



Girvan and District Community Council Minutes
Tuesday the 02nd of April 2024, 07.00 pm, Carrick
Buildings, Girvan.
(The meeting started at 19:02)



Present: Catherine Maguire, Colin Davidson, David Girvan, Jane Willis, John McCreath, John Young, Ken Johnstone, Rhona Walker (Chair), Sconaid Clark, Wilma Dunlop.

In Attendance: Lauren McEwan and Gail McMaster (Girvan Youth Trust); Ainsley McCrindle, Cllr Clark, Cllr Lamont (South Ayrshire Council); David Bone - secretariat.

Apologies: PC Paul McKinlay and PC Andrew Thorpe (Police Scotland), Karen McCartney.

Welcome from the Chair

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all those present to speak through the Chair.

Declarations

Of Interest:

None.

Minutes of the March 2024 Meeting

Colin said that he was present at the last meeting. Secretariat to amend.

Proposed for accuracy by John Mc and seconded by Wilma Dunlop.

Matters Arising

Colin inquired about the banking hub and he thought that it was going to be staffed by post office personnel. Rhona replied that bank staff would be present on separate days to deal with account matters and the Post Office staff would deal with all monies.

Colin mentioned ongoing issues with the Flushes car park, noting that lorries were being blocked in by other vehicles and again suggesting that it should be lined. He added that this has been a problem since 2018. Cllr Clark replied that there has been an issue with the 'white line contractors' through the Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA). John Mc pointed out that the disabled bays were marked, and John Y raised concerns about heavy trucks in town destroying pavements. Cllr Clark informed them about new pavement parking laws. David G asked if SAC did not have their own, in-house, equipment for this, to which Cllr Clark replied that they don't for lining parking bays.

John Y inquired about the disposal process for garden waste bags instead of using a brown bin, prompting Cllr Clark to promise to look into it. John Mc questioned why the lorry collecting brown bins comes from Ayr instead of having a depot in Girvan. Cllr Clark explained that the main recycling centre is in Ayr and composting is highly specialised.

Rhona asked who would collect money from the 3G pitch and suggested that some funds should go into the Common Good fund. Cllr Clark explained that a decision on this is still being finalised but that it was likely some funds would go to the revenue account to cover running costs as it had cost the council money for the capital.

John Mc inquired about the broken drain outside Wright's Home Hardware, asking if AMEY had been contacted. Cllr Clark confirmed that they had and noted that it's a lengthy process to get repairs completed. John Mc also mentioned a blocked drain outside Simpsons. The councillors then discussed vastly different experiences with road repairs and the time taken to fix them.

Police report

The police report was emailed to all councillors. Rhona mentioned that she would email any questions to the police if the councillors have any.

Girvan Youth Trust (GYT)

Lauren mentioned that a 'Partnership Detached Session' was held in conjunction with the Police during Easter. She added that a football Summer Cup is scheduled for June 30th, 2024. She also highlighted the Friday Night Football event by Youth Think Scotland. David G noted that this project was funded through the Small Grants Fund. Currently, the Easter program is running with a varied itinerary of trips as well as lunches. Additionally, they are planning to start a boys-only group targeted towards older teenagers. Recently completed a four-week rural transition program for primary 7s. Positive Pathways life skills sessions for children on Study Leave will begin soon. They've also been gifted a full-week fire prevention course with an SVQ Level 4 qualification.

Gail mentioned that the boating pond is now in the SAC budget, thanks to Cllr Clark. She added that it will be open by the time Music on the Prom begins and will employ 22 young people over the summer. Cllr Clark noted that the whole bottom of the boating pond will be lined and made waterproof. Music on the Prom is fully sponsored for 13 weeks, and Scottish Power has put the required permissions into SAC to install electricity points at the Promenade.

David G inquired about the lunches provided by GYT, which Lauren said are funded by GYT themselves. He then asked about community placements, to which Gail replied that they occur during school time. David G further queried if GYT keeps the revenue from the boating pond, and Gail explained that they keep the funds but face challenges due to high wages.

Ken asked about swimming lessons and lifeguard training this year, suggesting that TQZ could still provide these in Maybole. Gail confirmed that the staff were trained from last year.

Matters arising from any group meeting at the moment:

Girvan Town Team

John Mc mentioned that he will forward the GTT report to all community councillors next month. He also noted that a funding application has been submitted for the Pavilion, and the design of the benches along the Promenade and beach is under review again.

David G said that there was an update on the Shop Fronts Project and the lack of geographical data on the defibrillator boxes was also mentioned. He said that this issue has now been addressed. Cllr Lamont mentioned that the defibrillator at the toilet at Ainslie Park is no longer accessible as they are currently undergoing renovation.

Harbour Users Group (HUG)

John Y mentioned that the dredging of the Harbour has been halted due to chemicals found along the Harbour Bar. He emphasised the need for these chemicals to be transported from a dredger to a landfill site. Additionally, he mentioned that a gate has now been installed along the jetty to keep the public off it.

Girvan Story

[Noted that a Draft Conservation Area Appraisal of Girvan Conservation Area](#) will take place at the Catholic Hall on 27/04/24.

Treasurers' Report

Received £5,000 from Foundation Scotland. An insurance fee of £97.20 has been made and a payment to DB was completed as well. Currently, there is £7,027.86 in the account.

Ken suggested that the group could allocate £135 of the remaining admin budget to a good cause or charity in the town. The community council agreed unanimously that Sacred Heart Parent Council would receive £50, and the remainder was to be split between Girvan Academy, Girvan Primary and Invergarven, totalling £28.30 each.

Planning applications

Agricultural shed, High Troweir Farm.

Licensing applications

None.

Matters arising from correspondence

Following extensive email communication with SAC officers and local Councillors around fencing the new play park at Victory Park dog fouling has been raised as a major issue. Cllr Clark explained that in Scotland, corroborating evidence from a secondary witness is required for prosecution. He emphasised that education is easier than prosecution. Rhona suggested that proper signage would help, to which Cllr Clark expressed scepticism, stating that signage alone may not deter some individuals. Discussion over mobile CCTV to remedy this situation. Cllr Clark replied that the use of mobile CCTV is determined by the community safety team. Cllr Lamont added that this is a widespread issue in South Ayrshire and suggested that camera evidence may be admissible. Catherine proposed that CCTV could act as a deterrent, acknowledging that not everyone would be unreasonable, and some may respond to visual cues. She suggested the possibility of installing dummy CCTV cameras. Rhona referred to the lack of SAC enforcing current legislation stating that a dog must be under close control. Cllr Clark acknowledged that enforcing laws can be challenging

Regarding equipment that was not installed at the beach park due to lack of space, and then earmarked for use in Victory Park, Cllr Clark mentioned that it may have been transferred, with funds possibly redirected to the Linden Avenue MUGA. Members confirmed that the piece of equipment had not been installed at Linden Avenue

David G addressed various matters, including updates on the 3G pitch, an email from Assell Valley, and discussions regarding the Small Grant Fund. He mentioned that he was trying to find out what happened to the £45,000 awarded to the Create Streets plan for the car park next to the Community Garden. George Hunter has said that funds might have been reallocated, David is trying to confirm what project it was reallocated to.

The discussion also touched upon the removal of play equipment at Linden Avenue and the need for a clear pathway to address such issues. There was further discourse on the challenges posed by council departments operating in isolated "silos" and the resultant lack of communication.

Update from local councillors

Cllr Clark

Paving stones for Stumpy Corner has been procured, and work is set to commence on April 29th, 2024. Jane requested a timescale for this, to which Cllr Clark promised to provide one soon. The moving of Girvan Library to Knockcushan Street is scheduled to start in May. At Ainslie Park, temporary portaloos have been installed due to issues with the walls not being bonded properly. Carpet installation for the 3G pitch is ongoing, with the playpark to follow. A topographical study for the crazy golf project has been completed, and wooden bollards have been installed with plans for eventual one-way traffic flow along Louisa Drive. Building tenders for the Mckechnie Institute's new lift have been sent out. A walkabout was conducted with Corene from the Big Lottery.

John Y expressed concerns about hardcore material remaining on the grass, potentially causing damage to SAC grass cutters. He also commented on the appearance of the benches, noting they seemed slightly smaller and again mentioned the need for recycling bins along the shore. He also asked about 'campervan grey waste' disposal at the Harbour. Cllr Clark acknowledged these health and safety issues and discussed the need for recycling bins, though he expressed doubt about their effectiveness due to irresponsible individuals.

Regarding the 'campervan grey waste' system at the Harbour, Cllr Clark mentioned plans for installing a tank and indicated he would follow up on this matter. He added that SAC is considering installing new toilets at the Promenade. Gail suggested adding an electric point at the hut for the boating pond, which Cllr Clark agreed to look into as well.

Cllr Lamont

The fence at McCreath Park has been installed. Regarding the A77 at Bridgmill, a failure was noted by AMEY prompting further research on the correct type of waterproof membrane. It was mentioned that the entire area needs to be relined now. Additionally, the anti-deer fence is to be installed at the Byne Hill Cemetary. The opening of Ayr Train Station is anticipated to occur in 4-6 weeks, but Scotrail has not committed to a specific timeframe for this.

A.O.C.B.

John Mc inquired about the impact of the works on groups that plan to use the area around Stumpy. Cllr Clark responded that it would obviously have an impact on them.

John Mc then asked about the contractors responsible for the deer fence at the Byne Hill Cemetery, expressing grave concerns about the destruction of the sand dunes a few years ago. He mentioned that this scheme would cost £93,000 and emphasised the importance of hiring an approved contractor.

Catherine mentioned that she and Zanne would like to submit a funding application for a feasibility study/business plan for the Townhouse through the Community Council. David G noted that Troon Community Council had also applied for funding as their own entity in the past. Jane raised concerns that being a third party might pose an issue, suggesting that it might be better dealt with by the GTT. The possibility of ACE being able to handle this was also discussed.

There was a discussion about the plans for the Promenade, including the proposed Crazy Golf Course. It was noted that while these projects are supposed to be community-led, the community feels they're not adequately consulted on them. Cllr Clark mentioned that there is a significant investment in the town at the moment, but Jane expressed concerns about the lack of communication with residents. Rhona stated that the GCC is often the last to know about such developments. Catherine questioned if it was Crazy Golf or nothing, to which Cllr Clark replied yes. The community council expressed that they don't disagree with the project but have issues with the process. Lauren expressed hope that young people would be involved in the planning.

Catherine suggested that the GCC have its own website and newsletter and proposed the idea of breaking down Girvan into its three geographical areas to encourage public involvement. Ken noted that a decade ago, SAC wouldn't fund a website, but Cllr Clark acknowledged that this may have changed. Jane emphasised the need for further discussion on this matter. There was a general discussion about the decline of printed information.

Regarding the 3G pitch, flooding at Victory Park remains an issue. Cllr Clark mentioned that addressing it would require digging up the entire park and was not feasible. John Mc recalled a previous councillor's statement about the entire park being sorted, while Cllr Lamont noted that the park where the pitch is now located is usable in winter for the first time.

Lastly, regarding the replacement for Girvan Primary, Cllr Clark confirmed that the project is still ongoing.

[Lauren McEwan left at 20:46]

John Mc raised concerns about the lack of fencing around the playpark. Cllr Clark mentioned that it was intended to be monitored for a year and then reviewed. However, community councillors disputed this claim, expressing that it was not accurate. John Mc said that fencing would serve to prevent bullying, provide a more secure space, and ensure safety away from the road. Catherine questioned who stated that it would be monitored for a year, to which Cllr Clark responded that it was Fiona Ross. Gail noted that there are multiple unfenced parks in Girvan. Rhona clarified that the fencing would primarily be implemented to address dog fouling issues specific to the area and to prevent off-leash dogs from entering the park. She added that children with Additional Support Needs (ASN) feel safer in fenced parks, similar to facilities in Ayr and Troon. Cllr Clark expressed that he has not received communication from the public regarding this matter.

David G raised a question regarding the small grant fund, inquiring about the deadline and submission guidelines. He also asked if previous recipients are eligible again. This matter was left to the sub-group for further discussion.

It was mentioned that Philip Warrington from the Daily Community Council recently passed away, being remembered as a respected volunteer. All present extended their condolences to his family and friends.

(The meeting ended at 20:59)

Next meeting - Tuesday the 07th of May 2024 at 7:00 pm