

Proposed Steve O'Brien  
Seconded Gordon G Ferrie

**CROSSHILL, STRAITON & KIRKMICHAEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
Secretary: John Haston, 71 Patna Road, Kirkmichael, Ayrshire KA19 7PJ  
Tel: 01655 750447 email: john\_haston@hotmail.com

**Minutes of meeting held in Crosshill Community Association on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

1. **In Attendance:** Patrick Lorimer (chair), Emily Pike (vice chair), John Haston (secretary), Gordon Ferrie (treasurer), Steve O'Brien, David Stokes, Steven Dunlop, Marnie Watson, Councillor Brian Connolly, Ryan Douglas (SAC Link Officer)

Pat Lorimer chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. **Apologies:** Margo O'Brien, Martin Dunlop, the police.

3. **Register of Interests:**

No changes to the register of interests declared at present, and no conflict of interest noted.

4. **Police matters:**

The police were not present, but a report had been received by email.

For the period 24 Sep to 29 Oct 2024 there were 42 incidents raised. These include 7 road safety incidents, 1 dishonesty, no drug dealing and drug misuse, and no violent crimes.

There were also 29 incidents related to planned shoot notifications. Two crime reports were raised: 1 fraud and 1 road traffic offence. This report was felt to have insufficient detail.

No details were known of an accident reported last night between Kirkmichael and Maybole.

The killer crossroads has had some improvements made, but it seems unfinished. Vehicle activation sign is not switched on yet, and Give Way signs have not been changed to Stop signs. Nothing has been done on the approach road from Dalrymple, but it was reported that the hedges are overgrown here preventing adequate visibility.

5. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September were accepted, proposed by Marnie Watson and seconded by Steve O'Brien.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

Christmas lights funding: Brian reported that SAC has just agreed to fund fitting of new lights at Kirkmichael this year. Emily said Crosshill had obtained a quote for £1200 for putting up and taking down their existing lights again this year.

Kirkmichael football field drainage is going to be looked at again.

7. **Village concerns**

**Straiton:** Gordon thanked the CC for letter of support for community buy out of the Buck cafe. This would be forwarded to the Scottish Land Fund and NCCBC.

An email was received from Simon Drugan, the brother of Rob Drugan who owned Lamdoughty Glen and Lady Hunter Blair walk, who tragically died in an accident in July. He is keen to do what is required regarding the felled trees. Simon is contacting SAC to assist.

It was reported that SAC plans to mothball schools with low pupil numbers, which could affect Straiton and Minishant primary schools. The CC is to write a letter of concern to SAC.

Bruce's Web sculpture at the play park could be a safety hazard, as the crossed axes are at a child's head height. A safety barrier is needed until the sculpture can be raised on a plinth. Feedback on the sculpture is mixed. Crosshill have a coo, which seems quite popular.

Kirkmichael has a spider, and Minishant have a horse.

Community Payback team have strimmed Fowlers Croft.

A petanque pitch was suggested for Straiton, and this is being costed and funding looked at.

The pitch is approx 15 by 10 metres, with a graded gravel base. Other petanque pitches are in Ayr and Troon.

SAC have cut back roadside hedges between Kirkmichael and Straiton. The new sign keeps getting hit by passing vehicles. Another hazard is people wearing dark clothes and earplugs, walking dogs in the dark along road verges.

**Crosshill:** Christmas lights – see above discussion. Bruce Co sculpture, also discussed above. Hedges are needing cut along Dalhowan Street. A resident has complained that the bus shelter at the top of Kirkmichael Road/ Carrick Drive has overhanging branches, making it very dark. The fallen down fence at the church is still not repaired, presumably ownership is unknown. A second waste bin has appeared at the park, in front of the other bin. The old bin can't be emptied as it has no liner in the basket and it is fixed to the ground. The grit bin is getting filled with litter, and only emptied by caring residents. The junction at Bruce Square and Milton Street is full of pot holes, with a steel plate over one large hole. Vega Homes are thought to be responsible. The car park has been resurfaced, but with poor quality muddy grit, which has become very muddy. Thanks to SAC for fixing the war memorial base before remembrance Sunday, but the concrete is very poor quality. Parking is a problem on Carrick Drive, with not enough spaces. Parking spaces are wanted on the other side of the road from the houses, which is grass at present. Kirkmichael Road is still wanted to be resurfaced. The pavement between Kirkbride Crescent and Dalhowan Street is also not done yet. There has been flooding at the play park by the bins.

**Kirkmichael:** Marnie has taken photos of problems at the park: an old litter bin overflowing and not being emptied, the bench which is very rotten, etc. These will be forwarded to SAC. A resident of Straiton Road complained about speeding traffic, including farm vehicles. This is a hazard to elderly residents crossing the road. The bonfire and fireworks will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, at 7:30 pm. The Kirkmichael Gala will be held at the end of May, possibly the 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **8. Treasurer's report**

Gordon Ferrie presented a monthly report, which showed very little activity. No bank statement was received as there were no transactions this month.

Outgoings: cheque for £40 issued for McCosh Hall and McCandlish Hall rent. Cheques were written for each village events, £50 to each village. Crosshill asked about a contribution to the Community Association, which had been discussed last year. Jamie Tait of SAC has allowed the Community Association to open and close the hall for events if the caretaker's hours are used up.

#### **9. North Carrick Community Benefit Co. (NCCBC)**

Pat Lorimer said the £10K to each village would be available once last year's £6K accounts were complete. Crosshill is still getting receipts in from last year, but should be done soon. These are due by 1<sup>st</sup> November. Straiton has completed their £6K from last year, and has a meeting in place to discuss next year's £10K. The AGM is at the end of November. More applications are coming in. The charity shop is up and running, and the flat above the shop nearing completion. An apology has been issued for a breach of data protection, when an email was sent to all members without the email addresses being blind copied (bcc).

#### **10. Wind farms**

No news since last meeting.

#### **11. Correspondence**

All email correspondence to the secretary were forwarded to the rest of the council, so these are not repeated here. One message was received about a large bio gas plant to be built beside the road at Attiquin Farm, between Kirkmichael and Maybole. This has not yet been submitted for planning application, but it could be useful to invite the owners to a CC meeting to discuss this.

## **12. Planning applications**

Steve O'Brien gave a planning report, with two new planning applications:

- **24/00698** Temporary Met Mast, Carrick Wind Farm. Request for 2 year extension.
- **24/00691** Balgreggan Farm, Straiton. New dwelling house, garage and paddock for farm manager

No objections were made to the above.

Three decisions had been made, all approved:

- **24/00453** Aitkenhead Mill, Kirkmichael. New house and garage.
- **24/00571** Drumore Farm, Kirkmichael. New slurry store.
- **24/00586** Balbeg House, Straiton. New agricultural shed.

## **13. Social media**

Margo had emailed an update in advance of the meeting.

Facebook and Twitter are both steady, with no new followers on Facebook and 26 on X (formerly Twitter). Several recent posts have been taken down by both platforms.

## **14. Any other competent business**

- Galloway National Park – Nature Scot are asking community councils if they want to be involved.
- Place-making survey is not being completed very quickly. A deadline could help. Pat will ask Audrey Gatt for a meeting.
- The survey form appears to come from the community council.

## **15. Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024, at 7:30 pm in the McCosh Hall, Kirkmichael.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.