

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Dalry Community Council Meeting

Monday 26th April 2021, 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), Carrie Borland, John Higgins, Myra Sim

Other attendees – Robert Barr (Councillor for Dalry), Allan Wright (Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council), John Smith (Dalry Parish Boundary Trust), Siobhan Lidington, Audrey Mason, Valerie Provan, Mhairi Reid

Apologies were received from:

Todd Ferguson (Councillor for Dalry), Patricia Gibson (MP), Sergeant Douglas Clark (Police Scotland), Christina Pieraccini (North Ayrshire Council), Scott Robertson (KA Leisure), Rob Fryer (Community Windpower), Diane Wood (Community Windpower)

3. Minutes of Meeting on 29th March 2021

The Secretary explained that the draft minutes had been circulated by email and online and asked for any corrections or clarifications. The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Julie Wales and seconded by Sheena Woodside.

4. Matters Arising

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

He noted the long-standing action, delayed by Covid-19, to hold a community litterpick and that other communities appeared to be holding similar events. He suggested this be added to the agenda for the next meeting. **Action carried forward.**

Councillor Barr advised that pavement-widening works on New Street were unlikely to go ahead but was asked to get a final on this to allow the action to be closed. **Action carried forward.**

Councillor Barr updated that he had found out the 2020 traffic counting on Townend Street had not been carried out by North Ayrshire Council, but he was unable to ascertain who had carried this out. **Action closed.**

Councillor Barr advised he had not been provided with an update on the old Loans Road. Some discussion took place over the condition of this road, noting the existence of potholes and sunken areas. **Action carried forward.**

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

The Secretary noted that Councillor Brahim had asked Police Scotland to include Dalry Train Station in their overnight patrols, and that they had agreed to move on any parked lorries. Councillor Barr advised that any vehicles for Reid's warehouse arrived after 7am. It was noted that some HGVs are also using Blair Road as a 'rat-run' rather than using the bypass. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary advised that a meeting about the public park had not yet been arranged. Some discussion took place, noting that remedying the drainage was the priority before agreeing further uses for the space. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary confirmed that more frequent traffic enforcement in the town had not yet been requested. He sought further agreement from the meeting that they wanted this action to be taken forward. Discussion took place over trouble spots in the town. Councillor Barr suggested raising this concern with Sergeant Clark at Police Scotland in the first instance. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary confirmed he would write to Scouts Scotland before the next meeting to get an update on the completion of the new Scout Hall. **Action carried forward.**

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer noted that income and expenditure since March 2021 had been as follows:-

The Administration Account had a balance of £190.30, with no income or expenditure.

The Project Account had a balance of £2080.61, with a credit of £1,200 in funding from the Locality Participatory Budgeting event for promotional and advertising materials to be shared between Dalry, Beith & District and Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Councils. A further credit of 4p in interest was received.

6. Updates

6a. Police Report

The Secretary noted that a written report had been submitted which he would share on Facebook. It was noted that Police Scotland had not been in attendance at the last few meetings. Allan Wright confirmed that he had been told that constables are unable to join Zoom calls so if the sergeant is unavailable Police Scotland won't be in attendance.

6b. Councillor Updates

Councillor Barr advised that he had scheduled a walkaround Dalry with Louise Kirk and Rachael Graham of North Ayrshire Council.

John Smith advised the meeting that the closure of the Beith Road for construction of the Upper Garnock Flood Management System meant silage tractors would be using the diversion route over Courthill Street and through the town. He noted that he had proposed alternatives, but the contractor were not prepared to consider these on Health and Safety grounds. The meeting noted the Health and Safety risks of large farm vehicles using the diversion route which has blind corners and no pavements.

After some discussion, it was agreed that if the contractor was unwilling to consider any alternative the Community Council would write to North Ayrshire Council to express concerns at the proposal to have farm vehicles using the diversion route.

ACTION: The Secretary to write to North Ayrshire Council in relation to closure of the B714 and farm vehicles using the diversion route.

6c. Public Park / Traffic Management / Lynn Glen Update

It was noted that the Lynn Glen had appeared in a newspaper supplement as one of the ten best places to go in Ayrshire. The Chair confirmed that none of the community organisations were actively promoting the Lynn Glen out of respect for the peace and quiet of the residents. It was agreed that unless any new issues were raised, the Lynn Glen would be removed from the Community Council's agenda.

John Higgins advised that he had looked at the issues raised on social media relating to various streets in the town. Particular issues had been raised with road surfacing on Garnock Street, Merksworth Avenue and Lynn Avenue. He advised that a number of the roads in the Timber estate are to be resurfaced, namely Broadlie Drive, Wingfaulds Avenue, Craig Avenue and Kirkland Crescent. He advised that residents would have access to their homes but may on occasion be asked to move their vehicles.

6d. Dalry Paths Update

John Higgins introduced plans for a number of path upgrades within the town. These include the upgrade of the Lover's Walk from the station to the bridge. He advised that an environmental survey was being carried out to assess the impact of lighting the path on protected species.

He noted further upgrades to the path between Burnside Avenue and Kilwinning Road near LIDL, as well as the path running from Garnock Street to the Lover's Walk bridge. It was noted that the path from the Lover's Walk bridge to LIDL was also being looked at, but funding hadn't been allocated yet.

6e. KA Leisure

It was agreed that this item be carried forward to the May meeting.

7. Planning Applications

The Treasurer advised that the following planning applications had been validated:-

- demolition of flats on Baidland Avenue

The Treasurer confirmed that no applications had been decided in the preceding month.

8. Licensing Applications

The Treasurer noted that there had been one application to renew a taxi licence in the preceding month.

9. Correspondence

The Secretary noted that a letter had been sent to the owners of the Blair Estate disagreeing with any proposals to close the Estate gates at weekends and proposing community support with obtaining funding for litter bins and signage.

Siobhan Nanson noted that there had been two fires on the Estate that weekend, and that concerns over access arose from the numbers of path users, litter and safety issues.

10. Any Other Business

The Secretary noted that two consultations are open, one relating to libraries, halls and centres, the other to the locality priorities. He urged everyone to take ten minutes to respond to them.

The Chair noted that residents at the new Watt Gardens development had been unable to sit in the garden during Covid-19. Councillor Barr advised that he was taking this forward as even with the site's Hub closed residents should have access to outdoor spaces.

The Secretary noted concerns raised on Facebook about the 'Ransom' bridge at the rear of DSM – this area is becoming a problem for antisocial behaviour. Councillor Barr suggested speaking with DSM and asking them to include this area in their security patrols.

ACTION: Councillor Barr to speak with DSM about the bridge at the rear of their land.

Discussions took place over rising cases of antisocial behaviour, especially at weekends. Litter at Pitcon and fires at Doggartland House were noted. The preceding Friday had seen 5 fire engine callouts in Dalry.

Discussion took place over the condition of the lane between Vennel and Townend Streets near the surgery. Mhairi Reid confirmed that she would organise one half of this being cleared.

Allan Wright noted that a number of police issues had been raised at the Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council meeting. He highlighted the waiting time for getting through to the 101 service. The Chair agreed, adding that the delays to getting a response made people give up on reporting problems.

Allan Wright raised a request from Councillor Donald Reid that the three Garnock Valley Community Councils support additional powers for Police Scotland, namely:-

- (1) The ability to use drones for aerial support.
- (2) The ability to use bodycams for evidentiary purposes.
- (3) The increase in taser-carrying officers from circa 500 to circa 2,000 (roughly 11% of officers).

The attendees discussed this request and following the discussion the Community Council agreed to support it.

Mhairi Reid noted that the Community Larder would open its doors to customers soon. At present customers can go to the door and get food but are not allowed in. She advised that the Larder is for everyone and the aim is preventing food waste rather than specifically targeting those on low incomes.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Zoom on Monday 31st May.