

**PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES MEETING TUESDAY 29th AUGUST 2023
19.15hrs 65 CLUB, PRESTWICK**

The meeting commenced at 19.15hrs.

SEDERUNT:

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC):

Gareth Baines (Co-opted):

Shirley Harris:

Margaret Milligan (Secretary):

John O'Donnell:

John Park:

Jim Riach:

Jim Ronney:

Norrie Smith (Vice-Chair):

Heather Thomson (Co-opted):

Mike Tomlinson:

Iain Tulloch:

June Whittaker (Treasurer):

Patricia Young:

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SAC):

Cllr. Ian Cochrane

Cllr. Hugh Hunter:

Cllr. Martin Kilbride:

Craig Ross, Deputy Head Prestwick Academy:

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

M Tulloch: R McIntyre: R Halpin: H Arbuthnott:

APOLOGIES:

PCC: C/Cllrs: Meic Evan (Chair): Thompson Piper: Al Priestnall: Alison Smith:

SAC: SAC Cllr Cameron Ramsay: Jill Tomlinson (Link Officer): Tracy Whiteford:

Police Scotland: Sgt Lisa Thompson:

Prestwick Business Association (PBA): Ainsley Hunter (Chair):

1. Welcome:

The Vice Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all.

2. Sederunt/Received Apologies/Declaration of interests:

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

3. Police Report:

This had been received from Police Scotland and circulated. The Secretary confirmed a complaint had been lodged on behalf of residents of Gardiner Street regarding vehicles driving on a daily basis against the one-way system. Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) on holiday but his secretary advised he would contact us. Community Police did reply and would monitor, and they have notified Traffic Police as indicated in their report.

The Police advised they had followed up on the complaint on electric scooters and made contact with the resident in Ferguson Avenue.

A resident from Whinfield Road then spoke about problems with youths walking down their road going towards the oval, and throwing objects similar to golf balls at houses and cars, some of which have smashed a house window. Police attended an incident there about a week ago, however, the problem is still ongoing, with the age of the youths being 16yrs and over. The Secretary confirmed this would be fed back to the Police.

It was noted that the Police have received reports of several garden items going missing from a garden and the front door step of a flat in Sherwood Road.

The recent incident regarding an assault which took place on a Stagecoach Bus at Prestwick cross was discussed, noting that since free bus passes were introduced for under 22's it seems that youths from different areas and villages arrange for fights to be carried out in different locations. SAC Cllr Kilbride confirmed SAC and Police are aware of this, and Craig Ross, Schools Liaison, advised schools were also monitoring.

A question was raised about Police incident statistics. Do the calls to the 101 number count as incidents, or is it only actual incident numbers that are reported in the statistics? The Secretary confirmed she would ask Police to clarify.

4. Hearing/Open Forum:

No issues were raised.

5. Schools report:

Craig Ross confirmed C/Cllr Jim Ronney would be representing PCC to award the prizes at the forthcoming prize giving in September. The quaich which was donated from the Hewitson family via PCC, has now been received and will be awarded to a pupil, who is not necessarily the highest academic achiever, but possibly one who has overcome challenges and obstacles in their work. There has been a new intake of pupils, and monitoring at lunchtimes when pupils are in the town will continue, Prestwick Academy to host Carers Day. In respect of the plaques, SAC Cllr Hugh Hunter advised that Alasdair Malcolm was chasing up the special plaques, and meeting to be arranged at Prestwick Academy. It was hoped by the end of September many of the plaques would be in place. Prestwick Academy pupils are in the process of creating a website for this.

6. Minutes meeting 27th June 2023:

There were 3 amendments: Page 1 Welcome – should read Chair, not Vice-Chair.

Page 2, Point 6. Should read Minutes meeting 30th May 2023, not 25th April.

Page 4 ,Point 12 bullet point 3. Should read £6m spent on consultation fees, not £16m.

The minutes were then agreed as an accurate record proposed by C/Cllr John Park, and seconded by C/Cllr Iain Tulloch.

7. Matters arising from the approved minutes:

Co-option: The Secretary introduced Gareth Baines and Heather Thomson who had applied for the two co-optee vacancies. As there were no other applicants, the Secretary asked members present if they were happy to accept both as co-optees and all agreed. The secretary proposed Gareth Baines and C/Cllr Jim Ronney seconded. The Secretary then proposed Heather Thomson and C/Cllr John O'Donnell seconded. Both co-optees were welcomed to PCC with members present and SAC Councillors introducing themselves to both. PCC now has a full quota of members.

Best Dressed Window Display: The Secretary thanked C/Cllr Jim Rooney and the judging team for their efforts in making this a success. She had posted photographs

and narrative on PCC Facebook regarding the competition and the winner, and this had received an overwhelming and positive response from readers. C/Cllr Jim Ronney also thanked his judging team of C/Cllrs Patricia Young, Shirley Harris, June Whittaker and John O'Donnell, confirming that Grants were awarded the trophy. He stated additional preparation was needed for next year to make the event even more successful. A suggestion was made that the theme for next year could be golf related, to tie in with the Open Golf tournament being held at Troon.

Golf Green Academy: It was agreed to carry this forward to September meeting to give members time to read the paper.

Boydfield Gardens: C/Cllr John O'Donnell agreed to take on the task of setting up a sub-committee for this project, and to also liaise with the residents in the adjacent flats.

Promenade Childrens Play Park: PCC unable to discuss while there is a pending complaint to the Ombudsman.

Ayrshire Growth Development Funding: A sub-committee has been set up with the 3 local authorities chaired by East Ayrshire Council regarding this. Carry forward to September meeting.

Dog Fouling: It was noted that this problem is getting worse, with SAC needing to address the matter to find a solution. Cllr Kilbride to follow this up in conjunction with Cllr. Cameron Ramsay.

Railway Bridge at Grangemuir Road: When advised that the brackets were still broken, SAC Cllr Hugh Hunter confirmed that ARA were supposed to be dealing with this; however, he would chase up again.

8. South Ayrshire Councillors' reports:

Ian Cochrane:

- Dealing with many queries regarding shortage of social housing in South Ayrshire, with the number of applicants currently sitting at 3,399. (**Note this is correction by Cllr Cochrane from 9,000 stated in his report at the meeting**). A big problem is that applicants are not prepared to accept housing available in certain areas, making themselves homeless. Prestwick and Troon the favoured location for housing.
- Anti-social behaviour an ongoing problem.

Hugh Hunter:

- In response to ongoing beach rubble problem, he was advised the beach rubble from Links Road end has been moved to near the Sailing Club by SAC at the request of the Sailing Club, to fill in a dip in the beach to form a runway for the various types of boats to be pushed out. It was pointed out that this was incorrect as the problem of rubble has been ongoing for some time, as highlighted in an email from C/Cllr Mike Tomlinson. Cllr. Hunter to chase this up.
- ARA are reviewing parking in Prestwick.
- Prestwick Prom was a great success, congratulations to the committee.
- Concerns regards Pow Burn Prestwick, SEPA investigating.
- Prestwick Heritage – suggested solutions for the steeple being looked at.
- Survey of Salt Pans carried out.
- Social housing a big problem with many now homeless. Prestwick does not have the supply to cope with demand.
- Council tax – additional increase for higher bands.

Martin Kilbride:

- Parking problems continue to be a major issue.
- Prestwick will be busy with the forthcoming Prestfest, especially with late licences being granted to pubs.
- Proposed spaceport and future work force discussed, with emphasis on where accommodation would be, and highlighting possible sites for building new houses/flats.

9. Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer confirmed the current balance for PCC is £1,175.96, which includes the £500.00 grant from Virgin Money Foundation for the purchase of a projector, making the actual balance £675.96. If the grant money had not been in the account, PCC would have severe problems paying for their insurance and other necessary expenditure, due to SAC repaying PCC expenditure in stages, rather than in one go as in previous years to PNCC and PSCC.

Vice Chair asked SAC Cllrs present if PCC insurance would be able to cover the putting green, should members of PCC be involved in the running of it. He was advised it would be a matter for the Insurance Company and would probably mean an increase in costs. The Treasurer to enquire about this when renewing the insurance policy which is due in September.

10. Planning Report: Circulated to all. Query from resident on planning permission granted for 3 parking spaces at B&M car park being transferred to the Buf for their car park, and fenced off. Felt this was technically a car park within a car park. This led to an in-depth discussion as to who the landowner of the B&M car park was. Resident was advised to contact the Assessor's office and look at the valuation roll. Also look at the planning application which will state who the owner is. Resident unhappy that his fence had been damaged by cars in the Buf car park and was informed he should contact his insurance company regarding this.

11. Licensing Report: At the August meeting of the Licensing Board an application from The Buf for change of opening hours from 10.00am to 12 midnight to 12,30midnight to 2.30am Thursday to Sunday, has been approved. The next meeting of the Licensing Board will be held remotely on 21/09/2023 at 10.00am. The Secretary confirmed that Scruffy Duffy's had been taken over by The Buf, who are currently carrying out a major refurbishment of the building.

12. Prestwick Town Twinning Association: A group from Lichtenfels will be visiting Prestwick from 8th to 12th September. Various trips including to the Air Show have been arranged for them.

13. Correspondence/concerns received: Correspondence received covered in Police Report. C/Cllr Shirley Harris confirmed an invitation has been extended to members of PCC to attend the Battle of Britain Service at 3pm on 17th September at Prestwick Cross. Due to lack of funds, PCC would be unable to donate towards purchase of a wreath.

14. A.O.C.B:

Ayr to Barassie Active Travel Route: C/Cllr John O'Donnell showed Ayrshire Link slide which gives information on the project and details of future meetings. The Secretary to send this to PCC members.

Public Toilets: This had been discussed by The Chair previously, and he would like PCC to think about suitable locations and premises for the project. Carry forward to September meeting.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan: Carry forward to September meeting.

Prestwick Place Planning: Carry forward to September meeting.

Seating in the Main Street: The Treasurer asked SAC Cllrs present if they would look into the possibility of a bench being installed in the Main Street, preferably on the same side of the Street as One 11 pub, formerly known as Scruffy Duffys. This is badly needed as there is no provision for people to take a rest, especially the elderly and those with mobility problems. Cllr Martin Kilbride agreed to investigate.

Prestwick Lighting Up: SAC Cllr Hugh Hunter referred to correspondence copied to the Chair from Ainsley Hunter, Chair of PBA, which intimated that there was no appetite from local businesses to take this on board this year. Cllr Hunter felt he would also be unable to do so, and asked if this is something PCC would like to be involved in. A discussion followed on the work involved in organising the event, with suggestions that perhaps the Prom Committee and Prestfest committee might wish to be involved. It was agreed that Cllr. Hunter would liaise with PBA and others and report back to PCC.

Remembrance Sunday Service: C/Cllr Shirley Harris confirmed the arrangements for the service are well under way. The Treasurer advised that some funds will be allocated for this, although paying for wreaths may pose a problem this year. C/Cllr Harris stated that on a previous occasion several members of PNCC had made a donation towards wreaths, and suggested this could be a solution, The Vice Chair agreed a meeting should be arranged to discuss further.

On a separate issue, C/Cllr Harris confirmed that in the recent competition held by the Royal British Legion Scotland, Prestwick was commended in the Large Community with Gardens Category for the Best Kept War Memorial 2023, and awarded a certificate. The Secretary to email copy of the certificate to PCC members.

Prestwick Prom Day 2023: A special thank you goes to the Prestwick Prom Committee for all their hard work in making this year's event so special and such a success. Very well done to all involved.

15. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 26th September 2023, at 19.15hrs in 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 21.00hrs.