

# Dullatur Community Council

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 29 June 2006, Dullatur Village Hall, 8pm.**

**Present** S Chard DCC, M Smillie DCC/ DLTC , P Chard DCC, J McLean DCC, E Watson DCC, M Kennedy, C Devlin Victoria Grange Residents Assoc.

**Apologies** Mr & Mrs Ormerod, Victoria Grange residents

**Minutes** Previously circulated taken as read and approved by M Smillie seconded by E Watson.

## **Matters arising from Minutes.**

**Sewage;** During the summer recess The Community Council were involved with several sewage spills. The Eastfield Road Plant had a major breakdown from 23 June until 13 July. Sewage flowed continuously in the Chanticleer Burn and warnings were issued to residents in the vicinity. SEPA has now entered into legal proceeding with Scottish Water. Cllr Murray, M Smillie, Mrs A L Gurney, Mr D Young and Mr B Young of Ratho Drive Residents Assoc. have been asked to give witness statements. Dullatur 10 (Victoria Grange) pumping station has failed over two long periods. Stewart Milne have failed to make the required upgrades to the pumping station to enable Scottish Water to adopt the system, Stewart Milne have been issued a formal caution.

In the past year we have had three sewage spills from the Eastfield Road Plant and Victoria Grange Pumping Station. SEPA and Scottish Water were called out to assess and rectify the outflow.

**Traffic;** On the last day of term the school bus was met head-on by a car driving on the opposite side of the road at the roundabout. This was witnessed by two village residents and reported to the Police and Cllr Murray.

A resident reported a car driven by a young woman drove on the opposite side of the road to avoid the roundabout; the resident followed the car to a village resident's drive. The incident was reported to the police. Other incidents of a similar nature were reported to the Community Council by committee members. The police will be notified and an article will be included in the forthcoming newsletter.

NLC Roads Dept. painted the centre lines and junctions in the village. It was noted that the Glen Road, which is the most dangerous was omitted.

**The Lane;** After years of neglect by NLC the Community Council had high hopes when representatives of NLC made a site visit to the Lane with Cllr Murray and Margaret Smillie. Hopes were soon dashed when the Community Council received a letter from NLC stating that NLC had no claim to the Lane. The Community Council have absolute proof of responsibility in the transfer of titles to NLC from CDC in 1997. Nothing had been done to the Lane in over thirty years by past councils. In the meantime a poor patch up job of flattening the surface and laying a shallow layer of Tarmac has been done. The Community Council will continue this matter.

**Scottish Water;** See Financial Report

**Broadband;** See progress Report

## **Progress Report: Stan Chard (Chairperson)**

The Community Council welcomed Carol Devlin as representative of Victoria Grange Residents Assoc.

Spring saw the Dullatur Road and the pathway to the Terrace ablaze with daffodils; this met the approval of residents and visitors. The Community Council will target other areas in the village for similar treatment.

The Community Council and Residents Assoc. held several very successful social events during the year. These events are not possible without the considerable efforts of the committee and friends. Thanks go to everyone who helps to make them successful. The Community Council and Dullatur Residents Assoc. made special presentations to Mr & Mrs John Colquhoun, Mr. & Mrs J Sword for their hard work in and around the Village Hall. And to Mr. & Mrs G Inglis for auditing the various village accounts.

Broadband suffered a downward spiral in the early part of the year. A large number of residents suffered from disrupted or a total loss of service. The end result was that the cabinets were repositioned and new cabling installed throughout the village. Thanks to Carol Devlin, Margaret Smillie and other residents who kept up the pressure on BT to gain a much improved service.

An important asset purchased after our windfall was a Community Notice Board.

**Financial Report: M Kennedy (Treasurer).** The accounts have been audited and have been found correct by Mr A Hefron. A profit for the year has been made, this was due to the Scottish Water accounts rebates and the reduction in the rateable value. The Scottish Water dispute is now over and all rebates from the over-billing have been paid to the Community Council. The Village Hall Maintenance Account and the Dullatur Residents Assoc. accounts have been reimbursed. Direct Debits have been set up for water and electricity accounts. Thanks again to Margaret Smillie for her continued fight over the past seven years. The windfall will go towards upgrading the kitchen.

**Group Report: M Smillie (Secretary).** The Mother and Toddler Group and Playgroup are flourishing. The Mother and Toddler Group operate on Monday and Thursday morning with their capacity limit of twelve. The Playgroup meets on Tuesday and Friday, each session at the capacity limit of twelve. Both groups received an excellent report from the Care Commission earlier in the year. Gill Mason our Playgroup Leader for nine years has left for pastures new. The new leader will start in August. The Toddler & Playgroup have set up an Emergency Evacuation Procedure with Craigard Nursery. In the event of an emergency the group will muster in the hallway of Craigard. A reciprocal arrangement has been made with Craigard Nursery who will muster in the Village Hall. M Smillie handed over a set of hall keys to the manager  
Mrs Muriel Whitfield.

The Coffee morning is held every Wednesday morning throughout the year and is an important social link for the community. Thanks go to everyone who helps to make it successful. The Community Council and Dullatur Residents Assoc. made a presentation to Mr & Mrs John Colquhoun, Mr & Mrs J Sword and Mr & Mrs G Inglis their hard work

The Ceramic Class is still very popular and runs on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings throughout the year.

The Bridge Club, although a private members club is enjoyed through the winter months.

All rental income from all of the above groups is an important factor to the upkeep of the Hall and grounds. Through this the Hall is self sufficient and does not receive external grant funding. The revenue is paid to the Village Hall Maintenance fund.

### **Dullatur Lawn Tennis Club Report**

The report was read by Mrs M Smillie, DLTC President.

The club is moving forward with several new families joining and old members rejoining. Margaret Smillie and Gillian Rooney will continue run the very popular summer school two

days a week for two hours. We have engaged the coaching services yet again of Mike Cohen, Stephen and Neil of Esporta. Finals Day was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The Courts have been power-washed and will be re-painted by Replay (formerly Lawrence). This is in line with the time span given at the laying of the courts in 1996. The work has been delayed by poor spring weather and we are held in a back log. The Community Council have agreed to pay 50% of the re-painting. The Tennis Club will set up a separate account for future upgrades.

### **Any Other Business**

Stan Chard announced his resignation from the Community Council. M Smillie thanked Stan for all the work he had done over his years as Chairperson. He will still assist at events or when needed. M Smillie asked Mrs J McLean (vice Chair) if she would consider the appointment. Mrs McLean agreed to consider the appointment and stated that her only reservation would be her custody court duties. M Smillie and Mrs McLean will job share until a decision is made.

M Smillie read an e-mail from Mr. & Mrs Ormerod raising the following issues;

- 1) Horse Riding and fouling, this was also endorsed by E Watson, stating the steps to the Terrace were impassable.
- 2) Dog Fouling is increasing again, especially in the old village; this was endorsed by J McLean.
- 3) Speeding especially in Antonine Road and Victoria Road. This is a concern that the Community Council have been addressing, and will repeat in the next newsletter. We are also appealing to NLC to have an extra 30 miles sign mid-way down Dullatur Road.
- 4) The Play Area. The Community Council have asked the Community Services to cut the grass in the area at the Bunny Hop. Mr Ormerod asked if the area could be made more attractive to the children. The Community Council two years ago planned to upgrade the area this was met by objections by nearby residents to the Bunny Hop and the Community Council dropped the upgrade programme.

A general discussion was held to making improvements to the Village Hall. The kitchen needs an upgrade. To consider any reconstruction would be too expensive. We will look to the greater plan of an extension and source funding. The Community Council do not have any debts and do not want to overstretch our resources.

It was agreed to target residents in an effort to draft in new Community Councillors from the unrepresented areas around the village. An article will be put in the next newsletter. In the general discussion it was agreed that the majority of the Community Council came from the Old Village and the Community Councillors had been on the committee for over ten years or more. They all agreed that they all had a personal interest in the development of the village over the years and that it was beneficial to the community to have a voice within NLC and its Departments.

It was generally agreed that if the Community Council disbanded at some point in the future, through lack of interest and support. The Village Hall and Tennis Courts would be transferred to the original Old Dullatur Village Residents Assoc, who had rented the land and amenities from 1888 until the purchase by the Community Council in 1982. This was always a contingency in the event of disbanding. This would defeat the efforts of the Community Council in integrating the village as a whole. It would fragment into individual Residents Associations with their own issues and agendas.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.