

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Dalry Community Council Meeting

Monday 9th December 2019 Rosearden Hall

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

2. Present / Apologies

Present:

Community Councillors – Sheena Woodside (The Chair), Julie Wales (Treasurer), Myra Sim (acting Secretary), James McCosh, Peter Stevenson

Other attendees – Christina Pieraccini (North Ayrshire Council), Alex MacKenzie (North Ayrshire Council), Ros Fallon (North Ayrshire Council), Robert Barr (Dalry Parish Boundary Trust), John Smith (Dalry Parish Boundary Trust), Ian MacDonald, Audrey Mason, Lynn Benevento, Robert Cuthbertson, David Cooper, John Higgins, Catherine Borland.

Apologies were received from:

Sergeant Joe Murdoch (Police Scotland), Reg Graham (Dalry Community Development Trust), Allan McGinlay (Dalry Community Sports Club)

[Please note – the 2019 AGM was held at the outset of the December 2019 meeting but as the AGM minutes won't be formally approved until the December 2020 AGM they have been removed from this approved record]

The Chair requested any questions for contributors to be made through the Chair.

She advised that the Community Council's constitution had been changed a few years ago but now required to be reviewed. This would be carried out by community councillors after the meeting.

10b. Your Voice, Your View

Ros Fallon provided a quick update on Your Voice, Your View – a new method for community engagement in North Ayrshire. She provided copies for attendees to review. She thanked the Community Council for their work on behalf of Dalry and left the meeting.

ACTION: Peter Stevenson to share 'Your Voice, Your View' document via social media.

8. Minutes of previous meeting 11th November 2019

The Chair introduced the minutes, requesting any comments or changes from attendees. No changes were suggested.

Christina Pieraccini confirmed that the funding bid between the NAC youth team and Police Scotland had been successful, and a 6-month youth engagement project would take place in 2020. Peter Stevenson advised that this should take place at times when young people are likely to be congregating. Christina asked if any local knowledge on effective timings could be shared with North Ayrshire Council. A comment was received from the floor that a previous project with community wardens had been very effective in reducing youth disorder, however this had been disbanded due to financial pressures.

The minutes were proposed for adoption by Myra Sim and seconded by James McCosh.

9. Matters Arising

Julie Wales updated on the North Ayrshire Council budget meeting held on 28th November at Garnock Campus. She advised that the Council are facing a massive budget cut and the event was designed to engage with communities to see where savings can be made and generate ideas to assist efficient delivery of priority services. She confirmed that ideas for how this could be done included a Tourist Tax, how to use income from wind energy, encouraging people to shop local and use local tradesmen.

The Chair confirmed that a regeneration funding update would be provided later in the meeting by Alex MacKenzie.

The Chair advised that a letter had been sent to North Ayrshire Council registering the Community Council's objection to removing the telephone box at Blair Road.

Myra Sim confirmed that she'd discussed the VE Day celebrations with the Community Centre and St. Margaret's Church. She also noted that in nice weather the event could take place outside. She advised that the 9th May would be a good date as Beith's event will take place on the 8th and Kilbirnie's event on the 10th. It was agreed that a sub-committee would be set up of people interested in helping develop ideas for Dalry's event.

ACTION: Peter Stevenson to put out a request for interested parties on social media. Myra Sim to head up the sub-committee.

The Chair advised that she'd spoken again with Dalry's taxi companies regarding helping resolve transport issues caused by the withdrawal of bus services. She confirmed that they would be keen to support a ride-sharing project and there was an action to create a poster advertising this.

ACTION: Poster to be created advertising journey-sharing in taxis.

Peter Stevenson advised that a letter had been received from Strathclyde Passenger Transport, which set out that they would be unable to replace the lost bus service

due to competition with an active Stagecoach route. A comment was received from the floor that the bus from Dalry to Glasgow takes 90 minutes due to going around all of the schemes in Kilbirnie and Dalry. It was also noted that there are no toilet facilities on these routes. Christina Pieraccini confirmed that the Moving Around working group of the Locality Partnership are doing a needs analysis in the new year, which would provide hard evidence of transport needs in the Garnock Valley. It was also noted that SPT are refreshing their regional transport strategy. A comment was received from the floor that SPT had asked for email contributions to their strategy.

10a. Police Report

Sergeant Murdoch had supplied a written update which Peter Stevenson read to the attendees. Monthly statistics were provided under the following headings:-

Drug dealing / misuse – 1 incident

Violence / antisocial behaviour – 34 incidents

Dishonesty (thefts, housebreaking, vehicle crime) – 10 incidents

Road safety / road crime – 19 incidents

It was noted that people had been driving 4x4s in the field next to DSM.

Sergeant Murdoch had also confirmed that an application for new CCTV and upgrades to existing CCTV would be considered on the 13th December. Alex MacKenzie advised that this was part of the Regeneration Funding bid and that Sergeant Murdoch hoped to make some of the new cameras mobile.

10c. Dalry Community Development Hub

The Chair noted that Reg Graham had submitted apologies. She advised that Dalry Community Development Hub had been working on the Lynn Glen, and upcoming work included fixing the car park boundary fence and reducing the height of some of the steps around the walk.

10d. Dalry Parish Boundary Trust

The Chair welcomed the representatives of Dalry Parish Boundary Trust. Robert Barr advised that the Trust had been set up 5 years ago to spend £120,000 donated annually by Community Windpower under their planning consent. He noted that a newspaper is printed and shared every six months to let the community know what the money has been spent on. He confirmed that the Trust had also set up an investment fund to ensure that money remained available for good causes when the windfarm was no longer operational. He updated attendees that £75,000 had been distributed in 2019, and the Trust is fully constituted, has OSCR status and is audited by four separate bodies.

John Smith provided a detailed update of the recipients, which included:-

£8,000 to Dalry Primary School towards the pupils' residential trip to Arran, which had dropped parental contributions significantly.

£5,500 to Dalgarnen Mill Museum Trust for a survey of and improvements to fire alarm systems;

£5,000 to Garnock Angling Club for improvement work at the dam;

£4,000 to Dalry Farmers Society to improve gates for cattle pens and an educational marquee at the Cattle Show;

A number of contributions were also made to talented individuals, such as a young skier, archer, gymnast and clarinettist living within the parish area.

Robert Barr advised that the Trust model means the contribution from Community Windpower is spent in the town rather than going into a central pot. He noted that other towns are looking at how Dalry Parish Boundary Trust works. Julie Wales agreed that Dalry is lucky to have the Trust and future fund. She noted that there was a lot of scrutiny over applications for funding. Robert Barr agreed that not all applications are accepted, including several where paperwork submitted has been of a poor standard, or the applicant does not live in the parish.

Myra Sim asked if the Rosearden Centre would be able to apply to the Trust for funding. Robert Barr suggested either the Trust or Margaret Archibald Bequest would be appropriate. Peter Stevenson offered to disseminate Trust information via the Community Council's social media.

James McCosh left the meeting.

10e. Dalry Community Sports Club

The Chair advised that Allan McGinley had submitted apologies. She confirmed that the planned lease of the field at DSM was in progress, and that the paperwork was with the lawyers.

10f. Town Centre Regeneration Funding

The Chair welcomed Alex MacKenzie to the meeting. He advised that he'd come along to the meeting to speak to the progress report supplied to the Community Council, and that the progress report would be updated after the meeting.

ACTION: Peter Stevenson to share updated progress report via social media.

He outlined that he'd started in post in August and had the remit of helping to allocate £1,418,000 of funding released by the Scottish Government. The funding has been allocated to Dalry and Stevenston in the main and has to be committed by end March 2020 and spent by end September 2020. If the money is not committed by March 2020 it will have to be returned to Scottish Government. He set out that numerous sources were taken into consideration in allocating the funding, including the multiple deprivation index, town centre audits, site walkarounds, discussion with locality officers and elected members and the community survey. The Council had to make an assessment based on the deliverability of projects and the risk of non-delivery, as well as any future maintenance needs.

£250,000 has been allocated for a building improvement grant, which is proposed to be a 100% grant funding scheme based around improving the 'gateways' to the town

centre at the Royal Hotel and Main Street. 17 responses had been received from property owners and an architect would be appointed to assess these. Alex MacKenzie confirmed that the Council wanted to appoint local tradespeople to carry out the works, and a clawback arrangement was being looked at in the event that successful applicants then sold their property after the works had been carried out.

£130,000 has been allocated for Streetscape improvements to provide a better pedestrian experience and increase CCTV coverage. He confirmed the one-way system was not being reviewed.

£50,000 has been allocated to the Public Park, even though it falls outwith the town centre as defined in the Local Development Plan. Dalry Community Sports Club are looking to refurbish two pavilions or replace these with a new-build pavilion. Improved lighting may also be installed.

£10,000 has been allocated to Dalry Action Group for the purchase of Christmas lights for 2020.

£40,000 has been allocated for a bin store in the Cross however Alex MacKenzie clarified that this was a maximum amount and in reality, the amount spent on this would be a lot less. Waste Strategy Officers at the Council had identified an issue with commercial bins being left on the Cross however this problem has reduced since they were initially consulted and so any store, if required, would cost less to construct. He confirmed that as a result of this, and the failure to secure a site for a community garden, a sum in the region of £40,000 remained to be allocated.

£10,000 has been allocated for local and regional marketing of the town to encourage visitors. He noted that Garnock Connections and The Coig both presented additional opportunities in this vein.

Robert Barr asked if the funding could be used to purchase the old police station on New Street. Alex MacKenzie clarified that this had been of interest, however the owner had not responded to letters. He noted that the Building Improvement Grant would have more of an effect being applied only to the 'gateways' to the town rather than spread around a wider area.

A comment was received from the floor that the setts and cobbles in The Cross present a hazard. Robert Barr advised he'd asked the Council's Roads Department to look into this. Alex MacKenzie confirmed that the Regeneration Funding was to be spent on additional projects rather than subsidising existing initiatives. An attendee asked if any of the funding was to be used on anything for young people. Alex MacKenzie noted that a youth space had been looked at but was difficult to deliver due to the timescales involved and ongoing maintenance and staffing. John Higgins asked Alex MacKenzie to feed back to the Scottish Government that the timescales involved were prohibiting more meaningful projects from being taken forward. Peter Stevenson noted that it would be a missed opportunity if nothing was done for young people and suggested that the community should have projects ready to go in case funding becomes available again in the future. It was noted that it would be beneficial for younger and older people in the town to integrate more. Alex MacKenzie was asked to speak with Joe Murdoch about the benefits of a youth shelter. He agreed to go away and look into this option but that finding a suitable location would be critical.

Christina Pieraccini noted that a youth engagement survey was active, and the results could help inform this action.

11. Planning Applications

Two applications were discussed. The Bowling Club have applied for permission to erect disabled toilet facilities at the rear of the club. Zain's on New Street have applied for permission to expand into the vacant unit next door to their existing premises.

12. Licensing

No licensing applications were considered.

13. Correspondence

All correspondence received was discussed earlier in the meeting.

14. Any Other Business

Robert Barr updated that CCTV is to be installed at either side of the bridge at the train station.

Peter Stevenson noted an issue from social media, that sewage had been running down Townend Street for some time. The Chair advised that both she and Joy Brahim had reported this to Scottish Water, and Scottish Water had outlined that the issue would be fixed before the road is de-trunked and passed to North Ayrshire Council.

It was noted that the Den Bypass had opened the day before (8th December).

No update was available on progress with the Scout Hall.

The Chair noted that comments had been received about advertising the Christmas Lights switch-on. Members of the community had concerns that the event wasn't advertised, and no updates had been provided. Christina Pieraccini advised that applications for the road closure and funfair were received later than usual, and that she would get an update from the organisers.

ACTION: Christina Pieraccini to get update on 2020 Christmas Lights.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting would take place on 13th January 2020 in the Rosearden Centre. She wished attendees a merry Christmas and ended the meeting.