

Wanlockhead Village Council

Monday 15th May 2017

Summary of discussion.

Present: Lynda Findlay, William Findlay, Audrey Ridley, Ian Marden, Gary Sheehan (NHS), Jane Manson, Steven Morrison, Gerard Godfrey (Leadhills CC), Bill Lindsay (Crawford CC), Charlotte Paul, Isobel Gibb, Anne Arrigoni, James McKelvey, Stewart Lee, Janet Lee.

Apologies: Alanna Rogerson, Harry Pickburn, Marilyn Pickburn, Androulla Richford.

Lynda opened the meeting by thanking our visitors for coming and advising that due to the size of the agenda, we should consider splitting the meeting into two, with the NHS and Bowling Green being discussed tonight and the rest of the agenda to be dealt with at next month's normal meeting on the first Monday of the month 5th June.

All in attendance agreed.

Lynda suggested that we talk about the Doctors Surgery first to allow Garry to get away as quickly as possible.

Gary Sheehan, said he was not there to go over old ground but to advise on the current position and the possible changes. He said that the doctors would like to change to two morning surgeries and that this would be a more beneficial use of their time.

Discussion arose around the capability of those working residents to have access to the Doctors. Isobel suggested that as a compromise they might consider one early morning Surgery starting say 8am which would allow residents to get to the doctors before going off to work. Gary seemed to think that this might be a consideration.

Gary then raised the issue of transport and advised that this was being looked at. This is unique to this area and is out-with normal practice. He advised that this was a cost to the Health Board and it was under-utilised. Bill Lindsay advised that it was not common knowledge that this service was available and that to lose this might increase the number of home visits. Steven Morrison said he himself only became aware of the transport offer very recently and advised that he was disappointed at the lack of information provided by the Health Board. Isobel suggested that instead of a car coming from Moffat to fulfil this service they should consider providing a couple of part-time locals, thus reducing the carbon usage and giving locals the opportunity to earn a little extra money. Gary said that this might be a consideration, however they will be consulting further with Crawford. Bill Lindsay advised that the Crawford community were an ageing one and that the Health Board said they would look at a Virtual Surgery in Crawford and was keen to explore this possibility. Gary advised that Angus from the Health Board will be contacting the Crawford community

shortly to discuss the feasibility of a remote access it was evident that nothing more had been done since the initial consultation.

Gary advised that they are having difficulty-finding doctors to take over the practice and that this was the same throughout the NHS. The current Doctor configuration is that the Health Board employ directly one Salaried doctor at the Moffat Surgery and a Locum, Bill Lindsay suggested that this was perhaps not the best use of NHS money and that they should consider employing another doctor on a salaried basis. Gary said that this was already under consideration, however they were still attempting to make the practice to Doctors who may wish to buy into it. However he said that at this juncture it did not look like this would happen given that it has been at least 3 years since Sonya Sharkey started looking for replacement partners. Gary said that they were looking for ways of making the practice more attractive.

Lynda asked Gary to Sum Up

Gary's summary – He would report back to the Board and come back with the outcome. He confirmed that the Health Board would not pull the rug away and would look at tweaking the existing working practices.

Gerard Godfrey, advised that he would be happy to consult with the Health Board regarding a possible early start surgery.

Gary replied that Crawford and Wanlockhead would be impacted more than Abington and Crawford.

Bill Lindsay asked if South Lanarkshire Health Board were still talking to Dumfries and Galloway to co-ordinate. It was a worry that South Lanarkshire were being sold down the river.

Gary advised that they were still in discussion with South Lanarkshire.

Gerard Godfrey wanted to be kept in the loop.

This being the end of discussions Lynda thanked Gary for attending and wished him a safe journey home.

James McKelvey brought up the issue of the Bowling Green and it was agreed that we should discuss this before close of meeting. Lynda brought the meeting up to date with where we were. James suggested that because the last use of the Bowling Hut was as a Fitness Club, could we now consider an outside Gym. Isobel mentioned that this was going to form part of the Bowling Green. Everyone agreed that this was a fab idea and discussion ensued re sighting of same. It was suggested that the garden car park might be given over to this project but due to lack of number of committee members at the meeting this should be on the agenda for the next meeting. It was suggested that more information is obtained and Willie Findlay agreed to get a quote for the equipment.

It was decided at this stage that we really needed to discuss the Bowling Green as it was felt that this was of major importance.

Prior to closing Steven Morrison raised the issue of an open mine shaft, although this had a fence and barbed wire round, it was open and it was at least 60ft drop. He had had a meeting with Charles Russ from BEL over a week ago and to date nothing has been done. Lynda suggested that we write to the estate and copy in D& G Health and Safety Executive. Isobel agreed to write this letter.

With the agreement of the company all other items on the agenda be carried forward to our next meeting set for 5th June.

Meeting closed at 8.13 pm.