

Corseford Tenants and Residents Association

General Meeting 10 December 2019

Minutes

Attendees:

Irene Struthers (Treasurer), George MacDonald (Secretary), Cllr Andy Steel, Elizabeth Kemmett (member), Wilma Dean (member), Iona Dean (member), Murdo MacDonald, Ann Lauder, Laurence Coates, Marian Coates

Agenda Item (in bold)

Welcome and Apologies

George opened the meeting with apologies

Paul McCallum, Jane Struthers, Louise MacDonald, Sarah Edgar, Christine Grant, Eddie Cussick, Tom Wallace

Police Update

Unfortunately, there was no presence by either PC Kelly or Holmes however those present acknowledged that this may be the case in such weather with police busy at accidents perhaps.

Maze and Boundary Wall

George gave an update on the boundary wall.

Update from Linstone Housing Association this month confirming that all tenders have been returned and will go to their board meeting this week (w/c 09/12/2019) for approval. David Adam, Director of Housing and Property services at Linstone will meet with the preferred bidder to discuss time scales and day works. The response received from Linstone states that David will be asking the preferred bidder to put Corseford issues to the front of this work schedule.

This means that there will be a factor bill arriving at homeowners on Linstone factor for the works to be carried out. It has to be noted that these works are essential. The maze has been condemned and must come down. If only for the safety of Corsefords children. Not to mention improving the physical look of the area. George went on to say that Corseford Tara did try to put a play area there at the expense of the Tara through fundraising and grant applications to absorb those costs (other than a minimal annual maintenance fee) however there was not enough support for that among residents

The boundary wall on Ettrick has been identified as a risk. It is leaning forward and if left will only get worse. It is over 6 foot and could do serious damage to any individual if it falls on them. The replacement options will have to be identified by Linstone and residents to establish the most cost effective yet safe option to avoid children being able to run onto the road at the corner.

George went on to explain that Linstone will have to provide options to residents for what will replace the boundary wall. Residents in the immediate vicinity have

expressed concerns over road safety and would prefer a fence the same height as the wall currently is. This could be a chain link fence as a cheaper option.

Corseford Tara will continue to have dialogue with Linstone around the costs and as soon as we have the costs for this work will cascade them.

Irene asked George what the Linstone plans are for the maze. George advised he did not know for certain, but indications seem to be that it will be a flat concrete square. Which may have an effect on local residents in the area if there is space for children to kick a ball off the wall which was what Renfrewshire Council and Linstone advised George could not be allowed to happen on a site discussion in 2018 regarding a play area.

George promised that the Tara will continue to engage with Linstone on this project and keep locals up to date as best they can with times and if possible, projected costs that the residents on Linstone factor will be expected to pay. The aim is to lessen the impact of the impending factor fee for the work.

Councillors Update

All Councillors present at Corseford Tara general meetings get the chance to take the floor with anything they wish to raise.

Cllr Andy Steel advised the meeting of recent works that had been carried out:

- Dog Wood being cleared on Beith Road
- Hole on the lane between the Beith Road and Annan Place being filled in. This seemed to have been an error by gas works who hadn't filled it in when they finished the work.
- The lane at Tweed Place has been patched for now to improve the level of the ground and the path off Ness Avenue near the Fordbank PS P7 gates has been resurfaced.
- The bus shelter on Cochranemill Road has been repaired. Hopefully it will last longer without being vandalised this time.
- Review of Polling places has been carried out and the change for Fordbank not to be the sole polling station in use has been rejected. Andy stated that this is because the panel felt Corseford doesn't have another option and Spateston Bowling Club is too far for individuals from Corseford Avenue to walk to a polling station. George stated that from a personal point of view he found this disappointing as looking back over his daughter's time in primary school since 2011 she has lost over a week in education to elections. When compared to other schools George said this is unacceptable as there are postal vote options for those who cannot walk over to Spateston. Irene also stated the impact it has on employees in the school who don't get paid when it is closed for elections. Andy replied that this could be reviewed again in years to come but at the moment it has been rejected.

Ann asked Andy if the main road on Corseford Avenue at the bend (on the farm end) can have double yellow lines placed there as it is hard to get around the bend with cars parked there and buses using the road.

Andy replied that it would be hard to get Renfrewshire Council to agree to had double yellow lines put there. It will take 18 months and surveys will have to be done. Andy said that he doesn't find the corner a hassle to get around and feels those who do the survey will have the same opinion.

Beith Road Underpass project

George gave an update on the underpass:

As we know, phase one of the project was a huge success with the tunnel transformed.

Phase two is planned to begin in June with Lauren keen to get involved at the end of her first-year studies at Glasgow School of Art.

Part of the plans for Phase 2 have already begun with plants, flowers and bulbs planted at the entrance to the tunnel from Corseford side. These were kindly donated by Friends of Barshaw Park. The hope is this will provide a good deal of natural colour next year and also attract some local wildlife like butterflies and other insects leading onto birds etc. We have scope to expand on this planted area if it would be beneficial.

Grant applications have been submitted for the completion of Phase Two which will be the painting of the outside walls leading to the underpass as well as the railings on the steps at the Corseford side. George said the Tara are confident that we will achieve grant funding for this project which will make a huge difference to the area at the Fordbank primary 1 school gates. It will create a much better impression of the surrounding area for our youngest children and those who use it to get to St Anthony's.

Projected costs for 2020 projects

Irene gave an update on the projected costs for projects currently ongoing for 2020 including the Corseford Community Fun Day and the Underpass Regeneration.

The Tara are keen to complete these projects and ensure the funds are in place before taking on other projects however we have identified other projects in Corseford that will further enhance the area like the raised flower beds on Ettrick.

For the moment however, the Fun Day and the Underpass are the priority. Currently Corseford Tara has £2250 in the bank. Of which some payments are soon due which will take the funds to just under £2000.

The projected approximate costs we have of the two main projects are:

Fun Day: £2'000

Underpass: £1800

Irene mentioned our recent fundraising activities, particularly the ongoing monthly draw which currently provides a £70 per month income to the Tara to pay for these projects. There was also the table top sale and the psychic night which raised more money. Irene emphasised the importance of community backing with these projects to enable the Tara to continue working towards a better area for us all.

Fundraising activities and difficulties

George informed the meeting of some of the new challenges facing the Tara in terms of raising funds for projects.

George began by referring to Irene on the previous agenda item by saying there is a lot of money required to meet our objectives in providing the community a fantastic free day that is open to all and will provide for all ages, along with the completion of phase two of the underpass regeneration and other projects thereafter. The Tara will rely on grant funding, but this cannot be guaranteed to cover the whole costs.

Therefore, it is essential we continue with our fundraising activities. The Tara will continue to look at new ways of providing value to the residents whilst raising funds for these projects.

Some challenges we face are the squeeze on local residents' finances with other local groups who all require funding. We arranged a meeting with two other groups to mitigate any further event clashes that will impact on resident participation. This meeting was a success and a consensus was agreed that we give notice to each group prior to booking / publicising an event. This will be a challenge nonetheless as there are at least three groups and two schools between Corseford and Spateston who need to fundraise for their own projects and activities. There is only so much money to go around and having to avoid clashes that impact on each other limits the amount of activities for each group to raise funds. To work truly as collaborative and co-operative community-based groups however we have to be mindful of each other and ensure we all get a fair chance.

Corseford Tara will count on the support of the residents more than ever over the coming years to improve our area. George said he hopes the start we have made in 2019 is well received and going forward, not only receive the financial support through fundraising but getting residents' ideas on what we should concentrate on next to benefit the area. Hopefully a bigger and better Community Fun Day will show the residents what Corseford Tara can do for the community and gain even more support and participation throughout the whole community.

George informed the meeting that the TARA are planning a family quiz night for February. Initial ideas are that this will include adult round, kids round and family round with a disco somewhere in-between. George continued however that we will be moving this to another venue as the venue we used last year quadrupled its price this year which was another challenge we have faced and impacted on the money raised at a recent event. The Tara will look at Kilbarchan Bowling Club who have offered favourable terms to hire the hall for the quiz night. **One item to check out is the premises operating licence for time limitations on children.**

Wilma asked about the use of the Linstone HUB in Sandyflats which could be used for bingo nights and other fundraising activities. George replied that the Tara do get free use of it. The Tara did have keys for it before but handed them back as Linstone were installing a new entry system and we just haven't got the new fob yet as we've had no use for it recently.

Irene mentioned that we have to think about Sandyflats Tara who were only recently established, and we don't want to go into their area with fundraising events which may impede their progress.

AOB

George raised the first AOB.

- Chris Watson at Corseford Keystore had mentioned to both Jane Struthers and George in the previous couple of days that he thought if the Tara had any spare money we should get 'Welcome to Corseford' signs at each entrance on Corseford Avenue.

Lizzy stated she thought this is a great idea.

George said that he thought there was plenty scope to add a sign to an existing lamppost/pole at the Cochranemill Road entrance to Corseford Avenue as there are plenty poles around there. George asked if anyone knew the situation with poles at the Beith Road entrance to Corseford Avenue, but no-one was sure.

Andy mentioned it may be better if we can get them as a sign only and add to an existing pole if we can. George asked Andy who to make enquiries to and was provided with a name. **George took a note to make enquiries.**

It was acknowledged by the group that Johnstone Castle have signs with their name at Elm Drive and Rannoch Road. Enquiries will be made to see if Renfrewshire Council can pay for Corseford signs.

- Murdo McDonald has raised an issue with the streetlight on Spey Place that he spoke of at the meeting in March. It still isn't fixed. Murdo advised that it worked for a week prior to the clocks changing on the 14th October and then after the lights changed went back out again and hasn't been on since. This is almost a year since the light hasn't worked when a delivery truck crashed into it and knocked it out. **Andy took a note to look into it.**
- Lizzy raised an issue with a light at 59 Corseford Avenue which hasn't been working. **Again, Andy took note to look into it.**
- George raised another light that isn't working properly between Ettrick and Teviot. Light number F64. It flashes on and off. George said he reported it two weeks ago. **He will chase it up.**

Andy advised the meeting that the light team are only three workers strong which may answer why it takes so long for lights to be repaired.

- George mentioned to Marian and Laurence that he made enquiries to Linstone about the removal of large cemented in boulders on the path behind their house as they asked at a previous meeting. The issue is the cost of removal which is not a high priority, so likelihood is they won't be removed. Marian mentioned that they are sometimes used for people to sit and drink on.

George also said that Paul had made repeated enquiries with Linstone to get an answer on removing the black paint that covered up previously vile graffiti on the wall. Linstone have investigated and responded to say the walls of the garage are too fragile to be power washed and as such, the black paint cannot be removed.

George asked if there were any other issues anyone wanted to raise.

None were forthcoming so the meeting was closed.