



**APPROVED PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES MEETING TUESDAY 25th March 2025
19.15hrs 65 CLUB, PRESTWICK**

The meeting commenced at 19.20hrs.

SEDERUNT:

COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (PCC):

Margaret Milligan (Secretary):

Robert Muldoon (C/Cllr effective 01/04/25):

Kate Mullen (Co-opted) (full C/Cllr effective 01/04/25):

John O'Donnell:

John Park:

Jim Riach:

Jim Ronney:

Alison Smith:

Norrie Smith (Vice-Chair):

Thompson Piper:

Mike Tomlinson:

June Whittaker:

Patricia Young:

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SAC):

Cllrs.

Hugh Hunter: Cameron Ramsay: Jill Tomlinson(Liaison Officer):

APOLOGIES:

PCC:

C/Cllrs. Meic Evans (Chair): Shirley Harris:

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SAC):

Ian Cochrane: Martin Kilbride:

POLICE SCOTLAND:

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS:

Laura Cowan, Commodore, Prestwick Sailing Club:

1. Welcome:

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all.

2. Sederunt/Received Apologies/Declaration of interests:

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

3. Police Report:

Previously circulated, no questions raised.

4. Hearing/Open Forum: Vice-Chair stated this would be held back until after agenda item 7.

5. Schools Report - Prestwick Academy: given by Craig Ross:

1. Staffing: As previously intimated, Ms Harrigan (Head Teacher) will retire at the end of the summer term meaning a new Head Teacher will take over from August 2025. 19 applicants for the job received from all over Scotland. 7 candidates will have a walk round of the school on Wednesday 26th March at 4pm. There will then be an assessment centre on Tuesday 1st April and an interview panel on Wednesday 2nd April.
2. English Language and Literacy Thematic Inspection: The school were involved in an Education Scotland (HMIe) Thematic inspection for English Language and Literacy on 18th and 19th March. The school received very positive feedback following the inspection and highlighted a number of strengths within our school. These include: Strong positive relationships between young people and staff: Young people and staff who are dedicated to Prestwick Academy: The positive impact experienced from the work of our library: Staff awareness of our literacy strategy and the work across the school using the Frayer model. In next steps we discussed writing as a literacy focus and the need for consistency in practice across learning and teaching, as well as our use of data. The experience overall has been an excellent self-evaluation exercise that will assist improvement planning for next session.
3. Rotary Quiz: The school hosted the annual P7 Rotary quiz on 14th March. The winners were Kingcase Primary School who will progress to the district heat.
4. Prestwick Heritage Trail: Work is ongoing between Prestwick Academy and Kyle MacFarlane from the Friends of the Broadway to create a website for the Prestwick Heritage Trail. We are currently working creating a basic website. Once this is ready the QR will be redirected from the South Ayrshire Council website to the new website. Kyle has been in touch with Alasdair Malcolm regarding which sites need to be included on the new website. Information can then be added to the website as time goes on. Kyle has agreed to be one of the legacy holders for the website ensuring it can be maintained and content added/ removed as required.
5. Ayr United Football Club: A group of pupils from Prestwick Academy visited Ayr United today 25th March, and watched the first team train before meeting the manager and club officials. They then received an educational input from the club, Police Scotland and SAC about the work the club do to support the local community, and what local fans, particularly younger fans can do to support the club in a positive manner.

6. Minutes meeting 25th February 2025:

There being no amendments, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record, proposed by C/Cllr Kate Mullen, and seconded by Vice-Chair Norrie Smith.

7. Matters arising from the approved minutes:

Banking Hub SAC Cllr Hunter had sent PCC information regarding the proposed banking hub for Prestwick to be operated by the Cooper family from Daisy Chain/Post Office, who already run banking hubs in Cumnock and Kilwinning.

The Vice-Chair then stated there were no other matters arising, and reverted back to item 4 the Hearing-Open Forum, asking if there was anything PCC members wished to discuss.

Hearing-Open Forum: C/Cllr Jim Ronney commented that following the recent storm, the promenade was in a poor state of repair, with broken concrete slabs. SAC Hunter explained that SAC/Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) normally waited to ensure there were no further storms forecast before a big clean up, and the Vice-Chair agreed this was sensible. SAC Cllr Hunter would chase this up as would the other SAC Councillors, as prom needed tidied before Easter. It was suggested perhaps an e-mail be sent to ARA by PCC Chair regarding the state of the prom. Conversation followed around the damage and repairs required, with C/Cllr Mike Tomlinson referring to the previous minutes where he agreed to arrange a

meeting regarding the beach with senior SAC officials, and he would follow this up by arranging a date, and reporting back to PCC.

8. Locality Planning/Capital projects: .

Community Led Action Plan: The Secretary advised that she had attended the Prestwick & Villages Locality Planning Partnership (PLPP) meeting on 24th March where Locality Action Plans were discussed. As PCC are aware, Meic Evans, Chair, has been liaising with various groups and community councils involved in this project, with a view to PCC drawing up its own plan. She confirmed that she and the Chair had attended a meeting with Audrey Gatt, SAC Thriving Communities Manager, together with the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer from Prestwick Community Association on the 26th February, to discuss the way forward in the setting up of a Communities Led Action Plan. At the PLPP meeting, it was confirmed that Symington CC are finalising their plan, while Monkton CC have completed theirs, and are holding a meeting to launch this at 6.30pm on Thursday 17th April in the Carrick Webster Hall in Monkton, with an open invitation to all to attend.

Heritage funding/Regeneration Master Plan Prestwick: A lengthy and in-depth discussion took place regarding the £750,000 funding allocated from SAC budget to replace the steeple, which has become a very contentious subject. It was noted that at a previous consultation meeting regarding the steeple, use of Freeman's Hall and upgrade to Promenade, the majority rejected the idea of reinstating the steeple due to costs, which over a period of time have escalated from the estimated £250,000 to current £750,000. Lack of consultation appeared to be an issue, although it was pointed out that a few years ago Prestwick North CC held a consultation and at that time the consensus was in favour of reinstating the steeple. Sub-groups were set up with C/Cllrs Jim Ronney and Shirley Harris, but due to difficulty in gaining funding, these subsequently folded. Recent consultations or lack of, were discussed, with SAC Cllr Hunter pointing out the consultation on Master Plan and Prestwick Regeneration was advertised in PGO and SAC website where the link for the consultation could be found. Content of the Masterplan was then discussed, and it was confirmed that Health & Social Care Partnership were moving into the Freemans Hall, also Ayrshire Connect. The Vice-Chair suggested PCC arrange a consultation meeting to inform SAC that PCC were against the funding allocated to rebuilding the steeple, as restoration had been rejected by the public. SAC Cllr Ramsay then explained the process to be followed before any such meeting could be held to avoid accusations of bias, with C/Cllr O'Donnell agreeing any proposed meeting would have to prove to be unbiased and independently chaired. A heated debate followed, with the Secretary confirming that PCC had not received any contact whatsoever from members of the public on this, or indeed any complaints. Neither she nor the Chair had received correspondence, and she had not been approached as a community councillor, therefore a meeting at this time would not be appropriate. C/Cllr Tomlinson then proposed that PCC write to SAC stating they were unhappy at the allocation of £750,000 from SAC budget for restoration of the steeple (which had been rejected) as it was not good use of public money. The Vice-Chair asked C/Cllr Tomlinson to email and discuss this with SAC Cllr Ramsay who would take it up with SAC, with both reporting back to PCC. The Vice-Chair then closed the discussion to continue with the remaining agenda.

9. South Ayrshire Councillors' reports:

Cllr Hugh Hunter: A report had been issued to PCC prior to the meeting. Pavement parking ban comes into force from 31st March, with concerns being raised on how narrow some streets are, Briarhill Road being an example, where parking on the road made it difficult for vehicles to navigate. Proposed new parking proposal details approved by cabinet, with draft regulation orders to be completed by the end of September, out for consultation till end of December with a view to implementing from April 2026. **Cllr. Cameron Ramsay:** Ward capital meeting was positive. He will follow up on meeting on

community asset transfer, with particular emphasis on Prestwick Community Centre which is an area that needs more money spent on it. Referenced the Ochiltree Hub which has been great for East Ayrshire Community, and Community Centre could be the same. Promenade needs more money spent on it, to attract more visitors. Conversation followed on regeneration projects for Prestwick, including a Lido. SAC Cllr Ramsay confirmed there was only so much money SAC had available and housing for Prestwick was a priority, as the lengthy waiting list outweighs availability.

The Secretary then commented on members offering suggestions on regeneration for Prestwick, stating the Chair over the past year, has issued numerous emails time and time again regarding various projects such as Place Plan, and Local Development Plan; with the exception of two members, no-one ever comes back to him. As a community council we are doing nothing, when we should be working on our own Local Development Plan in conjunction with SAC, which would include regeneration and other such projects. The Chair puts a great deal of effort and work into this and it must be disheartening to receive such a negative response from members, The Vice-Chair confirmed the Chair's hard work would be taken forward, and he would liaise with him to ensure the work is carried out.

10. Treasurer's report:

2024-2025 yearly accounts statement was circulated to PCC, noting that the cheque to the Dalmellington Band had still not been cashed and needed to be chased-up. Cheque for 65 Club also needs to be cashed and Vice-Chair will chase this one up. The Treasurer stated that she still felt the Remembrance Sunday Service should not be paid for by PCC due to our limited resources, and that SAC should look at funding this.

11. Planning Report: Previously circulated. The Secretary confirmed a typing error in non-householder applications, 121 Ardayre Road should read 21 Ardayre Road.

12. Licensing Report: Nothing for Prestwick. Next meeting 26th April 2025.

13:Correspondence/Concerns: A report was issued from C/Cllr Jim Riach, on Prestwick Airport Consultative Committee (PACC). The UKACC did a survey of the 24 AAC's performance and Prestwick was in the 6 best ratings. The year-end passenger figures at February totalled just short of 500,000, and with additional frequencies on Ryanair existing routes, should reach approximately 600,000. Hong Kong Air Cargo are starting a new route into Prestwick and work is ongoing on outward air freight of seafood and whisky. Ayrshire College have taken over hangar space for the student population - training also involves Spirit/GE/Collins and Ryanair. 50 apprenticeships last year. The Scottish Government are looking at sale of the airport when the opportunity and time are right. The Spaceport development still lacking financial support. Windfarms affecting the airport, total 56 developments with 600 turbines - Prestwick is the most congested area in the UK.

14. A.O.C.B: C/Cllr John Park confirmed that Scottish Water had installed water planters at houses from the top of Grangemur Road to the bridge.

15. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 29th April 2025, at 7.15pm in the 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 20.25hrs.