

WEST KILBRIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING held MONDAY 10th May 2021, 7.00pm by Zoom.

PRESENT: John Lamb (JL); Kay Hall (KH); Douglas Penman (DP); N. Armstrong (NA); Richard Campbell-Doughty (RD); H. Thomson (HT); Clr T. Ferguson (TF); P C Thomas Arthur (TA);

GUESTS: Adam Lyon, Chris, Maughan

APOLOGIES: Received from Cir. J Brahim (JB); Deirdre Murray (DM); George Donohoe (GD);

MINUTES: Minutes of previous Meeting notes and actions as amended were approved by (KH) and seconded by (DP)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer (DP) The Account balance had not changed since last month.

POLICE SCOTLAND: PC Arthur provided the following crime statistics from 12th April 2021 to the 10th May 2021 as follows: (47) incidents were reported which resulted in (6) crime reports consisting of (2) theft;(1) Fraud; (2) Vandalism: (1) Antisocial Incident. The Action Plan is that following the easing of lockdown restrictions, additional patrols have been in place in the Portencross area both with patrols in vehicles and on bikes. Although there has been an increase in crimes there has been a higher-than-average detection rate of 70%. Special measures will be in place at areas within the North Coast Area when Covid19 restrictions are lifted, to avoid mass gatherings etc. **(JL)** asked if there was any progress on the accident in Gateside Street last week. Police had investigated but there was no significant damage and it was not to the parked vehicle. **(NA)** raised the speeding on the A78 in Snowdon Terrace at night by heavy lorries, including jumping the traffic lights at Yerton Brae. This was noted by for action by PC Arthur.

NAC; Roads, (TF) reported on the response to speeding / accident in Gateside Street. The response is "We will arrange for a traffic survey of the road to be undertaken to see what traffic behaviour is on this road. When we have gathered this information, we will discuss the findings with the police to consider if additional measures are necessary.

CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS:

NAC: Libraries and Community Centres Consultation (Response circulated, and acknowledged receipt by NAC) **Copy attached as appendix 1.**

NAC Local Plan: - Housing in the Countryside Consultation. (HT) has produced a response for discussion. We will respond to the consultation in the terms of the document that has been constructed for Planners, Developers, Landowners not for input or reference from the general public. The general public have the right to roam under Scottish legislation, but

development in the countryside is having a adverse effect on access. **(HT & JL)** will collate a response from WKCC and we will respond by the closing date of 21/05/21

West Kilbride Lottery; (KH) Reported that a group of individuals had been approached and were keen to set up an independent West Kilbride Lottery along the lines of the Darvel and District model. (KH) would keep the Community Council apprised of progress. However it was noted that information provided by East Ayrshire Council denying the existence of a Community Council Lottery was totally incorrect.

WKCC – Kirktonhall Glen proposed development. (JL) Reported that an on-line meeting was held with the developer and representatives of the community. The Developer presented their plans which would appear to be still at a early stage and it was suggested that a full community consultation would have to be carried out prior to any development in the area of the current leisure facilities. Suggestion was made that the proposed development would be better placed closer to the Golf Club which has access and parking sadly missing at the proposed site in the glen. Further work would be required. WKCC will keep members updated on any development.

West Kilbride Website: (KH) Kay clarified that the West Kilbride Website would be constructed with links to groups within West Kilbride and also for them to add use as a communication vehicle. The money has come from the Village Traders Organisation that has folded and will be handled by the West Kilbride Community Council as a ongoing project. (KH) has instructed a designer to build and initially manage the website which is now underway.

SPT: Regional Transport Strategy Case for Change- Consultation circulated for comment. Individual responses by 11th June

Peel Ports Liaison Committee: (JL) Reported that the meeting was informed that there would be road closure at the Hunterston Roundabout in order to take down the overhead conveyor, no date had yet been agreed. The Drill Ships moored at Hunterston Jetty were using their own power generators much to the disruption of the residents in Fairlie. Peel Ports stated that the justification for land-based power supply was under investigation but at the moment it was not a practical proposition. Fairlie requested that noise readings be made available. Peel Ports **(PP)** responded that the Drill Ships were moored as warm start. Noise levels and vibrations would be checked. Operation Joint Warrior would see three vessels moored at Hunterston Jetty and three at the old NATO Pier. Overall, there would be some 28 ships involved in the exercise. **(PP)** are planning a Green Regeneration for part of the site for wildlife and improve woodland cover, the site extends to 1000 acres of which 370 acres would be for manufacturing. Security at the site would be natural barriers and the areas where sea buckthorn had been removed would be replanted once construction work had been completed. **(PP)** did state that financial support for communities was not part of their normal operations but would be open to negotiation on a project-by-project basis.

Town Centre Regeneration Funding: Still no information about the allocation of this national funding to NAC. KH would draft an email to be sent to Local Councillors requesting support for the needs of West Kilbride.

Fairlie CC: Dawn Fresh SEPA CAP License. (JL) Fairlie CC have requested that we respond in support of their and Cumbrae CC objections to the proposal from Dawn Fresh for a SEPA Cap licence for three fish farms in the Fairlie Roads (area of the Clyde between Fairlie and Cumbrae), the west side of little Cumbrae, and the east side of south Bute. WKCC will respond.

Glen Paths: (JL) will check on progress with Streetscene.

Persimmon Developments: No Change.

FRIENDS OF KIRKTONHALL GLEN the CC arranged a meeting to discuss next steps with everyone organizing activities in the Glen. Also included are a few people who have ideas for affordable accessible sport. (KH) had identified 19 such people and has also started to write up who owns which areas in order to offer some clarity as to how it all works. A meeting was arranged on behalf of the CC and independently chaired by David Hutchison. There were 15 groups represented (KH) will act as interim secretary until representatives can be appointed for the roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Participants were requested to submit ideas for the Glen. These would be collated and discussed at the next meeting which will be on the 19th May at 7.00pm. It is hoped the office bearers may be appointed, and greater detail can be discussed.

Access Steps to Maimhor: - As (GD) reported last month the steps leading from Fullerton Drive to Maimhor / Faulds Wynd were in a dangerous condition and persons had been put in danger of injury due to the condition. They have now been blocked off by NAC for public safety. (TF) referred this to NAC to determine ownership. The response to NAC from McTaggart Construction was that this estate was Factored and their responsibility. (JL) made enquiries of residents as to the validity of McTaggart statement that the residents had a Factor in place for the last 25 years and it was their (the residents) responsibility to pay for any repairs necessary. This has been disproved by residents who have been there since the development commenced. There is still dispute as to who should pay. McTaggart Construction have told NAC that it is in the title deeds that they are not responsible and that the residents should have appointed a Factor. NAC are going to inform the residents of this. WKCC will make our own enquiries as to the validity of the McTaggart Construction claim with the residents.

West Kilbride Burn: (HT) has identified pollution coming from upstream contrary to Scottish Water explanation to SEPA which referred to pollution at Seamill not what (HT) had reported to SEPA. HT will follow up.

Flooding (KH & HT) Update---Residents of West Kilbride and Seamill have been requested through Facebook to identify areas that suffered flooding in February. This is still being collated and presented when available to the Community Council. Cllr Brahim had indicated that she will progress this with both Roads Dept and Streetscene. (JL) contacted NAC regarding what contingency arrangements have been put in place in the event that West Kilbride is yet again cut-off with flooding on the A78 and surrounding road access to the village. Response

received and circulated. The last line of the response is :- *Please be assured that both the Council and Amey are taking steps to mitigate against a repeat of this situation.*

Stagecoach; - Bus service after partial lifting of Covid19 restrictions would appear to have returned to the original timetable. We will continue to monitor the situation.

NAC BUSINESS:

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

Report from Cllr Ferguson –Comments as detailed in body of minute.

Report from Cllr Brahim- No report.

NAC Planning Decisions since 8th march 2021:

Erection of extension and formation of dormer to the rear including alterations of existing roof to form a pitched roof and erection of detached double garage

83 Ardrossan Road Seamill West Kilbride Ayrshire KA23 9NF

Ref. No: 21/00296/PP | Received: Mon 29 Mar 2021 | Validated: Wed 31 Mar 2021 | Status:

Approved with no Conditions

Reduction of crown and thinning by 15-20% of 4 mature ash trees and reduction of crown and thinning 15-20% of 3 mature sycamore trees

3 Meadowfoot Road West Kilbride Ayrshire KA23 9BX

Ref. No: 21/00220/TPO | Received: Tue 09 Mar 2021 | Validated: Tue 09 Mar 2021 | Status:

Approved with no Conditions

Planning applications not yet decided

Variation of Condition 4 of Permission Reference N/17/01273/PP

Hunterston Construction Yard Fairlie Largs Ayrshire

Ref. No: 21/00005/PP | Received: Tue 05 Jan 2021 | Validated: Thu 07 Jan 2021 | Status: | Status: **Pending**

Consideration

Erection of 132kV substation, including detailed siting, design, external appearance, landscaping and means of access

Site to South East of Hunterston B Power Station West Kilbride Ayrshire

Ref. No: 21/00159/PP | Received: Mon 22 Feb 2021 | Validated: Mon 15 Mar 2021 | Status: **Pending**

Consideration.

Alterations to front roof profile to form new first floor balcony, reconstruction of bay window, recladding of existing dormer extension and formation of new rear entrance including entrance canopy

42 Caldwell Road West Kilbride Ayrshire KA23 9LF

Ref. No: 21/00339/PP | Received: Wed 07 Apr 2021 | Validated: Tue 13 Apr 2021 | Status: **Pending Consideration**

Demolition of existing conservatory with erection of single storey extension

14 Hyndman Road Seamill West Kilbride Ayrshire KA23 9NL

Ref. No: 21/00347/PP | Received: Mon 12 Apr 2021 | Validated: Tue 13 Apr 2021 | Status: **Pending Consideration**

Erection of detached double garage to front of detached dwelling house

65 Ardrossan Road Seamill West Kilbride Ayrshire KA23 9NE
Ref. No: 21/00359/PP | Received: Tue 13 Apr 2021 | Validated: Wed 28 Apr 2021 | Status: **Pending Consideration**

AOCB: - C Maughan pointed out that the Community Association had received two weeks ago notification from KA Leisure that along with other small community KA facilities due to covid19 restrictions would not be reopening until the restrictions were raised and social distancing was less than 2mtrs.

WKCC will send a supportive email to WKCA as the CC would be very concerned about any change in provision.

Meeting closed @8.25pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 14th June 2021 - 7.00pm
Format to be digitally by ZOOM

Appendix 1

Audrey Sutton, Executive Director (Communities & Education)
North Ayrshire Council,
Cunninghame House
IRVINE
KA12 8EE

The Retention of the Existing Library Building in West Kilbride

After extensive investigation and consultation within the community, West Kilbride Community Council are of the following opinion:

The Building only built in 1995 is now just 26 years old, it is located on ground that was gifted to the local authority by the Jack family for the purpose of building a Village Library. The removal of the library to the proposed site within the Community Centre does not make economic sense.

The Library building is one of the most imposing buildings in the village and has a real presence in the Main Street/ Ritchie Street Village centre layout.

It is a very inspiring building to work in with the Eastern bowed glass curtain wall giving plenty of light and inspiring views out. This is shown by the computer work stations being seldom vacant. The view from the upper floor bay window is one of the best of the village and its surrounding hills.

The layout of the building works well with the staff desk being central and immediately by the entrance/exit. This central location allows both the leading book stock shelves and the computer/reading room areas to be easily served and supervised.

The Council officials view is that it will save them money, however they have not provided any detailed analysis of how they have arrived at this conclusion.

The cost of relocating to the Community Centre with additional electrical work to provide lighting and power circuits for computer stations etc., would not appear to have been taken into account, let alone any costs in transfer of assets. As has happened already in West Kilbride e.g. The Public Toilets as an asset transfer is proving difficult as a result of the gift to the Village of the ground now taken over by NAC. Will the Asset Transfer of the Library building be any easier as there are significant terms attached to the gift of the land.

The only perceived saving that the Local Authority might have is staffing costs, i.e., it can be run by volunteers. What about the staff that are affected?

Any disposal would give a very poor return on the public investment.

The statements made that it is not a HUB, as NAC have now defined the Largs Library saying it will be saved from closure, appears to be to the detriment of the West Kilbride Village Library's retention.

West Kilbride library was currently only open part time prior to lockdown and not at all except when Library Staff were present. The utilisation of the building by Local Authority Services, Housing, Personal Benefits, Social Work, Community Health on the days that the Library is not operating would not only utilise the building but benefit many more of the residents of West Kilbride. The utilisation of the premises for local meetings in the evenings would also be of benefit as it has disabled access to all floors, and would bring in an income to the Council.

West Kilbride on the 1st May held a READ-OUT outside the Library which was attended by people of all generations. People showing that they want the Library retained in its current form. A petition has also been circulated to retain the Library and has attracted in the region of 1000 signatories, (20% of population). Furthermore, many ideas and other models were discussed at the Read Out and we would call on NAC to explore other options than closure with the campaigners and the Community Council, the emphasis being that the Library should remain where it is.

West Kilbride has in the past been too generous with its contribution to voluntary support for facilities and services that most other areas of North Ayrshire take for granted that the Local Authority will, and have provided.

On a per capita basis North Ayrshire Council extract more Council Rates from West Kilbride and Seamill than any other area in the Authority.

At this time in the midst of the global pandemic with the current restrictions on access and meetings, the consultation by NAC is severely restricted and therefore severely flawed in its analysis.

In conclusion the proposal is flawed, the residents do not want the change and the Local Authority has not provided a detailed or compelling case for the proposed closure and relocation.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of West Kilbride Community Council.



John G lamb Chairman. (04/05/21)

c.c. Craig Hatton, Chief Executive; Rhona Arthur, Head of Service (Connected Communities); Yvonne Baulk, Head of Service (Physical Environment); Cllr T Ferguson, Cllr J Brahim, Cllr R Barr