

Aberlady Community Association

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday December 8th, 2015

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Donald Hay (chair), Ross Searle (treasurer), Hilary Wilkie (bookings secretary), Iain Macaskill, Ros Richardson, Jackie Burman, Dick Gill, Damien Noonan (taking minutes)

No apologies were received.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday December 8th, 2015

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters arising

a. Anaerobic digester power plant at Standalane, near Ballencrieff: we are not clear on the latest news but the last we heard, the proposal is likely to come before East Lothian planning committee in February 2016. Latest news will be available on the No Gas Works East Lothian Facebook page, www.facebook.com/nogasworksel

b. The Pleasance play park: Damien has heard from the Parent Council that East Lothian council is to replace the missing swings to a design approved by the Parent Council at Aberlady Primary School and has also offered a shelter for older children.

c. East Lothian Residents Review: Donald has been attending these meetings which have looked at parks and open spaces in the county. He points out that funding is available for 'friends' groups. Damien to discuss facilities with the Parent Council. Tennis courts or other ideas?

d. Community police officer: Ros has heard from Angus McCallum of the Gullane Area Community Council that there is no longer such a beast. Ros will attend the GACC meeting in Aberlady on Thursday January 28th to try to establish more details.

e. Other outstanding matters: establishing a Tenants and Residents Association (Ross and Damien); possible Friends Group for parks and green spaces.

f. Hilary reports that Alan has investigated the small leak in the roof and suggests two possible contractors to fix the flashings, though both with reservations. Hilary thinks it will be simpler to get D Finlayson to do the repair; the rhones (gutters) and downpipes will need clearing and preventive maintenance on these should be carried out in future. Ros is to arrange padlocks for the stage (a safety issue).

g. Ros reports that Brian Ford initially seems willing to take on the role of maintenance advisor. He reports that the hall is generally in good order.

e. Other outstanding matters: establishing a Tenants and Residents Association (Ross and Damien).

4. Correspondence

None.

5. Treasurer's report

a. Ross's statement for 09/12/2015 to 12/01/2016 shows receipts totalling £2,244 (£1,563 from rentals, £550 from donations and £501 from fundraising; expenditure of £1,405 (including £189 for cleaning, £142 for utilities and £936 for maintenance, the bulk of the maintenance cost being painting). Balance carried forward is £17,775.

b. There was reasonable rental income in December. Donations include £500 from the hall lunches and £50 from Duck's; fundraising includes the carol concert. Maintenance was largely painting, some plumbing. Admin costs included the Christmas tree and newspaper advertising for the table sale.

c. The annual insurance renewal is due soon and is up slightly to £822, most of the increase due to a UK Government tax increase. Ross does not believe we can readily get a better deal.

6. Bookings secretary's report

a. Hilary reports that weekly bookings are good, parties not so much, although there have been some enquiries recently.

b. She suggests increasing the fee slightly (from £120 to £130 for private use, £80 to £90 for community use) but with an extra hour free, the additional fee to help pay for cleaning. Parties generally are hard on the wooden floor.

c. After School Club has yet to pay its invoice.

7. Draft Local Development Plan: what should be done to advise local residents

Context: East Lothian Council approved the proposed Local Development Plan at a meeting on November 17th, 2015. This version of the plan is available to read online but is not officially published; there will be further "technical work" before the draft is published early in 2016. There will then be a six-week period of public consultation. The plan specifies a site at the west end of Aberlady for housing totalling about 100 dwellings (known as West Aberlady); it does not include a site at the east end of the village (known as Bickerton Field). Details of both housing schemes - although at this stage they are just outline proposals - can be found online.

a. We should contact the Community Council and the Conservation and History Society and take coordinated action.

- b. We should clarify with East Lothian council the exact nature of the consultation: is it open to members of the public, or just groups? We should also attempt to clarify the date of publication for the draft (Dick to do).
- c. We should produce a flyer for distribution to all homes in Aberlady, because it will be difficult for residents to miss (compared with online, word of mouth, posters).
- d. We should run a drop-in event over several days in order to maximise opportunities for residents to attend (rather than a single public meeting).
- e. Our aim is to make sure all residents are aware of the plan and the issues that may face them as a consequence of it (traffic, school capacity, housing mix etc etc).
- f. Donald, Dick and Damien to meet to draft the flyer (ideally within two weeks) and circulate the draft to members of the committee.

8. Any other business.

- a. Will there be another photo competition this year, and if so, when?

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday February 9th, 2016 at 7.30pm in the small hall at the end of the Community Hall.