

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Dalry Community Council Meeting

Monday 28th September 2020, held via Zoom

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming all present and asking the community councillors and other key personnel to introduce themselves.

2. Present / Apologies

Present:

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

Other attendees – Robert Barr (Councillor for Dalry), Christina Pieraccini (North Ayrshire Council), Allan Wright (Kilbirnie Community Council), Heather Grossart (Dalry Primary School Parents Council), Robert Cuthbertson, Hywel Jones, David Park, Alan Wales, Julie Wales

Apologies were received from:

Lynn Benevento (Community Councillor), Myra Sim (Community Councillor), Joy Brahim (Councillor for Dalry), Todd Ferguson (Councillor for Dalry), Patricia Gibson (MP)

3. Minutes of Meeting on 31st August 2020

The Secretary asked for comments on the draft minutes of the March meeting. No changes or clarifications were suggested.

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Peter Stevenson and seconded by Julie Wales.

4. Matters Arising

The Secretary ran through matters arising from previous meetings.

The action to review the list of active community groups would remain open until groups started up again – many are on hiatus due to Covid-19.

Action to be carried forward for further review in future.

A community litter-pick is still desirable however guidance on the number of people gathering together would severely restrict this. It was suggested that people could be allocated into smaller 'teams' which might get around limits on households meeting. A risk assessment would be required.

Action carried forward.

An action to share documents relating to a CIF application for renewables from Radio City in Kilbirnie had been overtaken as the documentation is undergoing an independent review prior to a decision about the application

being taken forward. Documents will be shared in due course if the applicants plan to take their application forward.

Allan Wright had offered to speak with Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council regarding the cost of fishing permits at Lochshore. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary had spoken with Marc Millar of North Ayrshire Council's planning department regarding the application for a takeaway coffee shop on New Street, Dalry. This would be covered later in the agenda. **Action closed.**

The Secretary was in the process of arranging a meeting with elected councillors to discuss a number of ongoing problems within Dalry. **Action carried forward.**

Julie Wales had provided the contact details of the Dalry resident who had salvaged the bridge from Moss-side 1 which had washed away during heavy rain. **Action closed.**

The Secretary noted that no one was in attendance from Police Scotland so the open actions allocated to Police Scotland would be carried forward to the next meeting. Allan Wright advised that Police Scotland's systems did not allow officers to join Zoom meetings. The Secretary undertook to get a written update for the next meeting.

A number of actions have been allocated to Councillor Joy Brahim; the Secretary undertook to get a written update for the next meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer confirmed that the Community Council have an administration account containing £215.42 and a project account containing £880.36. The Community Council have spent money from the project account on the Zoom subscription, IT equipment and VJ Day.

6. Updates

6a. Police Report

No-one from Police Scotland was in attendance at the meeting.

6b. Councillor Updates

Robert Barr advised that the pavements on New Street would be upgraded in the coming weeks. The Council had made efforts to minimise any inconvenience.

He noted that the Fairlie Moor Road had been re-surfaced to a high standard.

He advised attendees that a recent meeting of the full Council had approved a change to ward boundaries, reducing Dalry from 6 councillors shared between the North coast communities and Garnock

Valley, to 5 shared among the Garnock Valley only. He advised this could lead to fewer councillors with in-depth knowledge of Dalry. Some discussion of this took place. While there is an overall reduction in councillors and the number of local independent councillors could be reduced, it was noted that councillors would now have a singular focus on the Garnock Valley rather than being split across the North coast communities as well.

Heather Grossart asked Councillor Barr for an update on the junction of Sharon Street with Dalry Primary School. She highlighted that this section of road was dangerous, and the school and parents' council are worried about the risk of an accident or fatality. She advised that the Council had agreed a second crossing patrol, but this did not mitigate the speeding or visibility issues. Councillor Barr advised that Councillor Todd Ferguson was leading on resolving this issue, however he would liaise with Councillor Ferguson for an update and to feed back the comments from the meeting.

6c. Locality Partnership Update

Christina Pieraccini introduced herself and the work of the Locality Partnership. She confirmed that the Locality Partnership had met on 15th of September.

She advised that Community Support Hubs had been a vital source of food and medicine within the Council area during the Covid-19 pandemic and would evolve in the coming months to reflect the ongoing challenges.

She advised that an Expression of Interest had been submitted to the Locality Partnership by the three Garnock Valley Community Councils relating to the re-routing of National Cycle Network 7 between Dalry and Kilbirnie; a report on this topic from the Active Travel team had also been approved.

The three Locality Partnership Working Groups had also been meeting via Microsoft Teams. The Facilities and Amenities Working Group had been looking at an archivist for Garnock Valley history and a Development Plan for the Garnock Valley. The Moving Around Working Group had been prioritising the NCN7 plan; a Travel Needs Analysis had been delayed for a year due to Covid-19. The Work & Local Communities Working Group had been organising an app for the Garnock Valley to advertise its businesses and community groups.

Christina Pieraccini advised she was happy for any members of the public to contact her in relation to the Locality Partnership. She advised that funding comes from the Scottish Government, North Ayrshire Council, Police Scotland and the NHS.

ACTION: The Secretary to share Christina Pieraccini's email address with Dalry community.

The Secretary advised he had recently attended a number of working group meetings and the full Locality Partnership meeting in September. He suggested that anyone interested in how decisions are made, and funds spent in the Garnock Valley should attend these meetings as they are open to the public.

He advised that he had been involved with the plan to re-route NCN7. He described the prospective route, utilising a disused railway embankment out of Kilbirnie and joining a farm track which eventually joins the Beith Road near Dalry. He thanked the landowners who had given their permission for this route to be explored. He noted that the Locality Partnership had approved the use of NAC staff time to explore the route, which would likely lead to an application to Sustrans for a full feasibility study. He confirmed that the Expression of Interest from the three community councils could lead to the Locality Partnership funding the feasibility study if for any reason Sustrans felt unable to do so. He noted how pleasing it was to see multiple groups working together and this had the potential to be a really positive development for the whole Garnock Valley from an environmental, health and transport point of view.

Councillor Barr asked the Secretary where he could access past minutes of the Community Council. The Secretary advised that these should be on display on NAC's website and that he would send a link to Councillor Barr. Councillor Barr left the meeting. John Higgins joined the meeting.

ACTION: The Secretary to provide Councillor Barr with a link to minutes of the Community Council's previous meetings.

6d. Public Park Update

The Chair advised that she had been continuing to try to find a solution to the flooding and sewage issues in the public park. While the Community Council accepts that funding the repair all the issues at once will be difficult to achieve, fixing part of the issue now would be a good start.

She confirmed that Scottish Water have closed their file on the sewage issue, however they are carrying out other works in the park to clear pipes and fix any root or boulder ingress. Traffic management will be required at the junction of Tofts and Courthill Street to fully address the problems.

It was noted that two new drain covers had been installed near the 'Seek House' next to the Rye Water. The Chair noted her concern that fixing a drainage issue in one area might push the issue elsewhere. She advised that the Council have come up with a solution to the drainage issues but doesn't have the money to implement it. Julie Wales asked if councillor's details and the phone number for Scottish Water could be supplied on Facebook to enable the public to contact the relevant bodies if an issue arises. Hywel Jones suggested providing an email address for photos.

Alan Wales advised that he would take a soil sample to confirm if the ground was contaminated. The Chair confirmed Scottish Water's advice that sunlight would kill any bacteria. Alan Wales rejected this assessment, noting that sunlight could make it worse. Catherine Borland suggested the Community Council could get the local papers involved. The Chair noted her preference for a final attempt to find a partnership solution.

7. Planning Applications

The Secretary advised that he had spoken with the Council's planning department about the application for a takeaway coffee shop on New Street. At the August meeting of the Community Council, issues had been raised regarding the internal workmanship and parking. The planning department had advised that building control would deal with the former issue and the Council view that parking was appropriate for the type of development in a town centre.

On this basis the Secretary suggested that the Community Council should not object to the application. The other members of the Community Council agreed.

The Secretary advised that there were no other relevant applications to consider. He also updated that planning application training was being looked at and an update provided in the near future.

8. Licensing

No licensing applications had been received.

9. Correspondence

Allan Wright advised that three accidents had taken place on the Beith bypass in recent weekends. He had written to Dalry Community Council to ask that the three community councils send a joint letter to the Transport Secretary, Michael Matheson MSP, to support roundabouts at the Gateside and Barrmill junctions. The Secretary noted the successful approach of combined Community Council efforts in relation to the NCN7 realignment and proposed that this would be similarly useful here. The Community Council agreed to support the joint letter proposed by Allan Wright.

The Secretary advised that a letter of resignation had been received from James McCosh, standing down as a community councillor with immediate effect. The Chair noted that James had been one of the last remaining elected community councillors and had been a stalwart member of the Community Council, using his legal expertise to keep people right. She thanked him for his many contributions and wished him a happy retirement. The Secretary noted that this meant a vacancy had arisen on the Community Council, which would be advertised in due course.

10. Any Other Business

David Park advised that he was the poppy convener for the Garnock Valley and was responsible for organising the armistice parade. He updated the meeting that a parade would still take place in 2020, although it would be a smaller event due to Covid-19.

David Park suggested a solution to the safety issues at Sharon Street and Dalry Primary School would be the creation of a one-way system for traffic coming out on Vennel Street. He asked for the email address of the local police sergeant. The Treasurer advised that at a previous meeting of the Community Council, Transport Scotland and Farrans Roadbridge had proposed a traffic management survey of Dalry to take place 6 months after the opening of the bypass. The Secretary confirmed that this was one of the topics for a meeting with the elected councillors, and he would add Sharon Street to the list of problem areas.

ACTION: The Secretary to provide David Park with Sergeant Clark's email address.

John Higgins updated the meeting that he had submitted a complaint to the Council regarding the development of Fullarton Hub. He confirmed that the Health Board had highlighted Dalry's health centre as a top priority for replacement, however in his view the Council had dismissed this by providing funding to Fullarton community to develop their own health facilities. Christina Pieraccini clarified that the Fullarton Hub was a community centre with a GP's office in it rather than a health centre. John Higgins stated his view that the Dalry Community had been unfairly treated and had a health centre that was unfit for purpose, and the community needed to do something about it. The Secretary proposed that he would liaise with John Higgins to find out more about this issue.

ACTION: The Secretary to meet with John Higgins regarding Fullarton Hub and feed back to the next meeting.

The Dalry Scouts had been asked to provide an update on progress with the Scout Hall, however as Reg Graham had been unable to attend the Chair proposed this be carried forward to the next meeting. Alan Wales offered to give an update as he has been involved with rectifying some of the issues on-site. The Chair noted how frustrating it is that a simple project could take so long to complete. Alan Wales agreed, noting issues with the contractors who had been appointed initially and problems with securing funding. He advised that in his view the only remaining work internally was plastering, and externally fixing a section of roof and tidying the front of the building. He suggested that once funding was in place the remaining work could be completed within ten days. He undertook to provide a further update at the next meeting.

ACTION: Alan Wales to provide an update on the Scout Hall at the October meeting of the Community Council.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Dalry Community Council will take place at 7pm on the 26th October via Zoom.

APPROVED