**Croftamie Community Council- AGM**

**Held online on Wednesday 11th November 2020**

**Present**: Peter Lloyd, Donnie Watson, Mary Dickie, Margaret Firth, Henry Braid, Willie Nisbet, Graham Lambie and 4 residents.

**Apologies**- David Armstrong, Rob Davies and 2 residents.

**Previous minutes** approved by PL and seconded by DW

**Chairperson’s report**

It goes without saying that this has been a remarkable year for us all and as a community we’ve had to rapidly change, adapt and support each other in a new way of life. Covid 19 has undoubtedly brought us significant challenges and hardships however I also think we should recognise and be proud of how our community has rallied and risen to the challenge. It has been a difficult time but also one of opportunity.

Before I go on, I would also like to acknowledge the loss of several of our residents over the last 18 months and it goes without saying that our thoughts are with the families and friends of those we have lost.

If I turn firstly to consider some of the challenges we’ve had:

* As you’ll know, the bridge into the village is still in a state disrepair and traffic is still in single file. We understand there is currently no funding assigned for permanent repairs however we will continue to press the council for action
* Some of the footpaths in the village remain in a generally poor state. In particular the footpath between Croftamie and Drymen is basically unusable. This has been reported several times already and will continue to be on our list of priorities.
* Public transport within the area remains an issue, however with the proposals for development at Finnich Glen, we are hopeful that public transport through the village may become a viable option again.
* Speeding within the village remains an issue. We have raised this several times with Police Scotland and the Roads Dept at Stirling Council. As a result we understand that a speed survey is planned and we are awaiting further information on when this will be conducted.
* As you will be aware, after much lobbying and campaigning, Stirling Council took the decision to close Croftamie Nursery. Our appeal against this outcome was not upheld. Whilst Covid has delayed the closure, we expect this will still happen at some point in the future.

Opportunities / Successes

* As I mentioned at the start of my report, Covid 19 has brought us many different challenges however Croftamie’s response to this has been heartening.

When the lockdown was announced, we put in place a companion/buddy system to ensure that no-one would be completely isolated and anyone living alone had someone to speak to.

We joined forces with our neighbours in Drymen and set up a shopping service delivered by volunteers, for those unable to get to the shops,

We sourced funding and made up PPE packs so that vulnerable residents had masks, gloves and sanitiser when they came out of isolation after lockdown,

we organised transport by volunteers, to essential appointments for those that needed it and in addition we were successful in applying for funding to allow us to contribute £1000, to a local foodbank set up to support the needs of families in Drymen, Croftamie and Buchanan.

In addition, funding was secured to ensure our shopping mini-bus operates again once Covid restrictions allow.

Thanks to both the National Park Authority and Stirling Council for granting the relevant funding.

* It was great to see the new houses at Dalnair become occupied and be able to welcome some new residents to the village and get to meet one or two at our CC meetings earlier in the year.
* The long awaited opening of the But and Ben happened in August and it has made a real difference to have a focal point once again in Croftamie. I know we’re all looking forward to it opening up fully.

* For some time now we have been discussing the issues and risks caused by the scale and nature of parking, along with uncontrolled visitor numbers at Finnich Glen. The Community Council continued to lobby the Council for action and in the summer, pushed for the Right to Roam to be removed for a short period, which they did. An interim measure, by means of the double yellow lines, is now in place to reduce vehicles parking dangerously on the busy road and I am pleased to report a longer term solution has now been approved in the form of the planning granted for a proper carpark. This is a great result and will significantly reduce the risk to life that has been a real concern in recent years.
* Whilst we are disappointed that the final outcome from the Council is to close the nursery, having surveyed the village earlier in the year, we are hopeful there is sufficient support for the community to retain the building and create a multi-use village hub.
* Finally, I want to mention the broadening of communication for Croftamie. Partly as a result of Covid and partly as a means to reaching more residents, in addition to our Facebook page, the CC now has a website regularly updated with news, updates and CC minutes, and a WhatsApp group used to keep local people updated with more immediate news. The variety of platforms used has helped us keep in touch and get information out to our fellow villagers.

Thanks:

So despite the challenges, it does feel like we have taken some positive steps forward. We have had support along the way and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Willie Nesbitt, Pam Campbell, and councillors, Rob Davis, Graeme Lambie and Alistair Berrill who have all been a great support to the community over the year. Thanks also to the Forth and Endrick Community Policing team for their monthly updates and regular attention to the village.

* But most importantly I’d like to thank the community councillors Margaret Firth, Mary Dickie & Donnie Watson, David Armstrong and Henry Braid, along with our minute taker, Lynn Armstrong – for a small village we have strong support and we couldn’t have achieved what we have this year, without volunteers. Sincerely thank you!

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Balance at the start of the year was £2077 and an admin Grant of £591.77 was received.  This included a figure for a Minute Secretary for 8 meetings. (Minutes for 9 meetings were provided).

Expenditure for the year included payment for the Community Website and Electricity costs for the Christmas Tree.

Balance remaining at the end of the year is £1,783.26 (which includes the sum of £328 which is restricted from a Grant received in 2015 for a Community Noticeboard that has not been spent).

Accounts have been independently overviewed by Ruth J Ronald & Co Ltd.

Approved by MF and seconded by PL

**Re- election of Office Bearers**

**Chairperson- Peter Lloyd** – approved LA, seconded DW

**Secretary- Margaret Firth**- approved by PL and seconded by MD

**Treasurer- David Armstrong**- approved by HB and seconded by MF

**Planning Co-ordinator** – Mary Dickie – approved by DW and seconded by PL

**Roads Co-ordinator**- Donald Watson – approved by MF and seconded by MD

**Police Liaison**- Henry Braid approved by MF and seconded by PL.

It was agreed that Lynn Armstrong would remain as **Minute Taker.**

With no further AOCB the meeting was concluded at 7.50pm