

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Dalry Community Council Meeting
Monday 13th May 2019

1. Welcome

Sheena opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the speaker Jin McHarg, Senior Manager, Community Empowerment

2. Present

Sheena Woodside, James McCosh, Julie Wales, Myra Sim, Catherine McClintock

3. In Attendance

Councillor Robert Barr (for part) , Jim McHarg, Community Empowerment, Hazel Glen, Andrew Glen, John Higgins, David Cooper.

4. Apologies

Allan Wright, Christina Pieraccini

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were circulated and were approved as an accurate record. Minutes were then adopted by James McCosh and seconded by Julie Wales.

5. Matters Arising

It was noted that there was an omission to the last minute. This was a plan for an extension in Kerslochmuir. There were no objections noted.

6. Police Report

Police were not in attendance and no report available. It was suggested that there may have been some confusion as the regular date had been changed due to the bank holiday.

7. Treasurer's Report

Julie Wales reported that there was no change and that the total remained as reported last month.

Administration Account: £328.26

Project Account: £1919.05

8. Speaker – Jim McHarg. Senior Manager, Community Empowerment.

Jim commenced by advising of the recent Council changes and that the Directorate was being reviewed. There is also a change to the title from Community Empowerment and Engagement to Community Learning and Development with active involvement in Volunteering and a focus on engagement with Community Councils. He advised that these changes were seen as positive.

He reminded the meeting of the Socio Economic duty on all staff to reduce deprivation and poverty and that this is now a statutory duty. He advised that an external group had been asked to look at what is currently being spent and more money has been recovered to be spent in the Garnock Valley. He advised that this was seen as an independent view. He noted that Christina Pieraccini, looks after the team for the Garnock Valley and would be our point of contact.

Jim summarised by clarifying the 'Fare for All strategy to build equality:

1. Early Years: 0-5 remains a priority with 1140 hours being rolled out, Out of School Care is also being looked at.
2. Adult Learning and Literacy: work being carried out with Housing to provide need of 'New Scotland' including disability, Care Leavers, Carers and work with offenders following release.
3. Volunteer Development: Scottish Government have developed a new framework for volunteers to increase the numbers of volunteers.
4. Learning Support also included
5. New Planning Act is currently underway and Jim advised that Community Councils will be involved in the draft plan. Government Review findings will be published on 14/5/19. There will be an emphasis on;
 - Communities making decisions not Councillors
 - Locality planning groups will include an enhanced role for Community Councils.
6. Priority in Health & Social Care, funding is ring fenced. Education is also ring fenced and this includes the requirement for schools to provide a placement for all newly qualified teachers in their probationary year.

Questions were then taken:

Q. David Cooper: Is finance for schools ringfenced?

A. Not directly awaiting confirmation of final budget. Noted that budget for Elderly was overspent last financial year and is expected to be overspent again this year due to increase in care needs.

Q. James Cosh: What does this mean for libraries, halls etc?

A. There is a socio economic duty to provide these. Dalry has extra resources already in place. Libraries have almost taken the place of community centres. If these services were not to be provided, the council would have to give the reason for this and potentially communities could ask for a judicial review.

Q. Julie Wales: When will these decisions be made?

A. Next stage will be when we have confirmation of the figures and we may have to come back to the communities at that stage. It was stated that there is no space to cut back on staff as they are currently on minimum staffing level.

Q. James Cosh: Noted that he agreed with the decision to split directorate.

A. Jim spoke about services previously running themselves and noted at this point that Community Centres had initially had a 25 year life expectancy and that Dalry is currently reaching 40 years.

Q. James McCosh: I see more connection between Health and Communities ie out of school care.

A: There was a general discussion around Health and Mental Health provision and the challenges around this. Jim advised that all GP surgeries in North Ayrshire now provide the services of a Community Link Worker. He stated that the cost of Adult Learning Programmes is saving money in other areas, ie Health.

Q. James McCosh: Is there no chance of this being done at a local level

A. Scottish Government is quite prescriptive in how changes will happen. Further comments can be made once published.

Q. Myra Sim. Noted that all centres have keyholders now.

A. This saves money but still allows people to access centres if required.

Q. Catherine \McClintock: 1140 hours for early years has its problems particularly with accommodation.

A. Capital to be available to increase floor space to accommodate this. However there is no provision for voluntary services. It was acknowledged that the service based in the community centre was applying for funding to increase the floor space to accommodate this in Dalry. Further questions could be answered by Doreen Walkenshaw would be the lead for this.

Q. Sheena Woodside: Is there going to be more consultation before this goes ahead?

A. Currently the focus is looking how to finance this. It was acknowledged that the centre was built in the early 70's

Questions were closed at this point. Jim concluded by saying that he would make his whole presentation available for distribution.

Jim advised that he would be retiring this year. Sheena Woodside thanked him for his presentation and added that his involvement with the Community had been welcomed and that he would be missed.

9. Councillors Reports

Councillor Robert Barr was in attendance to update on finance that was being made available in North Ayrshire, Stevenson and Dalry will each benefit with Dalry receiving half a million pounds for the town centre.

Robert advised that he had had a recent walk round the town with two council officials and it was agreed that there should be an appointment of a council officer to oversee this spend. However, there will be a further walk round with local groups to ascertain their views. Suggestions would be welcomed and it was noted in particular that the laundry, police station and other premises were in a bad state of repair. It was further noted that these premises had been purchased and were awaiting redevelopment.

A question was asked about using some of the funding for the park, however, Robert advised that it was only for the town centre. He advise that the community would be kept updated on the progress of this funding.

Sheena Woodside thanked Robert for this update and he left the meeting as this point.

10.Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications that the Community Council were aware of at this point.

11.Licensing

None

12.Joint Community Council Meetings

The date of the next meeting has to be confirmed. The purpose of these meetings were explained to the meeting.

13. Correspondence

1. Noted that the VE day has been agreed for dates in 2020. Local Communities have been encouraged to become involved.
2. Investment in Communities fund was discussed.
3. Request to complete questionnaire for development in Kilbirnie was discussed and it was agreed that the questions being asked were not ones that could be answered as they focussed specifically on proposed changes in Kilbirnie rugby club premises.

4. Any Other Competent Business

None

15. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3rd June at 7pm