

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COLMONELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2024

1 SEDERUNT: Paul Brooks (PB) (Chair); Andrea Porter (AP); Judith Brzezinka (JB); Mike Prime (MP); Rosie McTaggart (RMcT); Janet Falls (JF); Howard Wilkinson (HW); Chelsea Glass SAC (TW); Cllr Alec Clark (AC); Lynn Young (Minutes Secretary)

2 APOLOGIES: Stuart Clarke; Cllr Alan Lamont

3 WELCOME: PB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4 MINUTES: Approved, proposed by PB, seconded by AP.

5 MATTERS ARISING

Noticeboard for Lendalfoot – AC will follow this up.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT – JB

£4344 has been received from Tralorg; this takes the bank balance to £23002.60. There have been a couple of small outgoings.

PB suggested that some of this money be used to benefit the community, suggestions being driving lessons for young people and winter fuel payments. This will be discussed further.

A C reported that some communities use management organisations such as Foundation Scotland. JB reported that Carrick Futures are increasing the limit which Community Councils can award to £1000.

The bank account can now be accessed through online banking; JB reported that online signatories need to be enabled. This will be arranged. AP and JB agreed to be signatories.

7 POLICE REPORT - MP

In September/October 8 calls were made to the police: one fraud, 2 animal related, one hate crime, one child protection matter, one road traffic incident and 2 drug related matters. One crime was detected.

AC reported that there is a new Chief Inspector in the area.

8 REPORTS

South Ayrshire Council – AC

There are concerns about lorries involved in peat extraction going down the A714, there could be up to 200 lorries per day from January 2025. SEPA are now involved in this. Damage is being done to the roads. The purpose of this is for a battery storage area for the windfarms.

PB reported that a very active meeting had been held in Ballantrae about the proposed battery storage unit at Glenapp, and there was overwhelming feeling against the facility.

Rural housing – Different villages have differing needs, and housing must be appropriate for each area. Some social housing is being planned for Girvan. 30% of the demand for housing is in rural areas. This is being looked at.

A recent road traffic accident on the A77 led to a catalyst of other incidents and all the roads around the village were closed. There is a meeting next week (Monday 2nd December) in Ballantrae about

the A77. Two people from each CC can attend; PB and MP will attend.

AP reported about a talk at the County Buildings in relation to budgets and what SAC uses funds for. There are ring fenced funds (69%) for health and social care, education, etc. The remaining 31% is for leisure, waste disposal, roads, etc.

A new hub (Connect) is opening in Ayr, to work along with VASA. It is hoped more hubs will open.

Community Council Office bearers can now be related but cannot both be signatories for cheques.

MP reported that the road to the bridge has been resurfaced and is very good. There was a lot of litter left by the workmen, and he suggested that a community litter pick could be organised. AC said that high visibility jackets and other equipment could be supplied; he will speak to Fiona Ross in Neighbourhood Services about this.

MP suggested a hanging basket project in the village. Brackets could be put up and baskets provided.

Souper Mondays

42 people attended Souper Monday this week. 61 different people have attended, with a total of 277 visits. Workmen had been turned away; this will not happen again. The scheme is self-supporting so far. PB congratulated the team for doing a great job.

Community Transport - HW

The scheme is doing very well. A committee is being set up. 240 journeys have been made over 6 weeks, by 70 or 80 individuals. Funding has been received from Carrick Futures through the community association. A meeting will be held on 13.12.24. Discussions are being held with Carrick Futures regarding the way forward. It has been noted that the drivers are very good. Three small changes have been made to the timings and the timetables will be altered as necessary going forward. Members of the public who have used the buses are very happy with the service. Donations can be made either in the hall or electronically; the drivers do not want to carry cash on the buses.

Tourism – PB

Gillian's Walks Webinar – some of the landowners would prefer that this is not promoted on their land. Parking would also be an issue and cannot be increased; the last village action plan was in 2020.

Colmonell Community Association – HW

The participatory budget group was successful.

59 people are going on the Edinburgh bus trip on 7.12.24.

Hall usage – the issue is complicated by the fact there are statutory hours for the hall keeper which cannot be exceeded, as overtime hours would then require to be paid. £22 an hour would be charged for parties etc. It has been suggested that there could be 3 key holders, but insurance may be a complicating issue with this.

The community toilets will be closed next week for 5 days.

Church – 20 people voted (16 voted for the church to be sold, rented or leased, 4 against). There

are now 14 in the congregation, 6 from Colmonell.

Orchard – MP has had a meeting with someone from the Biosphere. Funding is available. The area identified as a possible location belongs to SAC. AP has spoken to someone in Assets at SAC. The area was originally part of the housing development at Hyslop Crescent, which was fenced off at the time of the houses being built. Access could be an issue as it would have to be via the playpark; improvements to the playpark could also be considered. AC reported that any group or individual can ask for an asset transfer for a piece of land, and by law it has to be considered. AC will speak to Tom Burns and Elaine Ross regarding this.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

PB reported on correspondence regarding a missing sign saying “No HGV Vehicles” at the road end of the Pinmore to Lendalfoot road – AC will follow this up with Ayrshire Roads Alliance. Amey has had a change of manager, and a new sign for the Colmonell junction on the A77 has been ordered. A full survey of missing signs is being carried out.

10 PROPOSED GALLOWAY NATIONAL PARK

AC reported that the possibility of the Galloway National Park has been under discussion since 2016; the Biosphere and the Scottish Government have been involved, along with Scottish Enterprise and other organisations. Applications were put forward, and the Galloway proposal was decided to be the best one, although farmers are not supportive as they are worried about regulations in erecting sheds etc. Councils have agreed in principle, but with conditions regarding regulatory powers, which AC hopes would stay with the 3 councils. National parks are very concerned with environmental issues, nature, paths etc. A new booklet about the proposals has been circulated by Nature Scotland. The Scottish Government will collate all the information, and the consultation will be completed by 14.2.25. A consultation meeting will be held in Lendalfoot Hall, and also in Girvan. PB encouraged people to read the information and take part in the consultation.

11 PROPOSED WOODLAND CREATION AT PINWHERRY HILL

PB reported that a plantation of a variety of trees is being proposed. The village will probably be affected more by the eventual harvesting than by the planting. PB circulated a map of the proposed area.

11 PUBLIC FORUM

HW asked if many members of the public attend Community Council meetings; AC replied that some members of the public attend Barrhill CC meetings, but not so much in other villages.

HW congratulated the Community Council on their successful first year in office and remarked that a great job is being done.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JF asked about the speeding survey in the village. It has been completed but no feedback has been received. HW said the electronic sign near the school is not working and has been reported several times. AC will follow this up.

JB reported that Foundation Scotland have offered to come and give a talk on grant applications; it was agreed this would be a good idea.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 22nd January 2025, Colmonell Community Centre.

14 IN CAMERA FUNDING APPLICATION

One funding application has been received from Lendalfoot Ladies for £500 to cover their planned Christmas events. This was granted.