadequate and unsuitable Salsburgh surgery facilities, which took in excess of 18 months to complete, the local community have now ended up with no primary care evening surgery facility being available within the village. As such a number of members consider the village and the local community worse off both financially and medically due to distance travel requirements.

YELL

6. Members were informed that consultation process is now in progress regarding two new Yellow Pages directories, an Ayrshire directory and a South Glasgow directory. Following consultation both directories will be available by June 2004.

POST BOX REMOVAL

7. Members were informed that following a review BT is to remove around 12,000 phone boxes nation-wide to reflect the drop in public demand. The Salsburgh phone box at the junction of Sighthill Terrace/Blackcroft Terrace is to be removed.

SEPA SERVICE CHARTER

8. Members were informed of the recently produced SEPA service charter. The charter allows for free public inspection of both paper and computer files held by SEPA. Complaints, if any, will be answered within 5 days and if complaints cannot be answered within 15 days a progress report with resolution times will be given.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE SERVICE CHARTER

9. Following on from the above item a number of members referred to the delays in replies to community council correspondence from North Lanarkshire Council and asked for clarification on the position.

Members were informed that NLC have a service charter where they state they are always keen to hear from individuals and organisations that use their services. They further state that if you write to the council they will reply within 14 days either;

- Providing you with a full response or;
- Where this is not possible informing you of the steps they are taking to provide you with a more detailed response.

Members were further informed that the more "detailed response" even for the simplest of matters or questions, is usually the main cause of delay and can take a number of months before an answer is received.

MAVS

10. Members were informed that the MAVS membership is running from January to January and not from April to March as previously. Members decided to renew membership. Various information relating to seminars, information and funding sessions was also highlighted.

SCOTTISH WATER

11. Information relation to the harmonisation of water charges was highlighted.

GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY STRUCTURE PLAN

12. Members were informed of proposed changes to Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan to accommodate the modification relating to the Ravenscraig Town Centre.

SLGIU

13. A number of matters from the SLGIU Bulletin was brought to members attention including the action of the North Lanarkshire Council Anti Social Task Force which operates on a 24 hour seven day a week basis. For example;

- 25 Anti Social Behaviour Orders.
- 3 evictions.
- 600 cases resolved at an early stage and monitored regularly.
- The identification of "hot spot areas" in North Airdrie and South Wishaw.
- A 24 hour witnessing service.

Members asked that an invitation be sent to the Task Force to raise awareness locally in view of some of the concerns that have been relayed from the local community to the community council.

AIRDRIE AREA COMMITTEE

14. Members were informed of matters from the previous Airdrie Area Committee meeting held on the 21st January 2003 concerning the council spending overview and changes in relation to Council Tax.

Members were also informed that a report presented to the committee related to bus service provision to Airdrie and the surrounding settlements [villages] within the Airdrie area of which eight [8] settlements [excluding Airdrie] were listed.

Salsburgh was not included in the list of settlements although an apology was given at the meeting for the exclusion of the Salsburgh village in the service report tabled to committee, which noted the changes in bus service provision between may 2000 and November 2002.

BADGER BAITING

15. It was highlighted to members that information had been received that visitors from the Shotts area visiting the local Kirk O'Shotts cemetery had found two dead dogs thrown over the wall of the cemetery. Having taken the carcasses to the SSPCA at Bothwell they were informed that the muzzles of the dogs had been ripped off, more than likely because the dogs seem to have been used for badger baiting.

Members were further informed that representatives from the Central Scotland Forest also viewed with concern the reports given to them regarding the examples of badger baiting. Members were informed that the Police have a wildlife officer who is very interested in hearing and indeed investigating such occurrence and welcome information from members of the public.

FIREARMS

16. Following on from the above item on badger baiting members were further informed of reports relating to the use of firearms and air weapon fitted with laser targeting being used around Forrestburn and the Dewshill area.
In view of the national newspaper reports of the serious concerns voiced by the SSPCA in Broxburn and West Lothian in particular regarding the numbers of household pets and other animals killed or injured, it seems that the problems relating to firearms and air weapons are again finding their way to the Salsburgh area due mainly, as suggested, to the isolated locations and the intermittent Police presence.

ST CATHERINE'S WELL [KATE'S WELL]

17. Following on from discussion regarding the upgrading of St Catherine's Well [Kate's well] the community council is to meet with representatives of both the Smarter Salsburgh project and representatives from the Central Scotland Forest regarding local projects.

SCRAMBLE & QUAD BIKERS

18. A number of concerns were again highlighted by members regarding the use of scramble and quad bikes around the village play parks and roads.
Members had noted the tragic death of a biker from Newarthill and are concerned regarding the dangers to children and youngsters in the village from the increasing use and misuse of scramble and quad bikes locally.
Members were further informed that there is an official North Lanarkshire Scramble & Quad Bike Club who are promoting the safe and legal use of off road trail bikes to reduce the number of complaints and also damage to the local environment.
North Lanarkshire Councillor Bill Martin started the club and is a founder member of group set up to look into the misuse of trail & quad bikes.

RUBBISH DUMPING

19. A number of complaints were made regarding the increasing amounts of rubbish being dumped at the Bogfoot Road and near to the local sewage works as well as increased dumping at other locations around the village.
A member of the community council suggested notifying the local newspaper, as has been done on previous occasions, with the purpose of highlighting concerns.

VANDALISM

20. Members were informed that a large double glazed window in the community hall has been broken. It was also reported that one of the houses occupied under the previously operating void initiative has also had a number of its windows broken.

GAZETTE

21. Members were informed of the official launch of Gazettes-Online. The project will make the entire archive of the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes, the official chronicler of all major national and international events accessible on the Internet.
- Members were informed that various legal notices, corporate and personal insolvency as well as state notices and a wealth of other information on Home & International Affairs, Trade, Industry, Energy and Social Policy is available on the web site.
- Anyone interested in genealogy, historical research or even more mundane matters such as planning and development locally and nationally, with its associated requirement for need to know information should find the online material fascinating.

LOCAL ROAD CONDITIONS

22. Members once again raised the problems associated with local roads. The B7066, Main Street, Springfield Road, Forrest Road and so on, due to the amount of potholes, stone chips, dirt, water damage and general poor conditions especially as there is an increase of cyclists and motor cyclists locally with the corresponding danger of accidents.
- Members also raised concerns due to the increasing numbers in the community who are complaining of damage to windscreens and the underside of cars.
- The community council cannot become involved due to motorists who sustain injury or whose vehicles are damaged due to the condition of roads and members of the community should take their complaints to the Local Authority, as they are responsible for local roads and may be responsible for a nuisance, or negligent or indeed in breach of their statutory duty to maintain the roads.

INQUIRY REPORTERS UNIT

23. Members were informed that the Inquiry Reporters Unit of the Scottish Executive is now online with comprehensive background information on numerous aspects relating to planning including house extensions, housing developments, retail schemes, wind farms, quarrying, planning appeals and decisions on planning appeals.
- Decision letters on planning appeals can also be downloaded without charge.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GOLD STAR AWARDS

24. The community council noted with approbation that a number of their members who also hold office with the Smarter Salsburgh Project are to receive a Community Services Gold Star Award for "Project of the year."

OFFICIAL PHONE MAST PROBE

25. Members were informed the first official investigation into health risks linked to mobile phone masts under the mobile telecommunications health research [MTHR] programme is now underway.

There being no further business the community council meeting concluded.

The next community council meeting will take place on Thursday 13th March 2003.