

Proposed Jim O'Brien
Seconded Gordon A Ferrie

CROSSHILL, STRAITON & KIRKMICHAEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Secretary: John Haston, 71 Patna Road, Kirkmichael, Ayrshire KA19 7PJ
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Minutes of meeting held in McCosh Hall, Kirkmichael on 26th November 2024

- 1. In Attendance:** Patrick Lorimer (chair), Emily Pike (vice chair), John Haston (secretary), Gordon Ferrie (treasurer), Margo O'Brien, Steve O'Brien, Marnie Watson, Councillor Brian Connolly

Pat Lorimer chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

- 2. Apologies:** Martin Dunlop, David Stokes, Steven Dunlop, Ryan Douglas (SAC Link Officer), the police.

- 3. Register of Interests:**

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

- 4. Police matters:**

The police were not present, and a report had not been received. Sgt. Melanie Fraser had responded by email to say they could not attend a CC meeting on a Tuesday due to shift patterns, but may be able to attend on Wed/ Thur/ Fri. An email survey of the CC showed that none of these days would suit many, so we plan to stick with Tuesdays for present. Brian Connolly had attended a meeting with the Chief Inspector Stuart Dougan.

Post meeting note: a police report was received the following day. This contained 57 reported incidents, including 3 road safety incidents and 36 incidents related to planned shoots. Officers carried out speed checks in the villages and 3 people were issued with speeding tickets. One person was also charged with numerous traffic offences.

- 5. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the meeting on 29th October were accepted, proposed by Gordon Ferrie and seconded by Steve O'Brien.

- 6. Matters arising from the minutes:**

The killer crossroads has had no further improvements made, and work appears unfinished. Give Way signs have not been changed to Stop signs and Vehicle activation sign is not switched on yet. Meetings were held with Audrey Gatt regarding place-making survey. A deadline of 12th January is set for completing the survey form. A meeting in Kirkmichael is planned for 22nd January, and with all villages for 27th January. The GNPA are to be invited to our January meeting, with both parties invited.

- 7. Village concerns**

Crosshill: Contractor is putting up Christmas lights on 27th November. A meeting is being held in the Community Centre by Glenelly Infrastructure, a subcontractor of Scottish Power Energy Network, on Thursday 28th November regarding electrical work being carried out in the next few weeks. This is to explain that there are some aged underground cables that must be replaced, which will necessitate digging up stretches of pavement in the village. The Community Association is in touch with the police about speeding traffic. No report on speed-watch has been received yet. A "McSpeedy" traffic police sign is available for occasional use, during daylight hours. The Guides have leafleted local houses about speeding traffic. The fence at the play park by the church hall is still not repaired, and now the fence by the road is broken. The road and pavement at Milton Street/ Bruce Square is still not fixed. The house builders appear to have moved on. Some sites for benches have been identified. Litter bins are still to be sorted. There are still 2 bins at the park, and more bins are needed elsewhere. It may help if these are identified as dog poo bins. The war memorial base was re-concreted, but it is a bit rough. The over 60s Christmas Party will be held on 6th Dec.

Kirkmichael: No progress reported with drainage of the play park. The park bench has been repaired with one rotten plank replaced, and the old litter bin has been removed. An application is being made for funds to do some improvements to the park, adjacent to the swing park. This is for SAC Ward funding, and possibly NCBC for match funding. A development trust has been formed to take over the hall from SAC, with funding from the Scottish Land Fund. Speed survey was seen to be taking place, with sensor strips across the road by the play park. Christmas lights contractors now putting up lights. Scottish Water have been digging up pavements.

Straiton: The Bruce's Web Axes statue has been taken away for now, and some rocks have appeared, possibly to build a cairn or plinth for the statue. Gordon Ferrie met with Shona Munro of SAC to look at potential location for a pétanque terrain. Gordon attended Straiton Village Cooperative AGM and talked about the place-making survey. Gordon received a follow up email from a resident asking for the 30mph to be extended south of the school to beyond the three houses along the Newton Stewart Road. The wooden footbridge over the burn is getting very slippery and dangerous. Recent heavy rain is still causing flooding problems. Work is needed on drains.

8. Treasurer's report

Gordon Ferrie presented a monthly report. The balance was £920.28, with no additional income in the past month. Cheques were written for each village events, £50 to each village: Crosshill Halloween party, Kirkmichael fireworks, and Straiton Christmas decorations.

9. North Carrick Community Benefit Co. (NCCBC)

Questionnaires have been sent out. Two grants were awarded, one for the Buck community buy-out in Straiton. Scottish Power Renewables have requested feedback on the application forms. Gordon Ferrie has already commented on the forms. Applications are being vetted by Stuart and not getting put forward for approval, which was putting people off applying. Carrick Futures (South Carrick) have a different application process. Barr (or Barrhill) also have different funding criteria, and can do revenue funding. Claire Bryan's position has not been filled as yet. The flat above the charity shop is about ready, and KVR are taking a week in the charity shop in March. The e-bikes that were funded by NCCBC have not had much uptake, so these may not be continued.

10. Wind farms

Emails were received from groups and individuals objecting to Glenvernoch Wind Farm in Cree valley, in the Galloway hills. This is outwith our community council area, so we are not proposing to respond to these. Access to DPEA documents regarding the three wind farm public inquiry has recently been withdrawn, with no reason given.

11. Correspondence

All email correspondence to the secretary were forwarded to the rest of the council, so these are not repeated here. Wind farm emails were discussed, see above. A letter of thanks was received from Kirkmichael Village Renaissance for the £50 contribution to the fireworks.

12. Planning applications

Steve O'Brien gave a planning report, with one new planning application:

- **24/00784** Threave Farm, Crosshill: Existing buildings demolition and erection of house.

No objection was made to the above.

Three decisions had been made, all approved:

- **24/00631** Bolestyle Road, Kirkmichael. Renewed permission to build 12 new houses.
- **24/00658** Gultreehill Farm, Kirkmichael. New agricultural shed.
- **24/00666** Barweys Farm, near Grimmet, Kirkmichael. Permission to sell properties individually.

No application received yet for the biomethane plant at Attiquin Farm. Brian Connolly had been contacted by Daniel Scheven of AcrEnergy to ask for his support. It was agreed to invite Mr Scheven to our next meeting to discuss this.

13. Social media

Margo O'Brien reported Facebook and Twitter are both ticking along nicely, with 3 new followers on Facebook and 28 on X (formerly Twitter). Our Facebook page had 3,600 views in the last month. Some SAC posts that had been shared had then been taken down by Facebook. Margo had contacted Facebook to let them know these were not spam posts.

14. Any other competent business

- None.

15. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 14th January 2025, at 7:30 pm in the McCandlish Hall, Straiton.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm, with seasonal mince pies and ginger wine.