

## **DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### ***Minutes of Dalry Community Council Meeting***

***Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 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), Graeme Emans (North Ayrshire Council), Christina Pieraccini (North Ayrshire Council), Allan Wright (Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council), Scott Brown, Robert Cuthbertson, Wendy Gardner, John Higgins, David Park, Valerie Provan, Mhairi Reid, Carol Young

Apologies were received from:

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

#### **3. Minutes of Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The Secretary provided the meeting with sight of the minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. He noted that the AGM minutes would be formally approved at the 2021 AGM however invited participants to consider both the AGM and Business Meeting minutes for inaccuracies.

The misspelling of one attendee's name was noted and changed.

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Julie Wales and seconded by Myra Sim.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

The Secretary provided the meeting with sight of the outstanding actions from previous meetings.

Joy Brahim had provided a written update on the appearance of streets within Dalry. At the March 2020 meeting one attendee had noted the condition of a number of gardens in Merksworth Avenue, Lynn Avenue and Townend Street. Councillor Brahim confirmed that an officer from North Ayrshire Council had inspected the gardens in Merksworth Avenue and would contact residents whose gardens fell below the standards expected. Councillor Brahim had also noted that six tenants had been served a

Notice of Proceedings due to the condition of their gardens. **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. **Action carried forward.**

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). **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary confirmed that he had met with the Chair and Christina Pieraccini to get an update on the Lochshore project. **Action closed.**

Councillor Barr advised that he would try to get an answer from North Ayrshire Council regarding remedial works to the backroad known as 'The Creepies' or "Loans Road". **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary advised that Graham Emans was attending the meeting to update on CCTV locations. **Action closed.**

The Secretary advised that he had been unable to raise the community centre lifespan with Councillor Ferguson. **Action carried forward.**

## **5. Chairperson's Report**

The Chair advised that North Ayrshire Council had recommended that Community Councillor elections be postponed to November due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She noted that the Community Council had one vacancy and asked anyone with an interest to put their name forward before the next meeting, noting that one expression of interest had already been received.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer noted that income and expenditure since November 2020 had been as follows:-

The Administration Account had a balance of £190.30, with spend of £241.51 on yearly licences for Zoom and Microsoft Office 365.

The Project Account had a balance of £880.49, with a credit of 4p in interest.

## **7. Updates**

### **7a. Police Report**

Sergeant Clark introduced his report, noting that the statistics showed a quiet month. Calls to the police were 20% down since the last report. He advised that a number of the reported thefts were wheelie bin thefts, and these were reported because North Ayrshire Council is the only local

authority to require a crime report before they will replace a wheelie bin for free.

The Chair noted that a meeting had taken place between the three Garnock Valley Community Councils and Police Scotland to try to develop a joined-up approach to tackling youth disorder. This involved a youth outreach project.

#### **7b. Councillor Updates**

Councillor Barr advised that he had seen two drainage experts in the park and that one damaged drain cover was to be replaced. He had handled concerns about the lack of a grit bin on Smith Street as well as potholes. He advised that a number of brown bins had not been collected that day due to icy conditions, however homeowners were to leave them out and they'd be collected as soon as possible.

The Secretary advised that Councillor Brahim had put forward a written update for the meeting. She had also updated on the bin collection issues, as well as the update regarding Merksworth Avenue's gardens. She had also confirmed that a 'Welcome to Dalry' sign would be installed on the B714, with the Roads Service looking at other gateway signage for consideration of improvements.

#### **7c. CCTV Update**

The Chair introduced Graham Emans of North Ayrshire Council. Graham advised that he was overseeing the implementation of CCTV upgrades in Dalry. He confirmed a new camera would be installed on Courthill Street outside Rosearden, and the existing 3 cameras would be upgraded as part of the project.

He noted that in the past year, the existing CCTV had been called upon to assist in 160 incidents. However a number of other locations have had reported issues and the proposal is to upgrade 5 lampposts in the town to be able to handle a mobile CCTV camera. The locations are Blair Road, Lynn Avenue, Merksworth Avenue, Vennel Street and Roche Way. He advised that the camera could be deployed and operable within 4 hours of a request for assistance. He hoped these would be ready to use by summer, depending on the availability of the required parts. He confirmed that a sixth location, on Braehead near the entrance to the Public Park, was being considered. He advised that this was a pilot scheme which could be expanded further around North Ayrshire, and he would be happy to tie in with the youth outreach project being developed for the Garnock Valley.

Attendees questioned the suitability of having 5 locations served by 1 camera. Graeme Emans confirmed his plan to acquire 3 cameras by the end of the year which would serve a wider area but greatly increase cover.

#### **7d. Public Park / Traffic Management / Lynn Glen Update**

The Secretary advised that David Hammond, Head of Commercial Services, had provided a written update on the Public Park, Roads and Lynn Glen.

On the Public Park, David Hammond had advised that due to the low ground-level of the park and climate change, traditional drainage would be expensive and likely would not be effective. Funding was being sought for a test drain of a vertical draining method, and further details would be provided in due course.

It was noted that Scottish Water had been fixing the drainage at St. Palladius Terrace which had resulted in the closure of the footpath from the Park to the 'Seek Hoose' at the Rye Water.

On traffic management, David Hammond had noted that a sum had been agreed with Transport Scotland for repair works to the former A737 through Dalry (now B714). The sum agreed would incorporate improvements to road and footway surfaces, drainage works, bridge maintenance, signage, road marking and lighting infrastructure improvements. The works are planned for the new financial year.

On the Lynn Glen, David Hammond had updated that the car park bay and road marking work had been completed in November 2020. The speed limit zone had been extended to incorporate the single lane bridge on the B714 after the Lynn Glen junction. An officer from the Council was assessing the scope for signage directing visitors to other car parks in the town.

There followed some general discussion relating to the updates provided. It was noted that footway repairs should include widening the pavement between St. Andrew's Gardens and LIDL which are too narrow to be safe. The efficacy of the speed bumps on Vennel Street was also questioned.

#### **8. Vision for Dalry**

The Secretary opened discussions, confirming that the Community Council had been considering for a while an exercise to find a 'direction' for the town that would shape it for future generations. Christina Pieraccini advised that the Garnock Valley 2020 plan had sought to do something similar for the wider Garnock Valley, and changes to the planning system would result in 'Place Plans'. She suggested these pieces of work would potentially tie together.

The Secretary opened the floor to suggestions from attendees for things that would make Dalry a better place to live or visit. Suggestions included:-

Removing the 40mph limit to the bypass	Moving the war memorial to opposite St. Palladius Primary	A community recycling point
Something similar to the work carried out by Beith Trust	Monthly / annual events, e.g. beer festival	Outdoor fitness equipment
Resuming activities like Civic Week	A Bessie Dunlop or Burns Centre (twinning with Salem)	A focus on Dalry's heritage
Promoting the range of walks in and near the town	Do more to stop young people leaving – projected 25% increase in pensionable residents by 2026	Activities that pay for themselves
Internet café / community social club	Farmers market	Youth reps on community groups to get the views of young people
Maintaining the required volunteers	Leaflets promoting the walks and trails	Dog fouling / litter

## 9. Dalry 'Gateway', Kilwinning Road

The Treasurer confirmed that North Ayrshire Council had offered a sum of money to remove or pave over the flower beds at the B714 junction with the Saltcoats Road. This would potentially allow planters and gateway signage to be sited there.

Views were expressed regarding the desire for a roundabout at this location to improve safety. Those in attendance agreed to reject the proposal to pave over the flowerbeds and instead formally request a roundabout on the B714. It was suggested that a suitable place for a Dalry gateway would be the roundabout at the bypass instead

**ACTION:** The Secretary will write to North Ayrshire Council expressing the Community's wish for a roundabout at this location.

## 10. Lynn Avenue Landscaping

The Secretary noted that the proposal for planting a tree at the junction of Lynn Avenue and Townend Street had been put forward in March 2020. The Community Council had broadly supported the idea, however when it was posted on social media residents in the area were unhappy with the proposal on safety and funding grounds. Councillor Brahim had provided an update to the previous meeting which seemed to allay those concerns

and the Community Council had agreed to share that update on its social media page before making a final decision.

The Secretary confirmed that the response on social media had been wholly positive and recommended that the Community Council support the project. This was agreed by the other Community Councillors.

#### **11. Planning Applications**

The Treasurer advised that a planning application had been approved for a community garden adjacent to the Smith Street car park. She also noted that a mural would be completed at McKinnon's garage later in the year.

Applications had been validated for Easter Highfield Lodge and 32 New Street.

An application had been received to remove the planning conditions from a permission at Barrkip Biogas Ltd. which required time constraints for site access. The site's owners argued that these restrictions made the site less competitive.

#### **12. Licensing Applications**

Councillor Barr noted that one application had been received for a taxi driver's license.

#### **13. Correspondence**

The Secretary advised that North Ayrshire Council had suggested the Community Council switch its meetings to Microsoft Teams. For security reasons council officers and Police Scotland officers are unable to join a Zoom video call. It would cost less per annum but would also require attendees to use a different programme so might cause access issues in the short term. He advised that this would be considered and a decision made by community councillors in due course.

The Secretary advised that a letter had been received from Brownshore Management Ltd. relating to the clearance of trees and shrubs from the site of Dales of Dalry. Those present at the meeting expressed concern at the loss of habitat from a site used by various species. The Secretary was asked to write to Brownshore to request information about the site works.

**ACTION:** The Secretary to contact Joe Nugent at Brownshore Management Ltd. to request information about the former Dales of Dalry site.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

Councillor Barr noted that notices had been put up by Dalry Parish Boundary Trust relating to their expenditure. It was suggested that DPBT might wish to attend a future meeting. Councillor Barr undertook to check if this was possible.

**ACTION:** Councillor Barr to arrange Dalry Parish Boundary Trust attending a meeting of the Community Council.

Christina Pieraccini suggested that Cailley from Beith Trust could be invited to the next meeting of the Community Council to discuss the app being developed for Garnock Valley businesses and groups. The Community Council agreed with this proposal.

**ACTION:** Christina Pieraccini to arrange Cailley Wiggins' attendance at the February Community Council meeting.

An attendee noted their concern that HGV's were using Blair Road to access Reid's food warehouse rather than the bypass.

An attendee asked when the electric vehicle charging points at Smith Street car park are going live. Councillor Barr offered to find out.

**ACTION:** Councillor Barr to find out when the electric vehicle charging points at Smith Street car park are going live.

#### **15. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the community council will be held on Zoom on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.