



Girvan and District Community Council Minutes
Tuesday the 02nd of July 2024, 06.30 pm, Carrick
Buildings, Girvan.



(The meeting started at 18:34)

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

In Attendance: Heather McCafferty and Blake Stublely; Lucy O'Donnell (Girvan Youth Trust); Cllr Clark, Fiona Ross (South Ayrshire Council); David Bone - secretariat.

Apologies: Ken Johnstone, Cllr Lamont, Stephen Galloway, PC Paul McKinlay and PC Andrew Thorpe (Police Scotland).

Welcome from the Chair

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all those present to speak through the Chair and not to talk over each other.

Declarations

Of Interest:

None.

[Cllr Clark and Fiona Ross entered the meeting at 18:52]

Fiona Ross, Service Lead, Neighbourhood Services South Ayrshire Council - Knockcushan Street Gardens

Fiona said that the Aviary will be given a facelift, and the contract for this has already been awarded. A pre-start meeting is due to take place soon.

However, she added that the Knockcushan Garden is a cherished part of Girvan but is perhaps in need of an upgrade. She mentioned that the garden area is divided into two and is not symmetrical, with a tree, a number of memorial benches, and a mix of slabs and grass. She added that she is looking to upgrade this area and is looking for tacit approval for this and that the work can be completed in phases, starting from the hedge to the back of the garden.

Catherine expressed concern that the usable lawn area might be taken away. Fiona responded that it was a small, tight garden and that the grass was too small to be used for activities such as picnicking. Catherine emphasised that the teams doing the Aviary and garden need to cooperate on any renovations. Fiona replied that the upgrades to the Aviary would be completed first, before the garden.

She said that if the community council agreed, the garden would close at around about October 2024 for the work to be completed.

John Mc asked if the memorial tree for John Davidson and the Provost's lamppost would be incorporated into the design. Fiona confirmed that it will.

David G mentioned that there might be a time capsule buried in the garden as well.

Related to this Fiona asked for views on whether to consolidate the memorial plaques from all the benches. Councillor Clark said that space for memorial benches is becoming restrictive, throughout South Ayrshire.

John Mc said that Fiona would need to get in touch with the original families who dedicated the benches to get their permission first. Related to this Fiona said that Neighbourhood Services is working on a memorial policy, similar to Ayr Cemetery which has six plaques on one bench.

Catherine asked if there could be a plaque wall and suggested involving adjacent groups in the design of the Garden. Fiona replied that designs are usually brought to a committee rather than being created by one.

Jane asked for the names of the plants that would be in the garden. Fiona said that she would get these to Jane.

The community council gave tacit approval for the renovation of the garden.

Other issues for Fiona:

David G asked about wildflowers throughout the Town, particularly the ones at Victory Park. Fiona mentioned that last year's dry spell killed many plants and that 'thug' plants had taken over. John Y said that rapeseed has taken over the wildflower patches along the shorefront. Fiona said she would speak to the Ranger Service about this and noted that the patches at Victory Park will need to be cut back to grass.

David G mentioned the condition and closure of the area above the Harbour Stores. Councillor Clark said they have been surveyed, and the entire area will need to be repaired at some point. Structural engineers suggested that the area be closed off in the meantime until they have evaluated the stores to see if they are able to support weight.

Jane said that part of the dune had been taken over with Mare's tail. John Y asked if it was possible to put a boardwalk over this area. Fiona noted that sand dunes are constantly shifting and this may not be suitable. David G said that some beach matting could be used to do this.

Police report

Sent via email. Rhona asked for any questions regarding the report to be forwarded to her.

[Police Report](#)

Minutes of the June 2024 Meeting

Proposed for accuracy by Catherine and seconded by Wilma.

Karen asked for an amendment to the minutes.

Matters Arising

Colin mentioned that repairs to the Playpark were taking too long and that it was expected to be opened well before the start of the school holidays. He noted that staff appeared to be only working 3-4 hour days on site.

Regarding other projects in Girvan, John Y agreed it was no longer acceptable to tolerate the number of delays and issues and criticised some of the finishing work as shoddy. Rhona mentioned that the 3G pitch was meant to be finished by February 2024 and pointed out that there doesn't seem to be any penalties for these constant overruns, Cllr Clark said that there's no penalty clause for job overruns in contracts. She also highlighted issues with the audit process at South Ayrshire Council (SAC). Additionally, John Y noted that the filter sand for The Quay Zone is creating a mess and possibly causing blockages of sewage outflows at the Harbour. Sconaid stated that this was ordered for work that was contracted for before the damage to the building and SCCL have repeatedly asked the contractor to remove the sand. John Y commented that contractors might be taking advantage of the lack of penalty clauses and that SAC often 'marks their own homework' with regard to their own projects.

Catherine emphasised SAC should have Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with outside contractors and urged clarification on these agreements. She mentioned that councillors often find themselves caught between SAC offices and community councils.

Karen stressed the importance of SAC having project managers to oversee these issues. She speculated there might be penalty clauses but doubted they were enforced consistently.

John Mc noted that SAC is sometimes unaware of these occurring issues. Rhona said that the Bingo Hall demolition, and 3G Pitch all had similar issues and inquired about the overall SAC officer in charge.

Fiona stated that it is not common practice for local authorities to include penalty clauses within contracts. She added that Girvan is not the only place experiencing delays and said she would forward this to SAC procurement.

Regarding Victory Park, Fiona said that the park has just been reviewed by an external assessor and she has been informed that the fencing will be taken down tomorrow.

Catherine asked if it would be possible for a designated person from the community council to be part of any capital project in Girvan to keep everyone updated. Fiona replied that SAC projects are run by Professional Design Services and it might be worth talking to them first and she would speak to Pauline to see if she could do this. Rhona agreed that would be very helpful. Fiona also mentioned she is happy to facilitate this for Neighborhood Services

John Y said a lot of these issues were just down to a lack of communication.

John Mc asked if SAC officers report to the SAC cabinet. Fiona said that they do not. She added that ward members and portfolio holders are kept up to date and it is assumed that they would keep community councillors up to date.

John Y asked Fiona Ross about the collection of recycling bins along the shorefront that he mentioned at previous meetings and was informed that they cannot be placed down the shore as the majority of the public does not use them. Fiona replied that SAC is investing in new solar compacting bins that may remedy this. Additionally, she mentioned that there are now two Waste Aware Officers in post at SAC. John Y reiterated the importance of communication.

Related to this, David G asked about the schedule for emptying bins in parks. Fiona replied that Parks and Housing are two separate staff teams. Fiona added that efforts are being made to harmonise this.

Public Participation

Heather McCafferty inquired about the music on the Promenade and said that due to the trench that Scottish Power had dug and the consequent lack of seating, several people had to leave on Sunday.

Cllr Clark mentioned that Scottish Power had agreed to undertake this work two years ago and it was unfortunate that it occurred this week. He added that the trench on the Promenade will be backfilled by the end of the current week, but this will be hugely beneficial in the long term. He noted that the seats on the Promenade are now back in place.

Heather expressed that GYT had not been informed about any of this. Fiona explained that because there are various organisations in Girvan, communication with all groups can be challenging and that usually this sort of information would be handed to the community council. Rhona added that the Girvan Community Council was not informed about this either.

Blake Stublely said that he is the Chair of GoGirvan. He said that signage that has been bought to promote Girvan and South Ayrshire within the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (GASAB) has not been put up yet. Catherine noted that GASAB leaflets do not specifically mention Girvan and there is little reciprocity in the relationship with the GASAB. She said that she had contacted the Biosphere and left a message regarding this issue. Cllr Clark explained it started in Dumfries and Galloway but Ayrshire councillors have been advocating for it over the last few years, emphasising it's an ongoing process.

John Mc mentioned the Snorkel Trail discussed previously and suggested there should be a sign for this as well.

John Y reiterated that there is an abundance of natural attractions in the area that are not advertised.

Before she left, Fiona said that she would look into the following issues:

Look into Penalties for the overrun of projects.

Speak to Pauline about appointing a community council member as link officer for projects in Girvan

What date the play park was signed-off

Look into the location of the time capsule at Knockcushan Street Gardens.

Get more information on the rationalisation of memorial benches.

[Fiona Ross and Heather left the meeting at 20:20]

Girvan Youth Trust (GYT)

Lucy asked if the work on the boating pond would be completed quickly. Cllr Clark mentioned that it will be.

Lucy asked that the work won't happen during the summer, Alec confirmed it wouldn't be

Lucy also said Friday night football won an award at Youth Link Football.

[Lucy left the meeting at 20:23]

Matters arising from any group meeting at the moment:

The lectern at the bandstand was damaged by a SAC bin lorry but there is video footage and the lectern should be repaired.

[Blue Biosphere Launch - Report.pdf](#)

[Girvan & South Carrick LPP - Report.pdf](#)

[Girvan Town Team - Report.pdf](#)

[The Ayrshire Link - Report.pdf](#)

Action Point Log

Housing in Girvan - Rhona mentioned that SAC has launched a survey that closes on July 7, 2024. Cllr Clark noted that Chris Carroll is responsible for rural housing. He added that rural housing should be mentioned in the next housing strategy, which will also involve engaging with smaller house builders.

The new facility at Hillcrest - Cllr Clark stated that the land is owned by SAC but must be developed as housing with a care element and is ongoing

The resurfacing of Louise Drive is scheduled for November 2024. It will be made one-way and the road may be remodelled to be wider.

Derelict boat at the Harbour - John Y mentioned there has been no Harbour Users Group meeting for four months. Cllr Clark said that there was one last month but neither of the representatives from the community council had received an email to say there was a meeting. Jane stated the boat is owned by Nobles and is awaiting dismantling. John Mc suggested writing to the Harbour Master and Cllr Clark suggested copying in Kevin Braidwood. They should also contact Yvonne Kerr of the ARA to verify her email distribution list.

Matters arising from:

Treasurers' Report

Report sent to members before the meeting

[Treasurers Report](#)

David G said that only one group was unsuccessful with its small grant fund application.

[Small grant fund report](#)

Planning applications

Report sent to members before the meeting.

[To read planning report](#)

Licensing applications

None.

Correspondence

Scottish Water.

GYT Prime Award Award.

Rural Housing.

SAC call for assistance for another Community Council.

Update from local councillors

Cllr Clark

Noted that it was a General Election this Thursday.

There was a discussion about people not receiving their letters in time to apply for postal votes. Rhona asked who sends out the polling letters. Cllr Clark replied that it is local authorities but noted that this is a UK-wide issue.

A.O.C.B.

Rhona said that there are a number of leaflets from the Sensory Team for anyone who is interested.

John Mc asked about the status of the deer fence at Byne Hill from last month's meeting as the height of the fence was in question as to whether it would be high enough, Rhona was also concerned that if it wasn't high enough, with the fact that the decorative spikes point straight upwards, a deer could impale itself on the fence. Cllr Clark said he would provide an update on this at the next meeting.

Regarding the A77, it was noted that there were more roadworks along Old Street. It was unanimously agreed to write to local MSPs regarding this issue.

All Girvan Schools received very positive inspection reports from the government.

Twenty-one community groups received VASA awards.

Hillcrest received a TOPA (The Outstanding People Award) Award.

Christmas string lights were previously bought for Dalrymple Street and are in storage. CC suggested the possibility of putting the lights in the trees at Knockcushan Street.

A small feedback form to be completed by the recipients of the small grants fund was agreed upon.

The next Assel Valley meeting is scheduled for 17/07/24.

The next Carrick Futures meeting is scheduled for 10/07/24.

Discussion over the noticeboards in Girvan. It was noted that the one at McKechnie needs approval before posters can be placed in it. Cllr Clark will follow up on this.

Noted that there may be nesting swifts at the McKechnie Institute. Cllr Clark said they should not be impacted by any building work as it is internal. Related to the McKechnie Institute, disabled access for individuals on their own was discussed. Cllr Clark said he would find out more about this for the next meeting.

Catherine asked about disabled parking and access to the rear of the new library. Cllr Clark said he would look into it

It was noted that disabled parking in Girvan is insufficient, partly due to misuse by some people.

It was noted that the parking bays at the Chalmers Arcade Car Park needs to be relined.

(The meeting ended at 21:00)

Next meeting - Tuesday the 03rd of September 2024 at 06:30 pm