



**PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
APPROVED MINUTES MEETING TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025  
19.15hrs 65 CLUB, PRESTWICK**

The meeting commenced at 19.15hrs.

**SEDERUNT:**

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

Meic Evans (Chair):

Margaret Milligan (Secretary):

John Park:

Thompson Piper:

Jim Riach:

Alison Smith:

Norrie Smith (Vice-Chair):

June Whittaker (Treasurer):

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SAC):**

Jill Tomlinson (Liaison Officer): Craig Ross (Deputy Head Prestwick Academy):

**EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS:**

Laura Cowan, Commodore, Prestwick Sailing Club:

**APOLOGIES:**

**PCC:**

C/Cllrs. Shirley Harris: Kate Mullen (Co-opted): John O'Donnell: Jim Ronney:

Mike Tomlinson: Patricia Young:

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SAC):**

Cllrs. Hugh Hunter: Cameron Ramsay

**POLICE SCOTLAND:**

**1. Welcome:**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all, and with regret advised of the passing of community councillors Iain Tulloch and Jim Mclay. Both are remembered with gratitude for their contribution to PCC. As C/Cllr John O'Donnell had been unable to attend for some time, the Chair to make contact to ensure that all was well.

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

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

**3. Police Report:**

Circulated to all prior to the meeting. Concern was expressed at the number of domestic violence cases recorded, and the Secretary to ask Police to clarify if this is an unusual trend at this time of year.

C/Cllr Alison Smith advised the meeting that at her work, Virgin Money, fraud awareness training events are held involving community groups, to members of the public. She suggested that if PCC members were in agreement, she could hold such an event in the

next few months in conjunction with PCC, possibly in the 65 Club. All present thought this was an excellent idea, therefore C/Clr Smith will look at requirements for the event including dates, and liaise with the 65 Club and also a police representative, and report back.

#### **4. Hearing/Open Forum:**

Laura Cowan, Commodore Prestwick Sailing Club advised the Sailing Club are in the process of an application to South Ayrshire Council to take ownership of the land their building sits on. The members of the club built the current facility in the 60s & 70s and it's changing facilities are outdated and not fit for today's modern families and communities. If successful in their CAT bid, they have an agreement in principle from Sport Scotland to fund 50% of a new changing wing, which will include disabled access via a lift to the main clubroom/lounge. It will provide family, disabled, and gender equal spaces in the changing provision, and will include a level access wet classroom on the ground floor and on the 1st floor, a community space for meetings & activities to happen. Inclusion is at the heart of the Sailing Club's vision for the Prestwick community, and securing the ownership of the land is the first step towards that vision. There is a link to the facility questionnaire to complete and share with as many people as possible in the Prestwick community:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/PrestwickSailingClub/PrestwickSailingClubDevelopment?>

Prestwick Sailing Club is seeking the support of PCC for their plans, and this was agreed in principle. Ms Cowan agreed to present the Sailing Club Development proposal at the February meeting of PCC.

#### **5. Schools Report - Prestwick Academy:**

**Staffing:** Dr Frew has been seconded to SAC for a period of 6 months. Miss Campbell is now acting DHT/Skye House and Mrs Lorimer is now acting PT Business Education. Mrs Thom joins as 0.4FTE Teacher Business Education. Mrs Fyfe joins 0.5FTE in Pupil Support to provide additional capacity to support young people in S1.

**Options Process:** The options process is now underway with PTs updating course booklets and plans in place for option form distribution and Parent Information Evening set as Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Parents' Evenings:** The last remaining Parent's evenings are S3 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January and S2 on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**Prelims:** Senior phase prelims are ongoing and due to finish on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Any catch- up prelims will be scheduled with young people. A reminder of the revision tool E-Sgoil for several subjects at various levels. The website is accessed at [www.e-sgoil.com](http://www.e-sgoil.com) and young people should sign up using GLOW account details to access.

**Empathy Training:** Prestwick Academy is working with Empathy Lab as part of an Empathy in Action project run by the school library, which aims to help develop their empathy skills and put this into action both in the school and the community. The academy is excited to announce that they are offering 20 young people the opportunity to attend a training session to help deliver empathy themed lessons to BGE classes and some of the primaries in February, April, and June, and this is open to all year groups. Anyone who is interested should speak to Mrs McDade in the library. Final sign up by 15th January.

**Rotary Quiz:** The school is working with the Rotary Club to host the annual local P7 quiz, with winners progressing to the district final. The quiz will be on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

**Broadway:** The school continue to develop links with the Friends of the Broadway, and now have film society linked to them, with staff and pupils participating in the club as well as those from the Friends of the Broadway.

#### **6. Minutes meeting 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024:**

There being no amendments, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record, proposed by C/Cllr Norrie Smith, and seconded by C/Cllr John Park.

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

**Troon Development Trust:** The Chair confirmed that Troon Community Council and Troon Development Trust work very closely together, and they have produced a strategy document for the town which is being used to identify projects. The Chair has obtained a copy of the Troon strategy document which he will circulate to PCC, noting that although it is now slightly out of date, as there have been no significant changes to the town, it is still used for identification purposes.

**Remembrance Service:** Sub- committee debriefing meeting arranged for 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**The Beach:** As C/Cllr Mike Tomlinson was still not receiving replies from SAC to his emails, the Chair asked the Liaison Officer if the statement made in the October minutes (that SAC guidelines state queries/complaints should be answered within 21days) was factually correct, as the Chair had previously asked SAC if there was a timetable. The Liaison Officer was not sure about this, as her department doesn't have a statutory deadline for responses, but it may be that the Legal Department does. She will look into this and report back to PCC.

**Oral History:** The Chair has been back in touch with Strathclyde University, and intends in the future to meet with the main body regarding the setting up of the project and the costs. Contact to be made with the chief person of the Miners Club, and further work needed to establish who else, in addition to the History Group and Miners Club, we could ask to join us to progress the project.

**Powburn Collaboration:** Meeting postponed and rescheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> February. The Chair informed PCC that The Scottish Wildlife Trust on a national level are sponsoring projects to do with the improvement of the quality of water in rivers. The project as a whole is called RIVERWOODS, with a feature length documentary available for screening. The Chair to make enquires about showing the film in Prestwick in the 65 Club, and will liaise with the 65 Club regarding what would be required and report back to PCC. Publicising the event in the media would be a necessity to ensure a good turnout.

**Health & Fitness Centre (old gym) Grangemuir Road:** Along with the monthly planning report, the Chair had circulated drawings of proposed plans for the site. Prestwick South Community Council had previously objected to similar proposals and the Chair to look out the paperwork and circulate to PCC members to decide whether they wished to object again along similar lines.

**8. Community Led Ward Capital projects- Prestwick:** C/Cllr Mike Tomlinson had forwarded suggestions by email which were: have picnic/barbeque bench and seating (similar to the two at the prom) in Boydfield Gardens, and have more installed at the prom; bandstand on the prom, and a feasibility study to be carried out for a Lido. Members present put forward the following suggestions - benches along the Main Street as there is no provision for seating, especially for the elderly. The public toilets at the Cross to be reinstated; discussion followed regarding sewage regulations and also planned proposals. The Chair asked that any further suggestions for projects be sent to the Secretary prior to the February meeting; he also confirmed that residents living adjacent to Boydfield Gardens would have to be consulted regarding any proposals for seating/tables being installed there.

Removal of damaged trees as a result of recent storm discussed, noting that Fiona Ross had previously attended a PCC meeting detailing plans to remove old trees and redevelop area around Boydfield Gardens, but to date nothing appears to have happened. This is now an opportunity to write to Ms Ross asking for an update, and suggest various ways to utilise the space created by removal of trees, for instance, creation of a tourist hub. The Chair agreed to do this. Although Audrey Gatt from SAC was unable to attend January meeting to discuss what is required for capital projects including timescales, she is liaising with the Chair on this.

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

The Secretary confirmed that an email had been received from Cllr Hugh Hunter to report on the first cAyrfest event on 22<sup>nd</sup> February celebrating the contribution unpaid carers of all ages make to South Ayrshire communities. The Secretary to forward the email to PCC members. Disappointment was registered that although requested, regular monthly reports were not submitted by SAC Councillors prior to PCC meetings. It was agreed the Secretary would write to the SAC Councillors confirming the need for the reports, to enable the monthly meetings to run efficiently and on time. It was noted that this system works successfully within many other community councils and organisations.

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

Current balance £756.51, however there are monies still to be deducted including uncleared cheque for Dalmellington Band. Funding raised towards the cost of Remembrance Service was £150.00 from go-fund page, £182.50 grant from SAC, and £250.00 from British Legion. As the total amount raised exceeded what was required, the Chair stated his understanding was the SAC grant would have to be returned. The Chair agreed to recirculate the list of monetary requirements for the service, and then we can discuss what we need to do. When asked, the Liaison Officer confirmed PCC could continue to raise funds to top up their bank balance, however any money earmarked for a specific item must be used against this. A summary of the finance meeting which was held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024, to be included under Treasurer's report on the February agenda. The Treasurer requested any outstanding expenses be submitted to her by the end of the month, to ensure the year end accounts are finalised and audited in time for the AGM.

#### **11. Planning Report:**

It was noted that the planning application for the erection of residential development at 24 Links Road had been refused, as no provision for affordable housing had been identified.

#### **12. Licensing Report:**

No report available.

#### **13. Town Twinning Report:**

C/Cllr John Park displayed the plaque commemorating 10 years of Town Twinning with Lichtenfels, confirming this had been in storage in the County Buildings for some considerable time and asked for ideas as to where it could be located. Suggestions were: at the Airport, on the wall at Johnny Hubbard Court in the Main Street, on the wall outside the 65 Club, or another location at Prestwick Cross. Town Twinning AGM to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025, and there will be a visit to Aricca sometime in May.

#### **13(1): Prestwick Airport Consultative Committee (PACC):**

Theoretically the Spaceport is still in progress, although no-one appears to be doing anything about it. Windfarms - PACC have been asked by the airport to make a planning objection which they have agreed to do. Currently two cardo flights coming in from China. Possibility of a Scottish College/Aeronautical Society project; currently

discussing in collaboration with the airport. When asked if the airport is still up for sale, C/Cllr Riach confirmed negotiations are ongoing.

The Vice-Chair asked PCC if they would consider the idea of Trump Prestwick airport, which would bring investment and prosperity to the airport and surrounding areas. South Ayrshire already has Trump Turnberry, and there is a Trump golf course in Aberdeen. There was a favourable response to the idea, and the Chair asked the Vice-Chair to put a plan together for PCC to consider taking this forward.

The Chair then talked about the Spaceport, confirming he was aware that major investors had pulled their funding which had also impacted on the proposed factory in Monkton. The three local authorities are responsible for implementing the Ayrshire Growth Deal, which is intended to fund what is happening at the airport including the Spaceport. Review of the annual assessment of expenditure shows very little, if anything, being spent on the Spaceport, and this is unlikely to change at any level. The Chair wondered if the Spaceport was linked in terms to the airport, or whether they were separate entities. C/Cllr Riach explained there were to be two spaceports, first one in the Highlands and second one in Prestwick. The Highlands would be responsible for the rocket launch, while Prestwick would be responsible for the aircraft carrying the rocket, and for refuelling. In cost terms Prestwick was the cheaper option.

#### **14:Correspondence/Concerns:**

There was none.

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

- The Secretary requested a date be set for the AGM, and whether it should be a separate meeting. Members present agreed it should be separate. The AGM was confirmed as Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025, with the normal monthly meeting to be 27<sup>th</sup> May. Discussion followed regarding the appointment of an independent auditor for PCC accounts, noting that it could not be someone related to, or associated with, members.
- The Treasurer suggested a litter pick by PNCC; however, members wanted to wait until the weather was better.
- C/Cllr Alison Smith highlighted problems regarding lack of lighting at the footpaths from Adamton Road South through the Oval car park to Bellevue crescent. This was in addition to all the potholes. A report to be submitted to Ayrshire Roads Alliance.

#### **16. Date of next meeting:**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025, at 7.15pm in the 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 21.05hrs.