

Minutes of Belmont and Kincaidston Community Council

Thursday 7th MARCH 2024 7.15pm Belmont Academy

Present: Graham Gault (Chair), Ian Douglas (Treasurer), Cara Bennington (Secretary), Colin Hall (Planning and Licensing), Carol Campbell, Flora Fleming, Donald McLean, Hezekiah Adesina (via Teams), Matthew Grant (SAC Link Officer), Mrs Daniela Van Niekerk (Visitor), Fiona Ross (SAC Neighbourhood Services), Sergeant Andrew Kelly and PC Russell Huttner (Police Scotland).

<i>Item</i>	<i>Minute</i>	<i>Action</i>
1	Sederunt: as above. Introductions made.	
2	Apologies: Dennis McLellan, Claire Dunn,	
3	Community Police Report for February in Ayr East – read out by Chair. Thefts – 6, Disorder – 4, Assault – 3, Vandalism – 2, Road Traffic Offences – 2, Fraud – 1, Other – 4. ('Other' relates to offences which may involve Domestic Incidents and Incidents within the schools which are of no significance to the wider community).	
4	Minutes of the previous meeting: Proposer - Ian Douglas Seconder - Colin Hall	
5	Any Matters Arising from previous minutes (not included in the agenda) Last meeting we had discussed the possibility that the Kincaidston Primary School might be a good place to supply a defibrillator to (on the outside of the building to be available 24/7) but Daniela pointed out that with the defib being nearby at the Bowling Club where the age range of the attenders is of an age more at risk of heart problems, and the age range at the school being less at risk, there would be no need to add one at the school.	
6	Visit from Sergeant Andrew Kelly and PC Russell Huttner. ID spoke to the officers about the cars parked in the disabled bays of the Belmont Academy car park by other groups visiting the school who do not have Blue Badges. Five members of the Community Council have Blue Badges but can't find a space when they come to the meeting. ID had spoken to the CEO of SAC and he will be communicating with any group that uses the car park on a Thursday night to ask if they can be aware of not parking in the disabled bays if not having a badge. Fiona Ross suggested it would be an idea to contact the School Lets department to ask them to remind groups booking the pitch at Belmont not to park in the Disabled bays without a badge. Fiona Ross explained that Jane Crossan is now Head of Ayrshire Roads Alliance, and she might be able to help with this problem if it falls to them, though there is confusion as to who is responsible for monitoring the car park. Fiona Ross thanked the officers for their use of police quad bikes which can get to places that cars cannot - including around Kincaidston, Castlehill Woods and along the beaches. Drinking alcohol in public spaces was banned in 1996 in Scotland. King Street Police Station is planned for demolition by the end of the year. Colin Hall commented that he didn't think that the new Police Station at Newton House is as visible to the public as the old station was, at King Street. Sergeant Kelly told us that the public footfall to the new station was greater than for the previous station despite there being little signage towards it.	ID Sergeant Kelly offered to speak to Jane Crossan at Ayrshire Roads Alliance about the problem of abuse of disabled parking bays at the school during evening activities. Secretary to contact the Lets department at SAC to ask if they could remind any users of the car park to not use

	<p>Fiona Ross mentioned that vandalism in our area is an issue. She gave the example of her spending £2k on planting new trees along the Annfield Burn path in Kincaidston only to see them destroyed, snapped in two by vandals. Fires are started by burning plastic bags full of waste. This has a detrimental impact on the natural environment. Police Officers took note of this.</p>	<p>disabled bays as other groups attending the school may require these spaces.</p>
7	<p>Visit from Fiona Ross – Service Lead for Neighbour Services at SAC</p> <p>Fiona talked about Neighbourhood Services which covers four areas: - Bereavement Services, Fleet, Waste Management and Grounds Maintenance. Fiona offered to discuss development ideas that we may have in the future concerning improvements to the area. The department do a lot of work and have put in wildflower meadows into some areas, work at Castlehill, looking at the Ward spend money to consider reinstating a play park at Castlehill. They are also creating a nature trail to replace the fairy trail because the fairy trail has led to things being nailed to trees which is certainly not good for the trees. Nails should never be hammered into trees.</p> <p>Graham mentioned that the wildflower meadows look quite bad when they are no longer in bloom and could they be planted along the riverbank instead of at the main road (Dalmellington Road). Fiona explained that there is not enough space to do this on the river side of the path and the ground is too waterlogged on the alternative side. The wildflower meadow spaces have been going for three years now and it is a learning curve, plus the plants should become stronger as time goes on.</p> <p>Cara asked if Grounds Maintenance could add an additional path of blaize down the old racecourse for walking on to take a short cut from Racecourse View to Doonfoot Road. Fiona replied that she thought the short grass was sufficient. Cara mentioned that the grass is often soaking wet.</p> <p>Ian Douglas expressed his opinion that the new charge of £50, per year, for a brown bin was excessive when our neighbouring Local Authority is charging £30. SAC face a £28m deficit in two years' time and are trying to find money where they can. Fiona said that people can take their garden waste up to the recycling centre for free if they have the transport to do that. It is a fact that no-one is going to be charged unless they wish to have a brown bin emptied by SAC. South Ayrshire Council are under no legal obligation to provide garden waste services for free.</p> <p>Graham mentioned the problem of dog fouling and that a dog waste bin has been removed from Glendale Crescent but has not been replaced by an ordinary bin. Fiona mentioned that there are many bins in the area but mostly they are on the trail used by students of Belmont Academy and perhaps an extra bin would be useful in Glendale Crescent.</p> <p>Littering by school children at lunchtimes is a problem and we thank all schoolchildren who do use the bins.</p> <p>Fiona offered to help us with small-scale planting projects.</p> <p>Cara mentioned the wooded area behind The Mount (accessed via a steep path off Anderson Crescent) which was being used as a drinking hangout by youths who had left behind a load of broken glass which was picked up by two residents on Anderson Crescent who did not want their dogs to get hurt. The</p>	<p>Fiona Ross to investigate the provision of bin/s which could be used by dog owners for dog waste around the Glendale Crescent area of Belmont South since the specific dog waste bin is being removed.</p>

	<p>Police Officers took note of this. There is also a lot of dumped, heavy waste such as an old shed and some building materials and roofing tiles which will need to be picked up on a vehicle of some kind.</p> <p>Fiona announced that over the next ‘wee while’ we will be seeing a change in our community in terms of trees. We have a condition called ‘Ash Dieback’ which will make a change. The wooded area that goes from Dalmellington Road along the back of the houses on Burnbank Road and follows the Annfield Burn is predominantly Ash. Fiona has got funding to almost clear fell that area of Ash trees which will give her an opportunity to plant new trees, but it will look quite awful to begin with. The sad thing is that it is one of the best places for birdsong and wildflowers, with blackthorn bushes which are great for Whitethroat etc. Sadly, due to health and safety issues the Ash trees are going to have to come down.</p> <p>Cara mentioned the litter that has been exposed by the bare trees during the winter, along the burn, but has not been picked up while it can be seen easily before the foliage comes back in summer. There is an old shed and a shopping trolley as well as general litter everywhere.</p>	
8	<p>Secretary’s business and Correspondence received (Cara Bennington): - Secretary mentioned that by-elections have been taking place and the deadline for applications for this coming year ended on February 16th, 2024. We have lost two members this year due to ill health as Don Osborne resigned during the year and Linda Pirrie has not sent in her resignation due to health reasons also. However, we are pleased to see that we have a new member to welcome at our meeting in April, Daniela Van Niekerk, a resident of Kincaidston.</p> <p>Ian Gray had replied to the BKCC, via the secretary, about questions around when herbicide spraying takes place on nearby parks and sports pitches. He said that the spraying of specific broadleaved persistent weeds takes place during the month of June but due to weather conditions and other factors it would be impossible to give notice of exactly when this was to take place. It is done early in the morning around 5am. Only approved herbicides are used at the approved concentration.</p> <p>The BKCC have been offered a framed portrait of our new monarch, King Charles and the secretary has taken up the offer despite the BKCC not having anywhere of their own to hang the picture. Donald Mclean suggested that the Kincaidston Bowling Club could hang the portrait in their clubhouse. This was thought to be a good idea. The portrait has yet to be delivered to the house of the secretary. She will notify the BKCC when it has arrived.</p> <p>An Intergenerational event is taking place in Belmont Academy on March 20th, 2024, from 1030 – 1430 with lunch provided. Older 50’s volunteers are asked to attend and interact with pupils of the school who are volunteering as part of their Saltire Award work in various activities including walking football in the gym, games from the past, technology, and generational discussion at tables on suggested topics. This event is being organised by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire.</p> <p>‘Undersky’ are a company who organise nature walks, litter picks and fun day events for various organisations looking to provide events for the community.</p>	Secretary to notify the BKCC members when the framed portrait arrives at her house.

	<p>Fiona Ross mentioned that the South Ayrshire Rangers who also do nature walks, bug hunts, tree planting and litter picks which is all free.</p> <p>Funding is available from what is called the Participatory Budget of Ayr South Locality of the South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. Up to £3000 is available for small community projects limited only by our imagination and which will bring some benefit to our community. So long as we can prove that the project will be of benefit to some section of our community then the funding application will be considered by SAHSCP.</p> <p>Funding is also available from SP Energy Networks who can provide funding for ideas which work towards a Net Zero target. This funding is only for community organisations with charitable status. Examples of projects are: - solar panels, heat pumps, anything that reduces energy consumption. Questions can be directed to netzerofund-T2@spenergynetworks.co.uk</p>	
9	<p>Treasurer's Report (Ian Douglas): - Administration fund contains £863.82, Defibrillator fund contains £1687.28 giving a total in the BKCC bank account of £2551.10. The online business bank account system where Treasurer initiates a payment and one of two others (Colin Hall and Cara Bennington) authorise the payment is now working perfectly. Money has been spent since the last meeting on £30 data sim charge for the laptop in January and February, a diary for a member £6, stamps £12.50.</p>	Treasurer to set up new payments for this month and authorisers to authorise them.
10	<p>Planning and Licensing – Colin Hall: - Amej roadworks/resurfacing of the A77 between the Bankfield and Holmston roundabouts commences Monday 11th March until Sunday 24th March. Work will be carried out using a combination of overnight closures from 8pm until 6am and daytime temporary traffic lights. Note, all schemes are weather dependent and may be cancelled or rescheduled if weather conditions are not favourable.</p>	
11	<p>AOCB: - Donald Mclean mentioned that the noticeboard at Kincaidston, which belongs to South Ayrshire Council, has fallen onto the ground after severe rain and flooding of the ground it is on. Donald mentioned the opportunity to take the posts off the noticeboard and hang the noticeboard on a wall. There is an argument to say that no-one looks at the noticeboard in its current position which is a small distance from the shop. It was discussed that a better position for a new noticeboard could be found. One suggestion was at the top of the drive down to the Kincaidston Bowling Club. Ian Douglas mentioned that SAC are investigating the possibility of self-financing electronic noticeboards which would carry adverts.</p> <p>The Place Planning sub-group will go ahead with a meeting of Graham, Ian, and Cara very soon to move the Place Planning survey further on. Daniela agreed to join the sub-group, in April, to represent Kincaidston. Donald offered the BKCC the use of the Bowling Club for meetings of the sub-group. The Chair asked our new member, Daniela Van Niekerk, if she could tell us a bit about herself. She and her family have emigrated to the UK from South Africa and Daniela volunteers at the Kincaidston Community Centre.</p>	<p>SAC – to come back with results on investigation into electronic noticeboards.</p> <p>Secretary to organise a meeting of the Place Planning Survey sub-group as soon as possible.</p>
12	<p>Belmont & Kincaidston Community Council Annual General Meeting will take place on <u>April 18th, 2024</u>, from 1900 to 1930 and Tracy Whiteford has offered to Chair the meeting.</p>	

Next meeting of the BKCC is the AGM on April 18, 2024, at 1915hrs.