

**PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES MEETING TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2023
19.15hrs 65 CLUB, PRESTWICK**

The meeting commenced at 19.20hrs.

SEDERUNT:

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC):

Meic Evans (Chair):

Margaret Milligan (Secretary):

John Park:

Jim Riach:

Jim Ronney:

Alison Smith:

Norrie Smith (Vice-Chair):

Thompson Piper:

Heather Thomson:

June Whittaker (Treasurer):

Patricia Young:

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SAC):

Cllr. Hugh Hunter:

Cllr. Martin Kilbride:

Jill Tomlinson, Liaison Officer

Fiona Ross, Grounds & Maintenance:

Audrey Gatt, Neighbourhood Services:

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:

R Brodie: J & R Taylor: I Crumlish:

APOLOGIES

PCC: C/Cllrs: Gareth Baines: Shirley Harris: John O'Donnell: Mike Tomlinson: Iain Tulloch:

SAC: SAC Cllrs Ian Cochrane and Cameron Ramsay:

Police Scotland: Sgt Lisa Thompson:

1. Welcome:

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all.

1a. In order to improve accessibility to meetings, led by C/Cllrs Norrie and Alison Smith, the Community Council is examining how this may be achieved. The November meeting is the first occasion when one of the innovations was used, namely a projector, which greatly enhanced participants access to information. The 65 Club will eventually have Wi-Fi, and it is anticipated this will enable innovation in relation to accessibility for proceedings, not simply within the room, but beyond.

2. Sederunt/Received Apologies/Declaration of interests:

Sederunt and apologies as noted above: there were no declarations of interests.

3. Police Report: Received from Police Scotland; and circulated; there were no comments.

4. Hearing/Open Forum:

Resident enquired about work being carried out behind Kids Play, as no notices displayed. SAC Cllr Kilbride confirmed resurfacing and levelling work being carried out on the car park, and when asked about lighting, stated SAC were looking at this. Query made regarding allowing return of motor homes parking at promenade. Parking at Links Road becoming really congested: SAC Cllr Hunter confirmed consultation and review to be carried out

5. Schools report:

Carers Day held at Prestwick Academy very successful, with more than 60 carers in attendance.

An update on plaques which have been erected or to be erected for the Prestwick Heritage trail: The plaques now in place are :- Alexander Hutchieson's cottage (adjacent to the Freeman's Hall) - The Auld Kirk Bell (at Kingcase Primary School) - The Community centre, Caerlaverock Road (Prestwick Public School) - Prestwick Millennium (at the 65 club, Main Street) - The Mercat Cross (Prestwick Cross) - Site of the ladies Clubhouse and golf course (at side of Prestwick Swimming Pool) - St Ninians Chapel & Lazar House (near Bruce's Well, Maryborough Road) - Bruce's Well (Maryborough Road) - Site of St Ninians Golf Course (Ayr Road near Sainsburys) - Saltpan Houses, (South Esplanade) - Site of Prestwick bathing lake (North Esplanade) - Glenburn Village (Shaw Road) - Powbank Mill (rear of Caledonian playing fields) - The Roman Bridge (rear of Newdykes Farm Cottage - St Nicholas Auld Kirk (Kirk Street) - The Heilanman's pad (Monkton Road end).

,Authorisation has also been obtained now for the following plaques, which should be in place in the next week or so:- The Broadway (Main Street) - New Life Christian Centre (Monkton Road) - The Golf Inn (Main Street) - The Red Lion (Prestwick Cross)- John Keppie's House (Station Road) - Prestwick Cricket Club, (Ayr Road) - Monkton & Prestwick North Church (Monkton Road - The Puddock Sheuch (Ladykirk Road - building on south side).

Arrangements/enquiries are ongoing in respect of the remaining plaques, which are:- - The Freeman's Hall (exact location to be agreed) - The Heilanman's pad (Kirk Street end) - Site of John Gray's Forge (Boyd Street) - Midton, Home of Charles Hunter (Main Street) - Golf Cottage (Prestwick Cross) - Greystones, home of Janie Allan (Links Road) - The Puddock Sheuch (Ladykirk Road - building on North side) - The Prestwick Picture House (Kyle Street).

It was confirmed, in response to the Chair's enquiry, that students were working on the production of a trail document for the plaques, which will be a useful addition to information for tourists visiting the town.

Complaint letter received regarding litter - working with Campus Police Officer and School staff on this. When asked if Academy are still doing litter picks, it was confirmed they do, but difficult at this time of year.

6. Minutes meeting 31st October 2023:

There being no amendments, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record, proposed by C/Cllr June Whittaker, and seconded by C/Cllr Jim Ronney.

7. Matters arising from the approved minutes:

Service of Remembrance: The Chair had emailed all involved and admitted there were hiccups this year. A letter from Reverend Elliott about the lack of a sound system had been circulated to all members, and the Chair expressed his disappointment at the tone of the letter, although he understood the concerns raised. Unfortunately, there were circumstances and problems this year which had never happened previously, and a letter of apology was sent to Rev. Elliott. The meeting noted his concerns, however, there were extenuating circumstances. Normally arrangements for the service would have been discussed at earlier meetings, however, cancellation of September meeting and illness to organising member prevented this. It was noted that the 65 Club, which was a gathering point on the day had a poor uptake for hospitality due to lack of advertising. The Chair confirmed he had previously written guidance notes/instructions for the service for Prestwick South Community Council, and would update this and circulate to PCC members. Lessons have been learned, and to ensure next year's arrangements run smoothly, a sub-committee could possibly be set up, with the service to be an ongoing agenda item in 2024. The Vice Chair discussed the need for investment in a proper sound system and also a community asset storage.

Funding emails: It was noted that PCC had not been receiving funding emails from SAC recently; Liaison Officer to ensure Secretary is on distribution list.

Boydfield Gardens: C/Cllr John O'Donnell updates regularly by email to all, and SAC are implementing the actions suggested. The Chair congratulated C/Cllr O'Donnell on his good work.

Beach: C/Cllr Mike Tomlinson, continues to update PCC on any further progress.

8. Trees at Boydfield Gardens/ground Maintenance:

Fiona Ross from SAC outlined various plans and proposals for Prestwick. These included: new playpark at seafront completed and new planters placed around Prestwick Main Street, noting the area at Prestwick Toll not wide enough to accommodate them. New seating installed in Grangemuir Road, and wild flowers planted at the Oval and Boyd Street Garden, and additional bollards installed at Oval to prevent illegal parking. Scottish Water looking at ways to prevent flooding at the Oval. Review of street sweeping in Prestwick to be undertaken and fly tipping to be targeted in all areas. Lengthy conversation about trees at Boydfield Gardens. SAC feel the trees overlooking the war memorial are too big and overshadow the memorial and the plants there not surviving. Ms Ross would like PCC to consider and approve removal of trees and replant with more suitable ones, and want to use PCC as a media platform on this. Ms Ross agreed to the Chair's request to provide a paper on this proposal, in order that it may be considered by the Community Council.

Trees at the bus stop at Boydfield Gardens discussed, noting that several have become dangerous due to being diseased and are leaning heavily over the wall, and will have to be replaced. It was suggested that options for the whole area should be looked at and how to improve it. The Chair agreed that could be a project for PCC in the future to put forward to SAC, however keep to Ms Ross's recommendations at the moment. It was noted that perhaps if public were told exactly what was wrong with the trees, SAC may get a better response to proposals. No seating in Main Street was again raised, and Ms Ross confirmed this would need to be considered by Ayrshire Roads Alliance, as there were different elements such as wheelchair access which need considered.

9. Prestwick Place Planning:

Audrey Gatt from SAC has taken over responsibility of Place Planning. She went over the proposals that had been put forward previously as a result of consultations, and published in the document 'Prestwick Place Planning -Priorities for Action- Engagement Outcomes July 2022' confirming that these may no longer be, due to the length of time that has passed, and that the initial survey was carried out during the pandemic. The Chair confirmed the need to develop a plan for Prestwick that covers everything across the board, and the original document needs to be revisited to decide what needs to be done. Ms Gatt stated there were no timescales to look at this and get back to her, as her role is to consider all views and what the community/PCC want to do and take forward. The members agreed the document be revisited, and opinions/ideas obtained to go back to Ms Gatt.

10. South Ayrshire Councillors' reports:

Ian Cochrane: This had been circulated to all, and main points are: a no-right-turn sign will be placed at the Saunterne Road end of the Red Lion car park. ARA responded to a request for controlled crossings on Alexandra Avenue and Crofthead Road, with an explanation of the footfall and traffic volume calculations that would be required to demonstrate a plausible scenario where a crossing might be considered. Was contacted by the son of an elderly man (91) suffering from dementia, whose wife passed away and he has no care plan in place. Passed on his contact details to HSCP staff, and gentleman happy with outcome. Been contacted on housing matters with people facing homelessness due to a variety of reasons; the tone of the communications has become more desperate, but unfortunately, very little to offer in Prestwick, and SAC can only make three offers of a place to stay to any applicant. Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, Minister for Local Government and Planning visited South Ayrshire last week, and was really impressed with the building works on school improvements, the athletic facility behind Ayr Academy, and in extending the housing stock at Mainholm.

Hugh Hunter: 2-day Prestmas was a great success, which was due to the hard work of all who were involved in the planning and delivery.

The ARK currently has between 70 and 100 attending and is doing great work.

Martin Kilbride: Numbers that turned out for Prestmas and lighting up were fantastic, and the whole occasion a great success. Housing is a problem due to shortage of accommodation and people requesting specific areas. When asked about recycling centre times and bookings, it was confirmed system working well now with no problems.

11. Treasurer's report:

Balance £ 540.45. Outstanding cheques £159.96.

12 Planning Report: This had been circulated. Resident commented on the proposed flats to be built on ground of old Parkstone Hotel, to which the Chair confirmed that although PCC had been given an extension by SAC to comment on this, there were no objections from PCC members, as no responses to Chair's email requesting comments were received.

13. Licensing Report: One-11 (formerly Scruffy Duffy's) granted extension of closing hours from 12.30midnight to 2.30am Friday and Saturday, and 12midnight to 12.30am on Sunday. Tesco Express, Main Street granted licence to extend area space for off-sales

14. Correspondence/concerns received: Secretary and SAC Cllr Cochrane received letter from father of daughter who is disabled with learning difficulties regarding

controlled crossing at Alexandra and Crofthead Road. ARA response was it did not merit, due to footfall. MSP Siobhian Brown then contacted ARA asking them to reconsider, and reply received today from ARA agreeing to do a survey in the next financial year, as resources fully utilised for 2023-2024.

15. A.O.C.B:

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP): The Chair has been corresponding with David Houfe, Symington CC Vice Chair who wants SAC to get community councils to be involved. SAC is drafting a current LBAP. This will need updating when the Scottish Government publishes regulation to enact its 'Biodiversity strategy to 2045'. The regulation will require local authority compliance with targets, etc. currently being consulted on and are expected to become statute in 2024. It was agreed to support David Houfe's request to South Ayrshire Council that Community Councils should be consulted directly in the LBAP making process. The Chair would like PCC to be involved, and C/Cllr Heather Thomson agreed to be the liaison for this project.

**15. Date of next meeting:
(No meeting in December).**

January meeting brought forward to Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 19.15hrs in 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 21.15hrs.