

**PRESTWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES MEETING TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2024  
19.15hrs 65 CLUB, PRESTWICK**

The meeting commenced at 19.23hrs.

**SEDERUNT:**

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

Meic Evans (Chair):

Shirley Harris:

Jim McLay:

Margaret Milligan (Secretary):

John O'Donnell:

John Park:

Thompson Piper:

Jim Riach:

Jim Ronney:

Alison Smith:

Norrie Smith (Vice-Chair):

Mike Tomlinson:

June Whittaker (Treasurer):

Patricia Young:

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SAC):**

Cllr. Hugh Hunter:

Cllr. Cameron Ramsay:

Craig Ross, Depute Head Prestwick Academy: Elaine Campbell Acting Depute Head:

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

A Gregory: S Murray: S. Brierly:

**APOLOGIES:**

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SAC):** Jill Tomlinson (Liaison Officer):

**EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS:**

Laura Cowan, Commodore, Prestwick Sailing Club:

**1. Welcome:**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all. He confirmed he had received notification of the death of former Community Councillor Pat Robertson. Condolences were offered to the family.

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

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

**3. Police Report:**

Report circulated to all and formally noted. In response to a query about parking, SAC Cllr. Hunter confirmed this was the responsibility of Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA).

**4. Hearing/Open Forum:**

An in depth and lengthy conversation took place regarding the number of pubs and restaurants located in the Main Street causing disturbances and noise at the

weekends as a result of the late licensing hours currently in place. Members of the public present expressed concern at licences for new hostelrys being granted, despite the fact the Main Street is a mixture of residential and business premises. The Chair outlined how the planning process works, explaining there is no limit on new pubs and eateries as this is classed as an acceptable town centre use. Prestwick Town Centre is assessed as successful, strengthened by the hospitality sector.

Members of public felt that the Main Street was turning into a party street, and confirmed revellers were using lane adjacent to their properties as a public toilet. No consideration is given to residents, and town becoming less family orientated.

Although the restoration of The Broadway is a welcome addition to Prestwick, the influx of pubs is not, and causing anti-social behaviour especially at weekends. It was suggested that perhaps a Licensing Officer from SAC could attend a future meeting of PCC, and that Police monitor the Main Street at weekends, especially during extended licensing hours.

The Chair outlined the possibility of a Local Place Plan in the future, advising that this was a vehicle for the public to make suggestions on what they would like for Prestwick, although this would be long term.

The Chair asked that A Gregory and S Murrey submit a written report of the concerns/comments which were raised by them, to be sent to PCC Secretary to enable PCC to look further into the overall picture. Also agreed the Chair investigate the proforma used by South Ayrshire Licensing Board for the registration of objections. Part 2 does not provide the opportunity for objectors to list wider concerns.

The Heritage Trail in Prestwick was commended by members of public present; however, it was noted the website not up to date, therefore unable to get information. Craig Ross confirmed pupils from the Academy were currently assisting with updating the website.

## **5. Schools report:**

Craig Ross confirmed the schools report had been sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

He introduced Elaine Campbell, who as acting Depute Head Teacher, will be attending meetings for the foreseeable future due to a restructuring of remits within the Senior Leaderships Team. This is on a temporary basis, and Elaine to be formally invited to future meetings.

1. Prestwick Academy performed very well in the recent SAQ exams, performing particularly well in the 5 qualifications at N5 measure (54 pupils), and the 5 qualifications at Higher measure (55 pupils).
2. Prestwick Academy Senior Prize Giving is On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 6.30pm. An invite was sent to the Secretary of PCC for a representative to attend on the evening, where there will be a reception from 6.00pm. The Secretary confirmed to the meeting she had not received the invitation, and it was then agreed that C/Cllr Jim Ronney would attend as the representative from PCC.
3. The school is working with the Thriving Communities Team (using the school ambassadors), to make improvements in the local community, (e.g. litter picking, fixing things, tidying areas up, removing graffiti etc).The purpose is to raise the positive profile of young people within the local community.
4. The school now has a celebrating success email address, where parents/carers and members of the local community can contact the school and celebrate the success of our young people. The email address is: [celebrateprestwick@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:celebrateprestwick@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)  
The Secretary to send the email address to PCC members.

5. At the start of the summer holidays the academy had a group of 4 young people visit the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, representing young people from South Ayrshire. They were able to see the facilities as well as get to watch some of the most successful players in the sport.

#### **6. Minutes meeting 25<sup>th</sup> May June 2024:**

There being no amendments, the minutes were agreed as an accurate record, proposed by C/Cllr. John O'Donnell and seconded by C/Cllr. Jim Ronney.

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

**Communities Coastal Funding projects:** The Chair confirmed he had received no response to PCC suggestions re: work for coastal defence. SAC Cllr Hunter expressed surprise and asked Chair to send copy of email to allow him to investigate.

**Remembrance Service:** Sub-committee had met, with Chair circulating updates to PCC.

**Dog fouling:** Treasurer confirmed problems with the stencilling on the pavements is ongoing, to which SAC Cllr. Ramsay stated this is being followed up, however problems due to a shortage of staff, and how many locations there are. He agreed to send a copy of the list of locations visited and those to be visited which was sent to PCC to SAC Cllr Hunter. After discussing how the situation could be resolved, the Community Council agreed that they would continue to pursue, via SAC Committees, that members of PCC would carry out the stencilling, and SAC Cllr. Ramsay was asked to establish the possibility of whether PCC members would be allowed to do this and if SAC could provide the materials.

**The Beach:** The Secretary confirmed she had written to Mike Newall regarding the lack of response to emails, to which he had responded saying that he will ensure this is rectified. C/Cllr Mike Tomlinson advised responsibility for beach matters had been transferred and he was unsure what was happening now due to lack of communication. The Chair asked if there was anything in writing from SAC regarding a beach strategy and was advised by C/Cllr Tomlinson there had been. Community Council agreed that C/Cllr Tomlinson establish via Mike Newall whether or not this Strategy was still SAC policy, and if this was the case, to obtain and circulate copies. This will allow PCC members to review whether or not it was being implemented. Whatever the outcome, a clearly set out strategy agreed by all relevant parties is essential to remove any ambiguity.

**Defibrillators:** The Chair had circulated numerous emails and notes of fact-finding meetings, and stated he was happy for Colin McCormick, St John Scotland to carry out a comprehensive maintenance assessment of those originally supplied by John Wallace and report back to us. PCC now need to decide if they wish to take this project forward. The Secretary confirmed she had written to Monkton Community Council for advice on how they managed their defibrillator, but to date has received no response.

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

**Cameron Ramsay:** SAC budget meeting to be held in September. Heathfield Primary School Gate been supplied.

#### **Hugh Hunter:**

Carers day 21/10/24.

Ageing Well Strategy launch 10/0/24 at Gaiety Theatre Ayr at 6pm. Cllr. Hunter now on Ageing Well Champions Board.

South Ayrshire Alcohol & Drug Partnership hosting their Connecting Recovery event on 30/8/24, encompassing 3 events across the day. Compass Launch which is about new drop-in one stop shop: Annual Flower Walk and flower release, a very moving occasion: @48 launch event – Recovery Ayr launching new venue for recovery hub at 48 Newmarket Street, Ayr.

**9. Representative from SAC re: Common Good Fund:** The Chair to invite the appropriate member of staff from SAC to the September meeting to discuss the Common Good Fund generally, and in particular the detailed report submitted to SAC by officers in early 2024, and circulated to PCC members at the beginning of the year.

**10.Co-option Process:** The Secretary confirmed there were currently 4 vacancies on PCC, and outlined the process for recruitment. It was unanimously agreed the Secretary should go ahead with advertising the vacancies.

**11. Treasurer's report:**

Treasurer confirmed that after expenses for Remembrance Service, fees for hire of the 65 Club till the end of financial year, outstanding cheques and other expenses still to be paid, there would be approximately £52.00 remaining. Additional funding urgently required as PCC only gets a grant of £800.00 from SAC per financial year, and this is no longer adequate. Conversation took place on fund raising together with possible sources of additional funding, and C/Cllr John O'Donnell confirmed he had researched funding for Remembrance Service with Destination South Ayrshire; Communities Benefits Fund is another source which allow bids for 3 projects. It was noted that the Prestwick Business Association (PBA) which has not yet been wound up had monies in their account for projects. C/Cllr Alison Smith to research constitution of a business that has wound up to establish what happens with their monies. It was agreed that PCC would write to secretary of PBA to establish if they will release some funds to PCC. The Treasurer and C/Cllr O'Donnell to put together a bid. Overall outcome is that PCC need to prepare a financial strategy.

**12. Planning Report:**

Lock-ups at Sandfield Road - erection of a dwelling house. SAC Review Body site visit on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 .PCC members can attend, however will be unable to have a say in anything. It was noted that the number of short-term lets in Prestwick had increased.

**13. Licensing Report:**

It was confirmed the variation of licence for the Taj had been granted.

**14. Town Twinning:**

At the end of July, 17 members of Prestwick Town Twinning attended 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Lichtenfels, who are keen to further develop other Links with Prestwick Town Twinning, such as Schools, businesses etc. Lichtenfels about the same size of Prestwick, and further development between the two, would be positive.

**15. Correspondence/concerns received:**

Email sent to members regarding Prestwick and Villages Locality Planning Participatory Budget event at Prestwick Academy on 5<sup>th</sup> September from 5.30-8.00pm. The Secretary suggested that at the next PB event PCC should consider making a bid for funding for the Remembrance Service.

The Secretary confirmed she had received a complaint from a resident in Briarhill Road about noise and disturbance generated by a wrestling event that had taken place in the car park of the Community Centre in August. Resident had complained to SAC, who confirmed to resident this was the responsibility of the Community Centre. The Secretary had written to them requesting clarification, but had received no response. It was then noted that the event was part of Prestfest, and was originally scheduled to be held at the old Indoor Bowling Club, but was switched to the Community Centre. Accordingly, PCC would take no action.

**16. A.O.C.B:**

The Secretary confirmed the resignation of C/Cllr. Heather Thomson due to an increased workload in her business in addition to caring for a young family, but hoped to return in the future.

The Vice -Chair outlined a proposal for a Lido to be located at the Old Swimming Pool, sharing slides of how this would look. Prestwick about to receive £2million funding from the Scottish Government, and this could be matched for the project with the Lido to be run on renewable energy. The Vice-Chair has already held discussions with engineers and architects regarding the project, and a feasibility study is required amongst other criteria. This will be an enormous project costing a great deal of money. The Community Council agreed without division to support the principle of the Vice-Chair's proposal and look forward to further reports and details in due course.

C/Cllr Jim Ronney offered his sincere thanks to the sub-committee for the best dressed window display, acknowledging all their hard work leading up to the event, which was much appreciated. The Chair also expressed his appreciation on behalf of all members re: the efforts of C/Cllr Jim Ronney and his team. This was a particularly important example of the contribution that can be made to raising the profile of the Community Council to the wider community. Agreed with C/Cllr Ronney that the competition winners will be presented with a commemorative plaque.

**17. Date of next meeting:**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024, at 7.15pm in the 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 21.15hrs.