

Proposed: Margo O'Brien
Seconded: Emily Pike

CROSSHILL, STRAITON & KIRKMICHAEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Secretary: John Haston, 71 Patna Road, Kirkmichael, Ayrshire KA19 7PJ
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Minutes of meeting held in McCandlish Hall, Straiton on 14th January 2025

- 1. In Attendance:** Emily Pike (vice chair), John Haston (secretary), Gordon Ferrie (treasurer), Margo O'Brien, Marnie Watson, Martin Dunlop, David Stokes, Steven Dunlop, Ryan Douglas (SAC Link Officer), Councillor Brian Connolly, Steve Norris, Pat Hunter-Blair, Rob Lucas, Mark Gibson, Andrew Sinclair and Neil McWhirter

Emily Pike chaired the meeting in Pat Lorimer's absence and welcomed everyone.

- 2. Apologies:** Pat Lorimer, Steve O'Brien, the police.

3. Register of Interests:

No changes to the register of interests declared. Two conflicts of interest stated: Gordon Ferrie and John Haston were members of GNPA.

4. Galloway National Park Association (GNPA):

Rob Lucas, Stephen Norris and Mark Gibson visited from GNPA and gave a presentation on the Galloway National Park campaign. This covered the background to the campaign for a national park, and the potential benefits of having a national park in or near our area. Several options were presented, with varying size of the national park, and a vision was produced for core areas of communities – affordable housing, nature and climate change, land use – forestry and farming, and economy. The deadline for the consultation is 14th February. The community council has not yet decided whether to respond to the consultation, or whether to support it or not, as there were varying views. A representative from "No Galloway National Park had also been invited to give a balanced opinion, but a car breakdown had prevented their attendance.

5. Police matters:

The police were not present, and a report had been received. This contained 57 reported incidents, including 4 road safety incidents, 2 violent crimes and 37 incidents related to planned shoots. Officers carried out traffic checks in the villages, 3 people were issued with speeding tickets, and one person was also charged with numerous road traffic offences.

6. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 26th November were accepted, proposed by Margo O'Brien and seconded by Gordon Ferrie.

7. 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.

8. Village concerns

Kirkmichael: Complaints were received about roads not being gritted during recent freeze, including a bus route. Road from Kirkmichael to Patna and Kirkmichael to Crosshill. Brian Connolly said the school bus routes should be gritted, and others were lower priority and would be gritted when resources allowed. Thanks were expressed to SAC for providing funding to put up the Christmas lights. Brian said SAC now has a budget for Christmas lights so this should happen again next year.

Straiton: The Bruce's Web Axes statue has been reinstated on a cairn. ARA are requested to remove the "New Road Layout" sign that was put up during the traffic calming measures, but in the end chicanes were not installed in Straiton. Flooding at the park again, this is now thought to be a fractured drain when the new play equipment was put in. ARA are procuring

an external contractor to carry out repairs to drainage. A survey was carried out for interest in building a pétanque pitch, and this was very positive. Brian said this survey could support an application for ward capital funds, and match funding would help. ARA have been working to make the wooden footbridge surface safer. A bus was reported to have hit a car again while turning at the war memorial. Funding has been agreed for community purchase of the Buck.

Crosshill: Cemetery gate latch is not lining up and causing difficulty opening or closing the gate. Still waiting for lines to be painted at the bus stop on Kirkmichael Road. Pavement in Dalhowan Street is very poor and causing a trip hazard with missing drain covers. Fences at the park are in a terrible state, between the park and the road. Lighting is very bad with one light in the middle. The park has also been flooding.

9. Treasurer's report

Gordon Ferrie presented a monthly report. The bank balance was £653.58, with no income in the past month. Zurich insurance premium of £97.20 was paid.

10. North Carrick Community Benefit Co. (NCCBC)

The AGM has been postponed until 3rd February, in Dunure. No further report was available as Pat Lorimer was not here.

11. Wind farms

No update received this month.

12. Correspondence

All email correspondence to the secretary were forwarded to the rest of the council, so these are not repeated here. Subjects of note included

- Scottish Forestry consultation on Knockgardner woodland creation. This was supported in principle.
- Consultation request for Carrick Forest Drive land management plan renewal.
- SAC updated Community Council Scheme document review. Steve O'Brien has volunteered to review this.
- Dalmorton Forest timber harvesting (see discussion under AOCB)

13. Planning applications

Steve O'Brien had supplied a planning report by email in advance, with two new planning applications:

- **24/00830** An Charraig, Crosshill. Prior notification of agricultural building construction.
- **24/00866** Bruce Square, Crosshill. Erection of new bungalow.

No objection was made to the above. Two decisions had been made, all approved:

- **24/00691** New house, garage and paddock on B741
- **24/00698** Permission to extend the life of Carrick wind farm met mast, at Loch Moan, Straiton

14. Social media

Margo O'Brien reported Facebook was ticking along nicely, but she had removed several followers on X (formerly Twitter) as they appeared to be bots, so now just 22 followers.

15. Any other competent business

- Dalmorton Forest timber harvesting. Andy Sinclair and Neil McDuart(?) were concerned that the route proposed for this large scale operation was along a single track road past Linfairn and Balbeg, with no passing places and a weak bridge. A better route was thought to be going east to join the road south of Cloyntie.

16. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 18th February 2025, at 7:30 pm in the Crosshill Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.