

DALRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Dalry Community Council Meeting

Monday 29th March 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), Joy Brahim (Councillor for Dalry), Rachael Graham (North Ayrshire Council), Christina Pieraccini (North Ayrshire Council), Linda Lesperance, Ian MacDonald, Audrey Mason, Siobhan Nanson, Valerie Provan, Mhairi Reid

Apologies were received from:

Sergeant Douglas Clark (Police Scotland), Patricia Gibson (MP), Allan Wright (Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council)

3. Minutes of Meeting on 22nd February 2021

The Secretary provided the meeting with sight of the minutes of 22nd February 2021. He asked those in attendance for any comments or corrections.

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by John Higgins and seconded by Myra Sim.

4. Matters Arising

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

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. **Action carried forward.**

Councillor Barr advised he had not yet been updated on the status of repairs to the old Loans Road. **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 confirmed that Dalry Parish Boundary Trust were in attendance at the meeting and a formal update would be given once in-person meetings are allowed again. He advised that Community Windpower Ltd. would be attending the April meeting. **Action closed.**

Councillor Barr advised that the new electric vehicle charging points in the Smith Street car park are live. **Action closed.**

The meeting was advised that the issue of HGVs parking at Dalry train station is not related to Reid's foods – instead it may have become a likely quiet spot for other HGVs to park up but the engines running caused a noise disturbance at night. Councillor Brahim volunteered to speak with Police Scotland about this. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary advised that the Community Council would continue using Zoom until December when the current subscription expires. **Action closed.**

The Secretary advised that the standard report from Police Scotland does not include any incidents on the railway. Sergeant Clark had advised that as this is handled by a separate force, he does not see those figures. **Action closed.**

The Secretary advised that a meeting about the public park had not yet been arranged. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary confirmed that more frequent traffic enforcement in the town had not yet been requested. **Action carried forward.**

The Secretary advised that North Ayrshire Council had been provided with the alternative traffic solution for the B714 junction of the Kilwinning and Saltcoats Roads. **Action closed.**

Councillor Brahim advised that the link between the new roundabout at Wilson's Auctions and the Saltcoats Road looked to have been dropped. Councillor Barr noted that the area this route would cover had been mined in the past. **Action closed.**

The Chair noted that signage for the Lynn Glen was an ongoing discussion for the Community Development Hub and would take into account resident suggestions. **Action closed.**

The Secretary noted that Ian MacDonald had been advised of meetings of the Hub. **Action closed.**

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 February 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 £880.57, with a credit of 4p in interest.

6. Updates

6a. Police Report

The Secretary noted that a written report had not been submitted and that an update would be given at the next meeting.

6b. Councillor Updates

Councillor Barr advised that the meeting the prior week between Campbell Dempster of NAC Roads and the Community Council and Elected Members had been positive. He confirmed that he had reported required works to New Street and the road near the library.

Councillor Brahim advised that she had been communicating with John Higgins regarding a complaint about the Health Centre. She also confirmed that she had asked for further details regarding the de-trunking works to the old A737 and had been provided with a plan but no other additional information.

6c. Town Centre Regeneration Fund Update

Rachael Graham introduced herself as the new Regeneration Officer for the town. She noted that she had been in post a short while but had previously been involved with the build of the new sheltered housing unit at Watt Gardens.

She provided an update on the Regeneration Fund projects, as follows:-

- Grant funding had been provided to the Community Garden;
- A contractor and architect are due on-site w/c 29th March 2021 to explore options for renovating the pavilion building in the park, including upgrades to the changing facilities and provision of meeting space;
- Site investigations have already taken place for a skatepark in the public park. Designs are to be put together in the next couple of weeks and a stakeholder group is being put together;
- Upgrades to the CCTV system in the town should take place in May 2021;

- Paperwork is underway to allow building improvement works to proceed at the Main Street and New Street gateways to the town centre. Rachael confirmed that she was hopeful that works to the Royal Hotel would also go ahead;
- Rachael confirmed she needed an update on proposed marketing works for Dalry;

General discussion then followed. A question was asked regarding the site of the community garden and paying for a site when other free sites could be available. The Chair noted that the Community Development Hub had experience in fundraising and was confident it could find the annual rent.

John Higgins noted that the funding should be spent on projects which will regenerate the town. He suggested that the Steering Group for the skatepark should be formed before designs are submitted. Rachael Graham noted that due to funding and site specifics, the constraints needed to be worked out first rather than designing something which would be unworkable. Linda Lesperance asked for confirmation that young people do want a skatepark in the town. The Secretary advised that this had been a popular option in the 2019 survey carried out by the Community Council.

Councillor Barr confirmed his view that the building improvement works were important to create a better first impression of the town.

The Secretary clarified that the Community Council had been advised some of the Regeneration Funding was to be spent on the proposed drainage solution for the public park. He also asked Rachael Graham to make sure that marketing plans did not overlap with the Garnock Valley app being developed through the Locality Partnership or the Ayrshire app being developed by Ayrshire Chamber.

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

The Chair advised that a meeting had taken place between the Community Council and Campbell Dempster of NAC's Roads Department.

On the Public Park, Campbell had advised that three sites had been selected for the proposed solution to the drainage issues. Vertical drains permeating the clay layer under the park would be installed at the South end of the park near the Rye Water, behind the bowling green and at the site of the old pond near the path down from Courthill Street. The Council were confident that this would make a difference.

On the Lynn Glen, it was noted that finding a workable solution was incredibly difficult. The path itself is a core path and access is important at all times but especially during Covid-19, however it had caused a number of issues for residents. A long-term plan is required to fix this.

On traffic management within the town, the Secretary noted that proposals for a mini-roundabout at the B714 Saltcoats and Kilwinning Roads junction had been supported. He advised that £720k had been agreed with Transport Scotland to make repairs to the old A737, a sum the Council are satisfied with. He also advised that a visibility assessment would be made of Sharon Street at Dalry Primary following a number of concerns being raised.

The issue of speeding vans and buses on St. Margaret's Avenue was mentioned.

7. Planning Applications

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

LIDL – space for deposit / return facilities and alterations to the car park layout;

The Old Manse – seeking retrospective permission for a two-storey outbuilding.

Blairland Farm – seeking renewal of a permission in principle for a housing development.

Some discussion of the Blairland Farm application took place. It was noted that there were concerns about overdevelopment, flooding, increase in number of vehicles on Blair Road. John Higgins advised that a separate application for another site had noted the school and other infrastructure would struggle with increased numbers of residents. It was noted also that housebuilders did not at present seem interested in building in the town.

The Treasurer confirmed that the following applications had been decided:-

64 Townend Street – extension

Swinridgemuir – interior alterations

SSE Anaerobic Digestion plant – removal of planning condition relating to Sunday and bank holiday working

32 New Street – change of use from a shop to a café with takeaway facilities

8. Licensing Applications

The Treasurer noted that several private hire and taxi license renewals had been received in the past month.

9. Correspondence

The Secretary noted that Lynn Benevento had written to the Community Council tendering her resignation as a Community Councillor.

The Secretary confirmed that the Community Council had been in touch with the owners of Blair House and North Ayrshire Council regarding the suggested closure of the Estate at weekends. The owners of the House had given the assurance that closure would not take place while discussions were ongoing. The Secretary noted that irresponsible behaviour was causing issues in a number of areas in the town, including the Lynn Glen and Pitcon. He advised that the Community Council would be helping to promote messages around responsible access under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code in the coming weeks.

Christina Pieraccini suggested that the issues at the Blair Estate be put on the agenda for the Moving Around working group of the Locality Partnership.

Ian MacDonald noted the construction of a new house had resulted in the closure of established rights of access at Doggartland. The Secretary also highlighted the poor condition of paths in that area.

A general discussion took place of wider access-related issues, including litter and problems with livestock. The Chair noted that she had litter bags if anyone wanted to organise their own litter-pick.

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.

Ian MacDonald raised the state of the pavements on Braehead. The Treasurer noted that the pavement on New Street at We Travel To was also in really poor condition. Councillor Barr volunteered to report this to Roads.

ACTION: Councillor Barr to report the pavements on Braehead and New Street to NAC's Roads Department.

The Treasurer advised that funding had been made available through Garnock Connections for a sculpture related to Bessie Dunlop. She asked for suggestions of where this should be located. She advised it would have to be on NAC ground. She noted that it would be sited in Summer 2021. Christina Pieraccini noted that Beith Trust are setting up a sculpture trail and this could be included.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Zoom on Monday 26th April.