

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Dalry Community Council AGM and Meeting

Monday 30th November 2020, held via Zoom

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the AGM, 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), Sergeant Douglas Clark (Police Scotland), Robert Cuthbertson, John Higgins, Hywel Jones, Mhairi Reid, Brenda Reilly, Alan Wales, Julie A. Wales

Apologies were received from:

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

[Please note items 3-7 will be formally approved at the 2021 AGM]

8. Minutes of Previous Meeting (26th October 2020)

Councillor Robert Barr noted that he had spoken with North Ayrshire Council about roadworks in the town, and Smith Street had been completed with Kirkland Crescent slated for future work.

Myra Sim proposed the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting. Sheena Woodside seconded the minutes.

9. Matters Arising

Sergeant Clark advised that work had been carried out on the A737 markings near the new roundabout on Kilwinning Road. He advised that work was required at the junction of Kilwinning Road and the Saltcoats Road, however as no accidents had been reported there was no case for a roundabout at that junction. New signage is being looked at, which will also be cheaper to implement. He noted that speeding within the town had been raised as an issue. A number of attendees commented on speeding vehicles on New Street. Sergeant Clark undertook to look into this.

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. **Action carried forward.**

Joy Brahim had provided a written update on road safety on the B780. **Action closed.**

The public park, traffic management and Lynn Glen were to be discussed later in the agenda. **Action closed.**

Councillor Barr advised pavement-widening works on New Street might not go ahead but was waiting for further information from North Ayrshire Council.

Councillor Barr updated that he had been unable to find out who was counting traffic on Townend Street; however, Transport Scotland had handed control of the road to North Ayrshire Council. The Council are in the process of negotiating remediation money from Transport Scotland (believed to be around £750k).

Councillor Barr updated that no further planning or licensing applications had come through. The previous month there was a licensing application for a trader's van, which turned out to be for a greengrocer's van.

John Higgins noted that there had been no progress with the issue regarding the lifespan of Dalry Health Centre.

The Chair advised that she had offered money to the local resident who rebuilt the Moss-side burn bridge, however the sum had changed and there had been the suggestion the money would come from Dalry Parish Boundary Trust. Councillor Barr advised that the resident had not applied yet.

Councillor Barr advised he had reported some required roadworks in the town. The Secretary asked if Merksworth Avenue and Lynn Avenue could be included.

10. Updates

10a. Police Report

Sergeant Clark introduced his report, noting that youth disorder in the Garnock Valley was one of his main priorities. He advised that his approach was 'old school' and he'd be looking to keep things simple in his approach. He noted that PC Gillies had moved on and PC John Scott now had responsibility for Dalry.

He advised that 198 calls had been received resulting in 54 crime reports being raised. 14 out of 16 public nuisance calls were youth related. He advised that there had been no housebreakings in the monitoring period. He advised that he felt the issues at the Lynn Glen had receded in recent months.

He advised that he was personally in favour of the proposed re-alignment of NCN7 and would ask his Inspector if a Police Scotland position could be provided.

Carrie Borland asked if the waterfalls at the Longbar had experienced the same problems as the Lynn Glen. Sergeant Clark advised that the Lynn Glen had experienced particularly high footfall as a TripAdvisor review and Facebook posts had brought interest from further afield.

10b. Councillor Updates

Councillor Barr advised that he had been involved in discussions regarding the public park, and that he hoped a solution had been found. He updated the meeting that he'd had a meeting with the new Regeneration Officer. He confirmed that lining the Lynn Glen car park, and boxing the traffic junction, had taken place. He advised that roofing works at Regal Court had restarted, and a concern had been raised about access to the sheltered housing at Watt Gardens – door entry should be more secure to prevent unauthorised access. He noted that resurfacing works were due to begin on the Auchengree Road. The Treasurer asked if this would include a section of road known locally as 'The Creepies' between the Blair and the Beith Road. Councillor Barr offered to find out.

ACTION: Councillor Barr to find out if this section of road is to be repaired as part of bypass reparations.

The Secretary advised that Councillor Brahim had put forward a written update for the meeting. She had advised that the proposal of planting a tree at the junction of Lynn Avenue and Townend Street had been approved by all relevant parties within North Ayrshire Council: sightlines were unaffected, and maintenance would come from an existing budget. She noted some local upset at the proposal, however, and asked the Community Council to provide a position.

Following some discussion, the Community Council agreed to put the detail of Councillor Brahim's update on Facebook and seek local opinions, with a view to giving a final position at the January meeting.

Councillor Brahim had also updated that works would begin to resurface the former 'gas works' site between Braehead and the Public Park. Funding for this had been found from the Vacant & Derelict Land Fund.

Councillor Brahim had asked the meeting to provide a view on the amended proposals regarding CCTV in the town. A new camera would be sited on Courthill Street, with a moveable camera purchased and five locations upgraded to house it as needed. Sergeant Clark recommended the proposal, noting it would only take up to four hours to relocate the camera and have it operating.

Comments from the meeting included uncertainty as to the location of the camera on Townend Street and the need to cover Merksworth

Avenue. Attendees also indicated support for coverage at the Sharon Street end of Roche Way, potentially covering the entrance to the public park next to Regal Court. Sergeant Clark confirmed that the camera on Roche Way would cover the car park behind St Margaret's Church.

The Chair indicated that there was wide support for the idea, however further clarification was required for the specific locations for the redeployable camera.

ACTION: Peter Stevenson to obtain a plan of redeployable CCTV camera locations.

10c. Locality Partnership Update

The Secretary noted that the Locality Partnership was one way for local decision-making on the spending of funds. He advised that there are three working groups, each with community council representation on it.

The Chair updated the meeting on behalf of the Facilities and Amenities Working Group. The F&AWG have been overseeing the implementation of Garnock 2020 Projects. They also considered the proposals for Dalry Public Park and the pavilion buildings. She advised that proposals for a skate park are going ahead, and the design stage was about to start. She confirmed she had stressed the importance of involving young people in the design stage.

Carrie Borland updated the meeting on behalf of the Work and Local Communities Working Group. She noted that a community app was being developed, which would be free for community groups and businesses to advertise on. She advised this would be launched in the new year.

The Secretary updated the meeting on behalf of the Moving Around Working Group. He noted that the main project since he'd joined the group was the re-alignment of NCN7 between Dalry and Kilbirnie. This is in a quiet spell for the moment while we wait for decisions from Sustrans. He noted his gratitude for the support of the relevant landowners. The Secretary also advised that a series of bike maintenance workshops had been held, which were well received and as such more are planned for 2021.

10d. Public Park / Traffic Management / Lynn Glen Update

The Chair advised that a meeting had taken place on 10th November to consider issues around the public park, traffic in the town and the Lynn Glen. This meeting had included the elected members, David Hammond and other officers from North Ayrshire Council as well as a couple of residents from the surrounds of the Lynn Glen.

The Chair updated that a subsequent meeting had taken place in the public park to look at the drainage problems. She confirmed NAC had acknowledged the drainage issues are getting worse and had agreed to

take responsibility for sorting this. The Secretary added that this might not happen in one go, but the community council had pushed for a plan to be put together.

The Secretary advised that the Council had also undertaken to carry out a survey of traffic management issues in the town; some of the main issues picked up by residents had been raised including Townend Street, the Saltcoats Road and Sharon Street at the Primary School.

The Secretary also updated on the issues at the Lynn Glen. He advised that the residents had suffered some serious anti-social behaviour problems during lockdown, however the proposal from the residents had been to remove benches and make the area less welcoming to users. The residents had also advocated improvement of the public park as a way to reduce the draw of the Lynn Glen.

11. Planning Applications

The Treasurer advised that one application had been received, for permission in principle to build a house at Meiklemyre Farm at Hindog Glen. The community council noted this application.

12. Licensing Applications

Councillor Barr noted that a licensing application had been received for new premises at the former Museum Tavern.

13. Correspondence

The Secretary advised that a response had been received from Scouts Scotland regarding the Scout Hall. Alan Wales confirmed that he had a timescale for completing all outstanding works by the end of January.

14. Any Other Business

John Higgins noted that the Community Centre was past the end of its lifespan and suggested that the community should do something to address this before the building is forced to shut. He advised that Fullarton Hub in Irvine is a community facility that houses both medical and community facilities.

The Secretary noted that Councillor Ferguson had undertaken to look into the lifespan of the health centre, and this could be added to that action.

ACTION: Peter Stevenson to discuss the community centre with Councillor Ferguson.

Robert Cuthbertson asked if anything had happened with the proposed community garden. The Chair confirmed that a change of use application for the site had been submitted, and the outcome should be known by the end of January. Money has been provisionally allocated from the Regeneration Fund, and a lease has been drafted, pending planning approval.

The Chair congratulated Peter Stevenson and his partner Christina Smith on the birth of their son Ruaraidh. She wished everyone a happy new year and brought the meeting to a close.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the community council will be held on Zoom on Monday 25th January.

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