

COLLIESTON AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 28th February 2006

Present: Nikki Tait, Sally Sheehan, Councillor Brinsley Sheridan, Trish Davidson, Lesley Stewart, Roger Berl, Julie Swan, Rachel Hitchcock, Viv Easton, Margaret Swan.

Apologies: Laura Junor, Vicky McNiff, Jilly McIntyre

1. Report from CATs

Laura had intimated her apologies, but had reported that nothing had progressed since the last meeting. Committee members reported that the hall was being used well by local young people with good use made of the new equipment.

2. Matters Arising

The content of the booklet was almost complete, but needed editing.

Investigation into path erosion and any subsequent action required ongoing.

Blether had been published and copies distributed round the village. Lesley explained how the "subscription" process worked and asked that people contact her with names of people who might want to receive the Blether. A decision was made that the mailing list for Slains should be used to send copies to a wider readership. To avoid unnecessary costs or unwanted mail, the next Blether will ask people to contact Lesley if they do not wish to receive further editions.

3. Councillor Brinsley Sheridan

Brinsley informed the Committee that the Area Committee meeting had decided to formally adopt two roads in Collieston the Bog Road, Low Town and Slains Road.

Following ongoing developments with CASCT, the Council's property department were to prepare a report about the Community Centre for the Area Committee meeting in March. As this was specifically a CASCT related issue, the Committee felt it more appropriate that one or more of the CASCT Committee attend the meeting rather than an Amenities representative. Brinsley reported that only representatives of a Community Council, or equivalent, could speak at Area Committee meetings. Decision taken to co-opt one or more CASCT representatives, subject to their agreement, to the Amenities Committee for this specific role. Brinsley also advised that Area Manager Keith Newton and Committee chair Councillor John Loveday should be contacted in the first place to inform them of any intention of attending the meeting and asking questions etc. Members attending the meeting would not be allowed to vote or to interrupt proceedings.

Lesley asked whether members of the public could attend these meetings and was told they could although they may be asked to leave near the end of the meeting when sensitive issues are sometimes discussed.

(the Amenities Committee are notified in advance when meetings are to take place and they are usually held in the Kirk Centre, Station Road, Ellon)
A discussion took place regarding the Pier Road and the letter from a local resident recently asking if the road could be closed to traffic to prevent further damage to the road and pier. Brinsley advised that the Amenities Committee would have no authority to do this. Sally will draft a reply for Nikki's approval.

4. CASCT

Nikki asked for people's thoughts following on from the extra Amenities meeting about the meeting between Nikki and CASCT chair Steve Rainey. The Committee were unanimous in regarding any fundraising as being "village" money and expressed support of future funding bids which expressed the total income from the two committees as one figure – although keeping both accounts separate.

Some members expressed concerns over the expected cost of the project and felt they needed reassurance on some issues. Sally mentioned the planned workshops to be held mid March which would focus on the practicalities of sustainability, future management of CASCT and the new hall etc.

5. Treasurer's Report

Trish gave a report on the latest account spreadsheet and explained the associated income and expenditure. Trish and Roger had done some work to identify the sums involved for where money will be committed during the rest of the year. There would be approx £4K of uncommitted money, which could be set against any future need or request for funding assistance.

Expenditure included the purchase of new crockery, a music system and gravel dust for paths. Two additional tubs had been purchased for the entrance to the village, but the committee felt these were surplus to requirements.

6. Gala

Members were asked to identify possible ceilidh bands for Saturday night.

Raffle prizes were discussed, including a flight over Collieston and/or vouchers. Ideas will be finalised at the next meeting.

Rachel suggested an idea for the Thursday with a musical theme. Everyone was in support of this.

7. Correspondence

In addition to the correspondence list, a thank you card had been received from Betty Grant on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Margaret read a list of people who had received gifts and cards and asked for people to keep her informed of needs.

8. Mowers etc

It had been reported that we may need to replace some village grass cutting equipment. Nikki would see John Tubey to discuss this further.

Craig Swan had asked if he could lay a path of slabs on one of the paths opposite the shop. This was agreed.

The path at Porthudden has been cut out very successfully.

Mick Sheehan had said that he is standing down as work party coordinator. Although he is happy to attend future work parties and to carry out pieces of work, he felt that it was time for new blood to take over. The Committee thanked him for his commitment.

The need for a work party coordinator will be expressed in the new Blether, committee members were also asked to talk personally to individuals who might be interested in taking this on.

****PLEASE NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING NOW CHANGED TO 18TH APRIL – (11TH is in the Easter holidays)**