

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Dalry Community Council Meeting

Monday 26th October 2020, held via Zoom

1. Welcome

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

2. Present / Apologies

Present:

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

Other attendees – Robert Barr (Councillor for Dalry), Joy Brahim (Councillor for Dalry), Christina Pieraccini (North Ayrshire Council), Allan Wright (Kilbirnie Community Council), Robert Cuthbertson, John Higgins, Nik McNicol, Alan Wales, Julie A. Wales

Apologies were received from:

Lynn Benevento (Community Councillor), Sergeant Douglas Clark (Police Scotland), Patricia Gibson (MP)

3. Minutes of Meeting on 28th September 2020

The Secretary asked for comments on the draft minutes of the September meeting. Alan Wales confirmed that under item 6d. he had proposed a soil sample rather than a water sample.

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Julie Wales and seconded by Carrie Borland.

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.

The Secretary noted that Sergeant Clark had been unable to attend the meeting so there would be no update on the actions allocated to Police Scotland. The Secretary advised that he would forward these actions to Sergeant Clark for a written update.

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.

Joy Brahim had been asked to raise issues over the appearance of the town with David Hammond at North Ayrshire Council. She advised that she would obtain an update for the next meeting.

Allan Wright updated on the concerns regarding fishing permits at Lochshore. At a previous meeting it had been noted that the Lochshore project was designed for the whole Garnock Valley, however Dalry residents would pay more to fish there. Allan Wright had enquired about this and it is commonplace in different towns that local residents will pay less than visitors. **Action closed.**

Joy Brahim advised that she had raised the idea of planting a tree at the junction of Lynn Avenue and Townend Street. This had been approved in principle and discussions are ongoing. **Action closed.**

Joy Brahim advised that Kenneth Gibson's annual litter-pick had been postponed in 2020 and would not take place until Spring 2021 at the earliest. **Action closed.**

Joy Brahim advised that she would enquire again about the issue of the workmanship of carpark resurfacing. Robert Barr commented that the works at St. Margaret's Church were an improvement on the prior surfacing, and that he had asked for the car park at Courthill Street to be lined. **Action carried forward.**

Joy Brahim noted the issue around road safety on the B780 and that she would raise this within North Ayrshire Council. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary updated that a meeting had been held with Councillors Brahim and Ferguson. The public park, traffic management and Lynn Glen had been discussed in detail. A number of actions had arisen, and he hoped to bring a more extensive update to the November meeting. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary updated that he had not yet shared Christina Pieraccini's email address with the Dalry community. Christina Pieraccini asked that this be limited to meeting attendees and people with particular interest in the Locality Partnership. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary confirmed he had provided Councillor Barr with a link to minutes of the Community Council's previous meetings. **Action closed.**

The Secretary advised he had provided David Park with Sergeant Clark's email address. **Action closed.**

The Secretary confirmed he had met with John Higgins regarding a complaint about the lifespan of Dalry Medical Practice. This was an item on the agenda. **Action closed.**

The Secretary asked Alan Wales if he would provide an update on the Scout Hall later in the meeting. **Action closed.**

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer confirmed that the Community Council have an administration account containing £201.03 and a project account containing £880.41. The Community Council have spent money from the administration account on the monthly subscription to Zoom.

6. Updates

6a. Police Report

Sergeant Clark had confirmed earlier in the day that he would not be able to attend the meeting, however had provided a written update. This was read out by the Secretary as follows:-

Data collated between 26/09/2020 AND 26/10/2020

149 calls to police resulting in 42 crime reports being raised.

Same time period - Last year calls: 207 Last month calls: 175

1. Drug Dealing and Drug Misuse – 3

2. Violence and Antisocial Behaviour –

Assaults: 3 Noise: 4 Disturb: 8 Damage: 2

Public nuisance 13 of which 4 were youth related.

3. Dishonesty – Thefts - Inc. Housebreakings

Theft: 13 H/B: 2 Vehicle crime: 0

4. Road Safety/Road Crime –

Road traffic matters: 12 Road Traffic Collisions: 5

Road Traffic offences: 1

Priority 1 and 2 calls: 2

Missing Persons calls: 0

Concern for Person calls: 8

6b. Councillor Updates

Robert Barr updated that he had held meetings with Sergeant Clark and North Ayrshire Council's new Regeneration Officer, Colin Welsh.

He advised that he would find out if the proposed pavement-widening on New Street was to go ahead.

ACTION: Robert Barr to get an update on pavement-widening works on New Street.

He advised that a memorial bench was being installed near the town adjacent to the Kilwinning Road.

Joy Brahim updated the meeting that the roadworks at Auchengree were now slated to take longer, partly due to repairs to the bridge at the

Longbar being more complex than initially thought and partly because weather issues had delayed the repairs.

6c. Traffic Management

The Secretary introduced this agenda item, confirming that a number of traffic issues had been raised with the Community Council in the past few months and it had seemed beneficial to try and raise all of these at the same time. A meeting had taken place between the Community Councillors and Councillors Brahim and Ferguson, where these issues had been raised and some actions agreed. Councillor Brahim was to set up a meeting with David Hammond of North Ayrshire Council to discuss traffic issues.

Alan Wales asked if the Council were currently counting traffic on Townend Street. Councillors Barr offered to find out.

ACTION: Councillor Barr to get an update on traffic counting on Townend Street.

The Secretary asked if anyone had particular traffic issues, they send them to dalry.community.council.official@gmail.com.

6d. Public Park Update

The Chair advised that the public park had also been a major topic of discussion at the meeting with Councillors Barr and Ferguson, and would also be raised at the upcoming meeting with David Hammond. Joy Brahim confirmed she was working on arranging this.

Alan Wales updated he had taken soil samples and had them tested by a company in Girvan. These samples had confirmed that there was no ongoing sewage contamination of the soil down the park, and he had also been advised that any bacteria on the surface would have been killed by sunlight.

Alan Wales asked where the former boating pond had been in the park, and whether the solid bottom had been removed prior to the pond being filled in. No-one at the meeting was able to confirm this.

John Higgins commented that the flooding at the old pond site had gotten much worse since remedial works were carried out to the adjacent path.

The Secretary thanked Alan Wales for organising the soil samples.

7. Planning Applications

The Secretary advised there were no applications for the Community Council to consider. He updated that Anthony Hume of the planning department at North Ayrshire Council had offered to run planning training for the community councillors.

8. Licensing

Robert Barr confirmed that applications had been received for a taxi licence and street trader licence. He volunteered to provide more detail about the latter.

ACTION: Robert Barr to provide information about street trader licence applied for in Dalry.

9. Correspondence

The Secretary advised that he had received correspondence from the Lochshore project, advising that an application had been made for, among other things, a play installation linking Dalry with the Lochshore site. John Higgins clarified that these would be virtually, rather than physically, linked. Christina Pieraccini advised that details regarding the location and description of the play installation would be provided in early course, however the letter provided was confirmation that the application had been made. She updated that the Lochshore project had also won approval for cycle infrastructure to the West of the Lochshore site, linking Lochshore with Kilbirnie and NCN7. She recalled an outstanding action from a previous discussion to update the Secretary on the Lochshore project.

ACTION: Christina Pieraccini to set up meeting with the Chair and Secretary to discuss Lochshore and provide sight of the overall site plan.

The Secretary advised that he had been contacted by a resident expressing concern at proposals to install cycle lanes on Garnock Street. He noted that this proposal had been made public some weeks before and he had advised anyone with concerns to raise these with the design agency, and he was unaware whether the plans were still going ahead.

10. AOB

10a. Scout Hall Update

Alan Wales advised that the Scouts were waiting for funding before arranging the final work on the Scout Hall. He suggested £10,000 would be needed to finish the job, and it would not be completed until January at the latest. Those present at the meeting expressed their deep concern at the time the works had taken. Christina Pieraccini suggested that it might be useful to request a written update from the Scouts, noting the community's concern.

ACTION: The Secretary to write to Dalry Scouts, cc. Scouts Scotland, asking for a written update on the plans for the Scout Hall.

10b. Dalry Health Centre

The Secretary confirmed he had met with John Higgins regarding his complaint about replacement of Dalry Health Centre, and this has been escalated to Councillors Brahim and Ferguson. Councillor Brahim had agreed to meet with Mr. Higgins to discuss his concerns. She suggested

that the reason for the reduction in priority for replacing Dalry Health Centre could be de-population of the town.

10c. Moss-side 1 Bridge

Julie A. Wales advised that a local resident had recovered the washed-away bridge and had recently begun re-installing it himself. She updated that he had spent his own money on materials and asked if this could be refunded to him. The Chair and John Higgins agreed to split the expenses and reimburse the resident.

ACTION: The Chair and John Higgins to pass expenses money to resident for bridge repairs.

10d. A737 Beith Bypass

Allan Wright confirmed that the letter prepared by the Community Councils had been sent to the Transport Secretary, Michael Matheson MSP. In the short-term traffic lights would be installed at the junctions with the Gateside and Barrmill roads, however in 2022 work would begin to construct roundabouts at these junctions.

10e. Regal Court

Robert Cuthbertson asked if the roofing work at Regal Court was due to restart any time soon. Robert Barr advised it had begun and should be completed soon.

10f. Other

The Chair noted that the Community Development Hub had made an application for funding for a community garden at the top of Smith Street. A funding application had been re-submitted and a draft lease was being prepared. She highlighted the state of Smith Street, as well as Merksworth Avenue and Kirkland Crescent, and suggested these should be resurfaced. Councillor Barr offered to make enquiries about this.

ACTION: Councillor Barr to find out about remedial roadworks at Smith Street, Merksworth Avenue and Kirkland Crescent.

The Chair also advised that DCDH would be planting bulbs at the Cross on 30th October if anyone wanted to join in.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Dalry Community Council will take place at 7pm on the 30th November via Zoom. The AGM will also take place during this meeting.