



Minutes of the January 2020 Meeting of Beith and District Community Council
Held in Beith Community Centre Lounge on Tuesday the 14th of January 2020 at 7:00pm

In Attendance:

Helen McNaughton	HM	Chair, Beith & District Community Council
James Waite	JW	Vice Chair, Beith & District Community Council
Janet Barr	JB	Beith & District Community Council
Brian Smith	BS	Beith & District Community Council
Bridget Johnstone	BJ	Beith & District Community Council
Ian Johnstone	IJ	Beith & District Community Council
Alastair Redpath	AR	Beith & District Community Council
Ted Nevill	TN	Beith & District Community Council
Jim Murdoch	JM	Treasurer, Beith & District Community Council
Christina Pieraccini	CP	Locality Officer NAC
Cllr Donald L Reid	Cllr DR	Ward 7
Joe Murdoch	Sgt JM	Police Sergeant

10 members of the public were also present

		<u>Actions</u>
1.	The chair welcomed all those in attendance. Introductions were made to the audience.	
	<u>Apologies:</u>	
	Anthea Dickson Cllr AD Ward 7	
2.	<p><u>Police Report:</u></p> <p>Sgt Joe Murdoch gave the monthly crime report for the period 14/12/2019 – 14/01/2020. There had been 140 calls to police resulting in 21 crime reports being raised. 34 of these calls had been a priority 1 or 2.</p> <p>Joe Murdoch advised the meeting that he has been given a promotion to a post in Ayr. As such, tonight would be his last meeting with us. Sgt Dennis Marshall has assumed his old post. Chair expressed sincere thanks for Joe's help and wished him well in his new role. She also commented that Sgt Marshall had big shoes to fill. Sgt Joe Murdoch had been in the post for 4 ½ years. In return, Sgt Murdoch had said that his times visiting community council had been invaluable to him.</p> <p>Sgt Murdoch also advised the meeting that he had been successful in securing funding to upgrade CCTV cameras in the Garnock Valley. This would start with 3 additional cameras in Dalry with additional units in Beith and Kilbirnie. The old cameras were analogue but the new cameras are digital and this will enable them to set up a Garnock Valley network.</p> <p>Sgt Joe Murdoch informed BDCC that he has taken up a new post and advised</p>	

	<p>of of his replacement. He said that he had enjoyed working in the Garnock Valley and will miss being part of the communities. HM thanked Sgt Joe Murdoch for his valuable contributions to the community and the community council stating that he will be missed.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the previous meeting:</u> The minutes of the previous meeting had previously been circulated and were approved as an accurate recorded by: <u>Proposer:</u> Brian Smith <u>Seconded:</u> Alistair Redpath</p>	
4.	<p><u>Matters Arising:</u> There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting</p>	
5.	<p><u>Guest Speaker: Mr Campbell Dempster, Senior Manager, NAC Roads</u> Mr Dempster gave a report on the B777 road from Manrahead Roundabout to the Longbar. During a recent survey, they recorded 29,000 vehicles on this road, 14% of which were classed as heavy goods vehicles. The average speed recorded was 44mph in a 40mph zone. Looking at the 85th percentile, the speed of most traffic was 55mph or less but that also meant that 15% of traffic had a speed in excess of 50mph on this route. The road surface was described as satisfactory but NAC plan to put new markings down, such as 'SLOW' and to install 40mph repeater signs. At the bends, there is currently an advisory speed limit of 40mph but this will be reduced to 30mph. There are also plans to use a red road surface to highlight the 40mph speed limit on this stretch. Mr Dempster reported that the fencing had been repaired 4 times in the past 12 months. BS and JW thought that number too low with BS reporting 7 sections of fencing newer than the others around them. Mr Dempster suggested it may have been 4 visits with more than one section repaired at a time. A resident raised an issue about speed through Gateside. It was noted that cars slow down for the speed calming area and then speed up again afterwards. The meeting was advised that NAC prefer chicanes to speed bumps to slow down traffic as speed bumps are not suitable for heavy vehicles. A question was asked about the A737 improvements. Cllr DR advised that the objection had been lifted but it was now a question of funding. The improvements are expected to cost in the region of £21m.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Planning Applications:</u> There were no planning applications to discuss</p>	
7.	<p><u>Guest speaker: Resident John Dobbie re: Loanhead Quarry</u> Mr Dobbie led a half hour discussion that included a presentation with photos and video clips of the workings of Loanhead Quarry run by WH Malcolm. He was concerned about a proposed stone crushing facility that is currently with NAC's Planning department. He was also concerned about the amount of dust from their current operations. WH Malcolm does not appear to be adhering to legislation detailing how to contain noise, dust and other pollutions from the local environment. Neither NAC nor SEPA appear to be doing anything about it. The site of the proposed crusher is 465m from the Clerksbridge Roundabout and 1200m from the nearest house in Roebank Road. Previously, there had been a crusher contained in a building but this attracted £85,000 per year costs in Business Rates. By removing the building, the plant no longer attracted these</p>	

	<p>rates. Some of the concerns about the dust were that it was corrosive and scratched car paint when trying to wipe off. Since the new stone crusher was to be used to crush down old building materials to fine sand, there was a concern that some of these materials may contain asbestos. Mr Dobbie had raised the issue of air quality for those with reduced lung capacity and asthma which meant that this plant was a Health & Safety risk to residents.</p> <p>There is a planning meeting at Cunningham House on Wed 22nd Jan to discuss this application. Gateside and Barrmill councillor, Cllr Robert Barr, is part of the planning committee. Mr Dobbie has discussed with Couciller Todd Ferguson.</p> <p>NAC have given the operator a licence until 2058. SEPA took samples of the dust but claimed that they can't prove where the dust came from, which was not accepted by residents.</p> <p>Apart from raising awareness, it was unclear what action the Community Council could take as it was pointed out that even if the new plant was stopped by Planning, the other issues of dust, etc would continue. Mr Dobbie can raise his concerns with BDCC over compliance should they continue following the outcome of the application.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Treasurers Report:</u></p> <p>Jim Murdoch advised that the Admin Account currently stands at £372.96 and the Special Projects Account stands at £1235.04 and had increased by 10p from interest.</p> <p>JW presented invoices for community council server email hosting of £14.39 for 1 year. There was a short discussion about difficulties accessing emails on devices as JW could access on his iPad but not his iPhone. HM could access on her phone but not her iPad. There was an enhanced service available at a cost of £2.50 / month. As B&DCC can't set up Direct Debits, it was agreed that this would be paid on a quarterly basis at £7.50 / quarter.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Beith & District Community Council Vacancy:</u></p> <p>There is currently a vacancy on the Community Council for a member and there was also a request for someone to fill the role of secretary or even minute taker but there were no nominations made. The secretary role comes with a laptop and a printer. It was suggested from the floor that they may have to employ someone and pay an honorarium.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Calendar of Events:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Centre Council – BS and JW had attended the meeting. The Volunteer of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award nomination forms were now available. It was noted that there was a reduction in the number of attendees / groups. The meeting was advised that NAFCO had decided on a 5% increase in hall lets. There was a draft constitution presented as the group are applying for SCIO to facilitate the asset transfer of the centre from NAC. This asset transfer may include Beith Library later. • VE Day – An application has been made to the legacy fund for a cairn. This will be dedicated at 3pm on Fri 8th May with a toast from John Smith and a ribbon cutting, possibly by the Provost. • Garnock Valley Community Councils – still awaiting updates from the two funds. The next meeting is scheduled for Tue 18 Feb. Dalry can't host so has asked Kilbirnie. Beith offered to host if Kilbirnie was 	<p>BS / JW</p> <p>JB/BS/HM</p> <p>HM / JW</p>

	<p>unavailable too.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter Pick / Best Dressed Garden – there was a discussion on dates to avoid clashing with Easter Saturday and Beith Show. As Easter Saturday is 11 Apr and Beith Show is usually last Saturday in April, this left Sat 18 Apr available for the litter pick. <p>The Best Dressed Garden would be held later in the year, possibly August. AR has experience with Barmill’s event so volunteered to investigate organising a Beith & District event. One suggestion made was a category for Gateside, another for Barrmill and another for Beith with a winner overall.</p>	<p>TL</p> <p>AR</p>
11.	<p>General Correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GVLPP – Volunteer Training info shared • CIlr DR – Safe North Ayrshire 2020/21 survey shared • Ros Fallon – Your Voice, Your View – there is a meeting in Beith Library on 23rd Jan from 2-4pm – info shared on FB • Helen Craig – Speeding in Gateside (addressed earlier in the meeting) • Kevin Nelson (Beith Community Development Trust) – invitation to set up a meeting to explore common interests between B&DCC and Beith Trust. This was looked on favourably. HM to respond. 	<p>HM</p>
12.	<p>Open to the Floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Forum – difficulty in getting a taxi capable of carrying a wheelchair. One taxi cost £60 each way between Beith and Largs. A letter of support was agreed to be sent. • Lights & Laughter – it was suggested that B&DCC take on the admin for arranging the Lights & Laughter event, such as arranging licences and road closures from BTCl. TL suggested if B&DCC took it on, they could wind down BTCl but proposal was postponed. TL also observed there was no retail representation in BTCl. HM proposed calling a public meeting of interested members of the public to see what could be done. John Dobbie pointed out that there would be transferable skills from organising St Inan’s Day to organising Lights & Laughter and other events to create an events committee. He had experience working on Largs Viking Festival. It was hoped he might be persuaded to help with Lights & Laughter as well. AR agreed to link in with Mr Dobbie. It was agreed to hold further discussions 	<p>JW</p> <p>TL / HM / AR</p>
13.	<p>A.O.C.B.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sgt Joe Murdoch had advised he would be continuing with some of his youth engagement work even after his promotion. JW was nominated to find ways to reach out to young people to find out what they want in their town and if these goals were achievable. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with other groups to take forward ideas. • BJ raised the issue of Knowe’s Coup as there have been some bad smells in the town, coming from this area. BJ to draft a letter to SEPA to outline her concerns. • AR advised that Barrmill are holding a Burns Coffee Morning on 25 Jan from 10am-12pm • A member of the public asked where she could find a copy of the minutes online. JW explained it is difficult to share PDFs on Social 	<p>JW</p> <p>BJ</p> <p>AR</p> <p>JW / CP</p>

	<p>Media other than by taking photos of pages. The Locality has the facility to host minutes but there had been some communication difficulties recently with emails going to Junk Mail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Reid passed on information regarding Main Street survey and possible future funding to upgrade • HM thanked Allan Wright from Kilbirnie & Glengarnock CC who was in attendance for volunteering to do the minutes. It was much appreciated. 	
14.	With no further business, the meeting was closed with a vote of thanks from the Chair.	
	The next meeting of Beith and District Community Council will take place on Tuesday 11 February in Gateside Village Hall	