

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minutes of Dalry Community Council Meeting
Monday 13th January 2020 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), Peter Stevenson (Secretary), James McCosh, Myra Sim

Other attendees –

Stewart Beck (North Ayrshire Council), Sergeant Joe Murdoch (Police Scotland), Allan Wright (Kilbirnie Community Council), Lynn Benevento, Carrie Borland, Robert Cuthbertson, John Higgins, Valerie Provan

Apologies were received from:

Joy Brahim (Councillor), Todd Ferguson (Councillor), Reg Graham (Dalry Community Development Hub)

3. Minutes of AGM and Meeting 9th December 2019

The Chair introduced the minutes of the previous AGM and meeting. She confirmed that the minutes of the AGM would be formally approved at the 2020 AGM.

Comments were requested on the minutes of the business meeting. No comments were received. She invited a proposer and seconder for the minutes, which were duly proposed by James McCosh and seconded by Julie Wales.

4. Matters Arising

The Secretary updated the meeting on matters arising from previous meetings. He 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 confirmed that an update would be provided on the Regeneration Funding.

Stuart Beck advised that he would be meeting with the Christmas Lights group and feed back at a future meeting.

The Chair noted that there remained two vacancies for Community Councillors, and that Carrie Borland had put her name forward to be co-opted onto the Community Council. The Chair asked if this was supported by those present. Peter Stevenson proposed Carrie Borland as a Community Councillor, Myra Sim seconded the proposal.

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 £1,804.21 and the administration account £381.

6. Community Councillor Vacancies

The Chair noted that one vacancy remained.

7a. Police Report

Sergeant Joe Murdoch provided an update on crime within Dalry in the last month. He confirmed that phone calls recorded were split into four areas – drug dealing, antisocial behaviour, violence and road safety. He advised that a single incident can result in twenty calls so the number of calls and crime reports differs for this reason.

Sergeant Murdoch confirmed that between 13th December and 13th January 171 calls were received resulting in 21 crime reports. He advised that for the same period in 2018/19 164 calls were received, and the month before 214 calls were received. He noted that one incident had been reported in relation to drugs offences, 20 in relation to violence, 8 in respect of dishonesty and 14 in respect of road safety offences.

Sergeant Murdoch updated the meeting that 43 Priority 1&2 calls had been received, 2 Missing Person calls and 8 Concern for Person calls.

Sergeant Murdoch confirmed that 9 theft offences had resulted in 3 criminals being detected, 4 misuse of drugs offences resulted in 3 criminals being detected, 5 assault offences resulted in 2 criminals being detected and 3 breach of the peace offences had resulted in 2 criminals being detected.

He noted that the number of calls relating to youth disorder had gone down, and reiterated his message from previous meetings that residents contact the police to alert them to any issues. He noted that there had been a number of problems on the 27th December and the weekend of 11th & 12th January.

Sergeant Murdoch updated the meeting that he had been successful in obtaining funding of approximately £4,500 for Youth Workers which would translate to a 25 week project to engage with young people and find out what they are looking for in the town.

He advised that he had been successful in obtaining funding to upgrade the town's existing CCTV and install two additional cameras at Courthill Street and New Street. The camera system would be made digital and put onto a system with the cameras in Kilbirnie and Beith. A consultation will take place in the town prior to installing the new cameras. Graham Emans will lead on this project and has been invited to speak at a future Community Council meeting.

ACTION: Peter Stevenson to liaise with Graham Emans regarding attending a future meeting.

Sergeant Murdoch advised that he had been promoted and would be moving to oversee a response shift in Kilmarnock and Ayr. He advised that the new sergeant, Sergeant Marshall, would attend the next meeting.

Robert Cuthbertson asked whether the type of camera would be changed, as with the existing cameras it was possible to see where they were pointing. Sergeant Murdoch advised that this could be a deterrent.

Valerie Provan asked when they would be installed, and whether people were apathetic about phoning the police. Sergeant Murdoch confirmed that installation should happen by September 2020, and that the number of calls had dropped. He advised that he can't justify putting resources into Dalry if more calls are coming in from elsewhere. He noted that an incident had occurred outside the Tartan pub the previous weekend, but that when the police appeared the youths dispersed and didn't cause further trouble in the town that night. He noted that incidents at the train station would be handled by the British Transport Police and that he'd invited someone from the BTP to attend a Community Council meeting. He advised that with the age of criminality increasing it would be harder to get prosecutions.

Robert Cuthbertson asked if quad bikes on the public highway or in the public park were reportable. Sergeant Murdoch confirmed this could be reported, and vehicles seized if the driver does not have the permission of the landowner.

The Chair asked when youth work would be taking place. Sergeant Murdoch advised that it would be on Friday and Saturday nights, but there would be an initial consultation to confirm the best time and what the young people wanted to see happen in the town.

Valerie asked whether speeding on Blair Road had ever been followed up. Sergeant Murdoch noted it had been, but no problems were identified. He noted that speeding issues had been identified on New Street, and the new CCTV cameras should help address this.

Myra Sim asked whether issues over parking on pavements had been addressed. Sergeant Murdoch advised that new legislation on this should come into force in 2020 and it was up to North Ayrshire Council how to implement it.

The Chair gave her thanks to Sergeant Murdoch for his help over the past years and wished him well in his new post.

7b. Councillor Updates

The Secretary noted that Joy Brahim had sent apologies and would be attending the February meeting. Todd Ferguson had provided a written update and confirmed that a licence has been granted to a new taxi operator in Dalry. He had also advised that councillors were about to enter budget discussions to ensure towns were given appropriate resources. The Chair expressed her wish to see higher attendance from Councillors at future meetings, noting that Kilbirnie Community Council have 79% Councillor attendance at their meetings.

7c. Dalry Community Development Hub

The Chair noted that Reg Graham had submitted apologies. She confirmed that work in the Lynn Glen was ongoing. She advised that Reg Graham had met with Mark Davis from East Ayrshire Woodlands regarding setting up a programme for path restoration volunteers in the town. The path along the top of the bing in the public park has been identified as a first project. The path at the back of Regal Court and from Smith Street to Courthill Street could also be adopted.

8. Planning Applications

Julie Wales noted that a planning application had been received to convert the North Ayrshire Council office at 61 Sharon Street to residential accommodation.

9. Licensing

Peter Stevenson confirmed Todd Ferguson's update regarding the licence for the new taxi firm.

10. Correspondence

All correspondence received was discussed earlier in the meeting.

11. Any Other Business

The Chair advised that 2020 was the Year of Coast and Water, and that the Scottish Government would provide funding if any groups wanted to get involved.

She updated the meeting on the Facilities and Amenities Workshop on the 8th January. She confirmed that Radio City Association had applied for funding, and Garnock Connections and Regeneration Funding were both on the agenda.

The Chair advised that Garnock Valley Community Council networking group had met recently to discuss funding for a participatory budgeting event. Match-funding from the Community Investment Fund had been declined however other funding is available. Dalry Primary School has been booked for 12th September for this event.

Myra Sim confirmed that if anyone wants to help with the VE Day celebration they should let her know. John Higgins noted that a number of ideas were available online.

The Secretary advised that for the foreseeable future any information relating to the Community Council would be available on the Facebook page. The website is inaccessible at the moment and the information on the website is out of date. Allan Wright suggested a Weebly website would be cheap and easy to set up as an alternative.

The Chair asked attendees if they had any issues to raise. Traffic lights in Dalry were noted as an ongoing issue. Lighting in the park was suggested, however the Chair updated that this would be dealt with through the Regeneration Funding. It was noted that lights were on in the sports pavilion next to the bridge in the public park.

The Secretary suggested that youth issues and providing facilities for young people be a topic of discussion at a future meeting. It was noted that the funding obtained by

Sergeant Murdoch was welcome, however more money for a longer period of time would be required to make a difference. John Higgins suggested more indoor and sports facilities would help, as team sports allow young people to learn from teammates and coaches. Lynn Benevento suggested that the Garnock Valley Community Councils engage with the Garnock Academy campus to get feedback from young people. It was noted that red tape could deter people from volunteering to help with young people.

John Higgins noted a report that said the Garnock Valley would experience a 19% reduction in young people by 2026, with a 25% increase in people over retirement age.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting would take place on 10th February 2020 in the Rosearden Centre.