

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Dalry Community Council Meeting

Monday 10th February 2020, Rosearden Hall

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting. She welcomed Sergeant Dennis Marshall of Police Scotland attending his first meeting.

2. Present / Apologies

Present:

Community Councillors – Sheena Woodside (the Chair), Julie Wales (Treasurer), Peter Stevenson (Secretary), Myra Sim, Carrie Borland

Other attendees – Christina Pieraccini (North Ayrshire Council), Sergeant Dennis Marshall (Police Scotland), Reg Graham (Dalry Community Development Hub), Lynn Benevento, John Higgins

Apologies were received from:

James McCosh (Community Councillor), Joy Brahim (Councillor), Todd Ferguson (Councillor), Patricia Gibson (MP), Kenneth Gibson (MSP)

3. Minutes of Meeting on 10th January 2020

The Chair introduced the minutes of the previous meeting. No comments were received from attendees. Julie Wales proposed the minutes for adoption, Myra Sim seconded this proposal.

4. Matters Arising

The Secretary updated the meeting on matters arising from previous meetings. He confirmed that the community group list was to be reviewed by the Community Council and this would take place by the next meeting.

The Secretary confirmed that a request had been put out on social media for assistance with VE Day celebrations and that Myra Sim would be the main point of contact. He advised that this item would be a standing agenda item until the event took place.

He advised that he would have the journey-sharing poster created for the next meeting of the Community Council.

Christina Pieraccini noted that Stewart Beck in her team was meeting the Christmas Light group and would feed back any support requirements to a future meeting.

The Secretary advised that Graham Emans from North Ayrshire Council was slated to attend the March meeting of the Community Council.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer introduced her report. She confirmed that the Community Council had two accounts, one for projects and one for administration. The projects account had £1,804.44 and the administration account £381. She advised that the projects account should be spend in the coming weeks.

6. Community Councillor Vacancies

The Chair noted that Lynn Benevento had put herself forward to fill the remaining vacancy on the Community Council. Myra Sim proposed that Lynn be co-opted onto the Community Council until December 2020. Carrie Borland seconded this proposal. Christina Pieraccini advised new Community Councillors that the Committee Services team at North Ayrshire Council would carry out the necessary checks and provide support. It was noted that the Community Council was now at full capacity.

7a. Police Report

Sergeant Dennis Marshall introduced himself to attendees and provided an update on crime within Dalry between 10/01/20 and 10/02/20. He confirmed that phone calls recorded were split into four areas – drug dealing, antisocial behaviour, violence and road safety. He advised that 43 crime reports had been raised – zero related to drug-dealing, 7 to violence and anti-social behaviour, 15 to dishonesty (including house-breaking and vehicle theft) and 12 road safety.

Sergeant Marshall advised that 13 Priority 1&2 calls had been received, 3 Missing Person calls and 6 Concern for Person calls.

Sergeant Marshall was asked what proportion of time was spent dealing with youth disorder. He advised that he could provide an estimate, however it was a high proportion when the number of disorder issues and concern for person issues are taken together. He confirmed that a high proportion of concern for person issues related to young people.

Christina Pieraccini confirmed that the youth outreach project commissioned jointly between North Ayrshire Council and Police Scotland was going ahead. She advised that preparatory work was currently underway, and the youth workers were going out at different times to find out when their time would be most effectively used. The project has funding until summer. KA Leisure have been approached to see if the facilities in Dalry Primary School can be opened on a Saturday night. This would mean activities for young people on a Thursday (drop-in at St. Margaret's Church), Friday (Dalry Primary School) and Saturday.

The Chair updated advice from Police Scotland that any traffic near-misses should be reported. She advised that the junction at the bottom of the B714 Saltcoats Road where it joins the Kilwinning Road had become a hazard. Sergeant Marshall advised that Police Scotland were going to ask Transerv to replace the road markings here and at the new roundabout near Wilson's Auctions to make it clear that this junction is a left- and right-filter.

ACTION: Sergeant Marshall to update Dalry Community Council regarding markings at B714 and A737 junctions with the Kilwinning Road.

Myra Sim asked Sergeant Marshall if consideration had been given to removing the barriers at the bottom of Courthill Street now that the bypass was open. He advised that this decision would be made by the Roads department in North Ayrshire Council.

7b. Councillor Updates

The Secretary noted that Joy Brahim and Todd Ferguson had sent apologies. Kenneth Gibson MSP and Patricia Gibson MP had also been invited and sent apologies.

Todd Ferguson had provided a written update on the question of regeneration funding being used to address 'routine' maintenance work. The Roads Department had clarified that without the regeneration funding this work would likely not have been carried out as no allocation had been made in the Council's budget. Todd Ferguson had also enquired about flooding issues in the public park. The advice was to engage with the Streetscene department at the Council and consider an application to SportScotland for funding to fix the problems.

Joy Brahim had provided a written update that she was helping address issues with the power doors at the new housing complex on Sharon Street. She also noted that the Council's housing office would move from Townend Street to Sharon Street, with the new office opening on 2nd March 2020.

A discussion took place regarding attendance of elected officials. It was acknowledged that there are some extenuating circumstances regarding attendance at this meeting, however it was also noted that generally councillor attendance at Community Council meetings had been limited. Joy Brahim had highlighted the change from first to second Monday of the month had resulted in a clash with West Kilbride Community Council. One member of the public had written to the Community Council noting the perceived lack of communication from Councillors regarding their activities on behalf of the town. The Chair noted that she had received feedback from members of the community that some people don't know who our elected councillors are. The Secretary asked Christina Pieraccini if there was anything she felt Dalry Community Council could do to improve engagement with the elected councillors. She advised that there was a disparity across the Council area as to attendance of councillors at Community Council meetings, and as ex officio members of the Community Council the councillors have the right to attend and speak to the meeting if they do.

ACTION: Community Councillors to look at meeting dates / venues to see if it's possible to revert to the first Monday of the month.

7c. Dalry Community Development Hub

Reg Graham provided an update on the activities of Dalry Community Development Hub. He advised that DSM had apologised to the Hub for the delay in progressing the lease of the field at the rear of the Public Park.

He updated on the Lynn Glen – that it's a great resource to have and is well utilised by the community. Repairs have been carried out to the car park surface, the wall and works are ongoing by East Ayrshire Woodlands to repair the path. The stone dyke wall needs repair, but the Council don't presently have the budget to carry this out and it's a specialised job. East Ayrshire Woodlands have approached the Criminal Justice department for help in carrying out some of the works – the present application has been refused but a second application will be made. Reg advised that the stairs leading to Peden's Point need repairs, however the difficulty lies in getting materials to this site.

Reg noted that £15,000 funding has been awarded by Landtrust to repair bridges, drains and paths. An additional £9,590 has been secured from North Ayrshire Venture Trust for permanent fairy trail projects and maintenance. He updated that a Fairy Trail open day is held once per year.

He updated the Community Council that heritage boards have been installed in both Primary Schools. A heritage trails app was launched in January and if any user detects issues this should be raised with Simon McGrory of Garnock Connections. 6 trails have been launched covering the Garnock Valley, but more will be added. Booklets are being designed to accompany the heritage board in the Cross. The Hilltap Toun poem project has now been completed and a screening will take place in March. Reg noted that further projects had been proposed but could not be carried out due to lack of volunteers willing to get involved. Christina Pieraccini advised that the Hub could speak to Barbara Connor of TACT who provide training to help people get involved in their community, including 121 coaching. She advised that Beith Trust also want to get young people involved in community projects and Dalry could flag up any projects that require assistance. She noted that Garry Tait of North Ayrshire Council wants to co-opt young people on to the Hub to help out in the town.

Reg Graham updated the meeting that the Garnock Valley Locality Planning group had awarded funding to Radio City and the Beith Trust to support engaging development officers. The group also agreed funding for a conference on kindness. It was agreed that Dalry Community Council would be the vehicle to take this forward.

As part of Garnock Connections, Reg Graham and East Ayrshire Woodlands had identified two paths in Dalry that would benefit from working groups to help maintain them. Paths included are the path from North Street to the Public Park running behind Regal Court, and the path from the Courthill Street entrance to the Public Park running along the top of the bing to the Regal Court entrance. This work is to take place on 25th February and 3rd March.

Reg updated that the Scout Hall works were nearing completion and the building was now useable. A kitchen had been installed. Local groups would have access to the facility and the idea is that it should become a hub for community events. The more interest the hall gets the more funding the Scout troop will receive. Reg confirmed that the Scouts are planning an open day and Hallowe'en Party. He also clarified that the Scouts have a waiting list for children as they don't currently have enough Scout leaders.

Sergeant Dennis Marshall left the meeting.

7d. Town Centre Regeneration Funding

The Chair noted that Alex MacKenzie had been at the Locality Partnership's Facilities and Amenities working group the week before. The Council are looking at providing funding for a Burns mural on the wall of McKinnon's garage. A skate park is being actively considered and Alex had indicated he wanted to get young people involved in designing the skate park. It was noted that due to the funding available, fully developing the skate park might be a phased project.

7e. VE Day Celebration

Myra Sim updated the meeting that she had organised a venue and provisionally booked a band – Music Box. It was noted that funding of up to £1,000 could be available from the Nurturing Excellence fund and that sponsorship might be available from the Co-op or Co-op Funeralcare. The Chair advised that local businesses should benefit from the project. Carrie Borland and Lynn Benevento volunteered to assist Myra Sim on this sub-group. It was noted that the sub-group would have decision-making powers, however any funding decisions would have to come back to the Community Council for approval.

8. Planning Applications

The Secretary would check the list of applications and update on social media.

9. Licensing

The Secretary would check any licensing decisions and update on social media.

10. Correspondence

All correspondence received was discussed earlier in the meeting.

11. Any Other Business

The Secretary noted that multiple posts had been placed on social media regarding dog fouling. It was also noted that litter had become an increasing problem. Christina Pieraccini advised that these issues should be raised with the Streetscene team at the Council. The Chair suggested a community litter-pick could be a good way of helping the community and raising the profile of the Community Council.

ACTION: Streetscene team to be contacted regarding dog-fouling and litter.

ACTION: Community litter-pick to be organised.

Carrie Borland asked how the meetings were advertised. Myra Sim noted that despite requests the meeting had not been advertised in the local press. The Secretary confirmed that meeting notices are now displayed in the Co-op, library, town meeting boards in the Cross and at the corner of New Street and Townend Street, GP surgery and Community Centre. Carrie suggested it might be useful to make the meeting notices more eye-catching.

Myra Sim advised that the Rosearden Centre had been awarded funding from Dalry Parish Boundary Trust to repair a boundary wall.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting would take place on 9th March 2020 in the Rosearden Centre.

APPROVED