

**PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES MEETING TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023  
19.15hrs 65 CLUB, PRESTWICK**

The meeting commenced at 19.20hrs.

**SEDERUNT:**

**COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC):**

Meic Evans (Chair):

Shirley Harris:

Margaret Milligan (Secretary):

John O'Donnell:

John Park:

Thompson Piper:

Al Priestnall:

Jim Riach:

Jim Ronney:

Norrie Smith (Temp Vice Chair):

Iain Tulloch

June Whittaker (Treasurer):

Patricia Young:

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SAC):**

Cllr. Hugh Hunter:

Cllr. Martin Kilbride:

Cllr. Cameron Ramsay:

Elaine Harrigan (Head Prestwick Academy):

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

M Tulloch: J & R Taylor: S Taylor: R Waite: T Halpin: S Harris: M & G Stewart:

S Blackie: P Jackson: G Hawkes: I & J Christie: J Ferguson: S McPartlin:

**APOLOGIES:**

**PCC:** C/Cllr. Alison Smith:

**Police Scotland:** Sgt Lisa Thompson:

**SAC:** Jill Tomlinson (Liaison Officer): Craig Ross (Schools Officer): SAC Cllr Ian Cochrane:

**PBA:** Ainsley Hunter (Chair)

**1. Welcome:**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all, and congratulating C/Cllrs John Park and John O'Donnell on being successful at the recent by-election to become full members of PCC.

**2. Sederunt/Received Apologies/Declaration of interests:**

Sederunt and apologies as noted above, and there was no declaration of interests.

**3. Police Report:**

This had been received from Police Scotland and circulated.

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#### 4. Hearing/Open Forum:

The following topics were highlighted.

1. **Boydfield Gardens.** Residents from the flats adjacent to the Community Garden raised concerns about the vandalism occurring in this particular area and the disruption caused by the unruly behaviour of young people congregating there, especially in the evening. The Chair confirmed a site visit by a group of PCC councillors had taken place on 10<sup>th</sup> March, and he would take everything into account when discussing this further. A note of the outcome of the visit was circulated to Community Councillors and SAC Councillors, which detailed the neighbours' concerns. It was noted the CCTV cameras in this area did not always work; however, SAC have taken steps to ensure all CCTV in Prestwick is in working order. Various suggestions were made on the future use of the community garden, including reinstating the public toilets which used to be there. The neighbours' preference expressed at the meeting, was the removal of all items. SAC Cllr Martin Kilbride had spoken to Fiona Ross from SAC about assisting in the first instance by arranging for the area to be tidied up. The Chair asked SAC Cllr Kilbride if he could arrange for Ms Ross to contact him to discuss this.
2. **Kirk Street:**

A group of PCC Councillors had visited Kirk Street in response to a resident's complaint about parking. Although there appeared to be no issues on that particular day, probably because of the timing of the visit, the resident confirmed she had sent photographic evidence of the issues as requested by Chair, direct to him.
3. **Play Park at Promenade opposite Houses in Ardayre Road:**

A great deal of correspondence had been received by the Chair and Secretary regarding the erection/extension of the new playpark. A delegation of residents from Ardayre Road attended the meeting to discuss this matter, and an in-depth and lengthy conversation followed. The Chair confirmed that the Community Council minutes showed that PCC had not been consulted on this matter, and that the first time that any reference was made to the project, was at the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting by SAC Cllr Martin Kilbride, to report that work was underway. The Chair made it clear that if PCC had been formally consulted, they would have certainly drawn the residents into the process. While the residents are not against the principle of a new play park, they are unhappy with the design and location of this new one. The main concern/complaint from the residents is the complete lack of consultation and notification from SAC, and until the building work started, they were unaware of the project. Their views on this were never asked for, and the fact the design of the equipment meant the view from their properties was now blocked was never taken into consideration. On complaining to SAC, they were advised there was no statutory requirement to notify them. SAC Cllr Cameron Ramsay explained about statutory requirements, that the land was council property, and confirmed the project began in 2022. Although there was no statutory requirement to notify residents, due to the proximity of their property to the play park, he felt that as a matter of courtesy, there should have been some form of consultation and discussion with

them. It is disheartening that this did not take place, as it could have highlighted how strong the opposition to the project was. The Chair restated that irrespective of the possible regulatory position re: consultation, in the interest of transparency and good community relations, both the residents and PCC should have been consulted; however, as the work was apparently at an advanced stage, it is unlikely it will be stopped and the playpark redesigned or relocated as residents had suggested. The Chair confirmed he had written to SAC Link Officer/Councillors highlighting Ardayre Road and Links Road and requesting confirmation about whether SAC had published/approved guidelines on consultation to both initiate a proper debate on this matter and comment further on what had happened locally. Those in relation to planning are quite clear, but otherwise what are the guidelines? Once a response has been received, this can then be used as a starting point for a critical evaluation, and measured against what might be best practice elsewhere.

#### **4. B&M Car park:**

It was drawn to the attention of the meeting by a member of the public, that as a result of the amount of litter in the car park, the surrounding drains are blocked. Both B&M and Scottish Water say it is not their problem but the landlords, but won't advise who that is. The litter has since been cleared, and C/Cllr Norrie Smith asked if a service request number for the work was known, as this would enable him to follow this up, since he works for Scottish Water.

#### **5. Schools report:**

Elaine Harrigan, Head Prestwick Academy is aware of and is looking at problems caused by some pupils. The school timetable changes on 31<sup>st</sup> May, meaning the town will be busier at lunchtimes. On a positive note, pupils took part in a Junior Chef competition in Perth, and in Sportsability events. They also wish to be invited to future litter picks in the town. Agreed that the Head would contact C/Cllr Jim Ronney to organise/arrange. Also agreed that pupils could contribute to discussions re: Boydfield Gardens.

#### **6. Minutes Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023:**

These were agreed as an accurate record, proposed by C/Cllr John O'Donnell and seconded by C/Cllr Norrie Smith.

#### **7. Matters arising from the approved minutes:**

**Flakes Refuse Bin:** Flakes in St. Quivox Road has now closed and relocated to Main Street as a restaurant. This should resolve the problem with the refuse bin located in Hunter Street.

**Paths for all Initiative:** This will be ongoing. Questions were raised regarding SAC developing an Active Travel Plan from Ayr to Barassie via Prestwick. It was noted a consultation had been held and that PCC had no knowledge of either the plan or the consultation having received no notification from SAC, nor an invitation to discuss this. It was stated that notification had been placed in Prestwick Going out (PGO) albeit sometime last year as this was a large consultation. The Chair expressed disappointment that PCC had not been informed of this nor invited to any meetings. As consultation meetings are ongoing, the Chair asked SAC Councillors present to find out who PCC should contact to ensure they are kept up to date, as well as being involved. The potential of a possibly improved footpath/cycling network for use for travel to work as well as leisure use should be explored.

**Coastal Fund:** £25,000 had been awarded to Prestwick Prom Committee to purchase a marquee.

**Community Development Trust:** C/Cllr Norrie Smith to liaise with Ruby Taylor, 65 Club, to obtain possible dates to hold a presentation.

**Community Garden in Boydfield Gardens:** Site visit had been carried out by Community councillors from PCC on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Proposals regarding the site discussed under Item 4, Hearing/Open Forum.

**Prestwick Plaque Initiative:** Nearing completion. 32 sites have been identified as suitable, and the plaques, which are of high quality, have now been ordered. In conjunction with this, Alasdair Malcolm who has been heavily involved with the initiative, is keen that a memorial be erected to remember the Prestwick civilians who lost their lives in WW2, as a result of a plane crash in Prestwick, including those who were not residents but had a close relationship with, and lost their lives in Prestwick. A memorial plaque has been ordered, and the group will be consulting on the most appropriate location for it, possibly somewhere close to the War Memorial. PCC confirmed its support for this suggestion. SAC Cllr Hugh Hunter offered a special thanks to C/Cllr Iain Tulloch, Deputy Head of Prestwick Academy Craig Ross and Alasdair Malcolm, as without the hard work and dedication from all of them, the Plaque Initiative would not have been possible.

**Christmas Carol Initiative:** The community service will be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December in Kingcase Parish Church, led by Rev. Ian Wiseman.

## **8. South Ayrshire Councillors' reports:**

### **Cameron Ramsay:**

The lack of consultation and information regarding the new playpark was worrying, and therefore there needs to be more transparency and wider consultation on any issues to be discussed in the future.

### **Martin Kilbride:**

The 3 tier plant tubs situated on the pavements in the Main Street received criticism of causing congestion, and it was agreed they should be distributed more evenly throughout Prestwick. Views are being sought as to where they should be relocated as there are 27 in total. The Chair to seek suggestions on where to place them for the next meeting.

### **Hugh Hunter:** Salient points:

- Issue with signs regarding dog fouling has been chased up.
- Not yet followed up on pavement complaints, but the Chair to receive information from Kevin Braidwood of Ayrshire Roads Alliance on maintenance.
- Date for Carers Day to be set.
- Details of 2 webinars hosted by South Ayrshire Equality and Diversity Forum had been sent to all PCC members, who were encouraged to publicise and to attend if possible.
- Received a complaint from a resident about a memorial bench being sited on the footpath outside their home on the promenade.

### **Ian Cochrane:**

Due to being unable to attend, a report was emailed. Has been inundated with complaints about SAC building a new play park on the prom, with no neighbour notification nor consultation. Has assisted several residents with housing problems, questions on rateable value of property, and complaints about street lighting. Work on the shared campus almost completed, and once staff car parking removed from St. Ninians site, demolition can get underway prior to construction of social housing.

### **9. Treasurer's report:**

The Treasurer confirmed the current balance for PCC is £239.91; cheques being issued 28/3/2023 are not included.

### **10. Planning Report:**

This had been distributed, noting that an electric charging point to be installed at Wheatpark Place in Heathfield, and that the proposal notice for a care home near St. Cuthbert's Golf Club may be contentious.

### **11. Licensing Report:**

At the meeting on 9/3/2023 there were no new applications for any change of licences for any Prestwick Businesses. Bar Central and The Hanger pubs are both currently up for sale/lease. Next meeting 20/4/2023 at 10am.

### **12. Airport Consultative Committee:**

With the summer season starting, it was hoped further growth possible. Airport still busy with military aircraft, and Ryanair adding two new destinations, Marseille and Pisa, and have also created 200 more jobs. Airport/Chamber of Commerce trying to persuade Ryanair to add London to their routes. Additional freight business being sought, especially to and from USA. Ayrshire Growth Deal – space project approved, however costs expected to exceed proposed budget.

### **13. Correspondence/concerns received:**

The Secretary confirmed correspondence had mostly been about the new play park at the sea front. She had also received a phone call from a concerned resident regarding the amount of glass from broken bottles outside the old indoor bowling club, and the graffiti on the walls. The resident confirmed the number of youths gathering there, especially at weekends, was alarming, as was the anti-social behaviour. SAC Cllr Hugh Hunter to check this.

### **14. A.O.C.B:**

- There was an increasing amount of litter at Heathfield Retail Park.
- Question raised on how the proposed funding of £1million to each ward would be spent. SAC in discussions regarding this.
- The Treasurer expressed disappointment there was to be no parking provision at Prestwick seafront for visiting motor homes, as this brought in revenue, and that the reasons given by the Council re: its abandonment were flimsy.
- The Chair confirmed he had written to Prestwick SAC Councillors to ascertain whether any of them had been involved in the Cabinet decision to withdraw funding for Links Road, to ask if the decision on motorhomes could be reversed, also identifying this as a decision that should have involved PCC.
- Motor bikes racing around the Oval and causing a disturbance had been reported to the Police who are investigating the incident.

### **15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023, at 19.15hrs in 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 21.25hrs.