

Proposed: 
Seconded: Gordon & 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 Crosshill Bowling Club on 28th January 2025

This was an extra meeting to accommodate the No Galloway National Park group

- 1. In Attendance:** Pat Lorimer (chair), Emily Pike (vice chair), John Haston (secretary), Gordon Ferrie (treasurer), Steve O'Brien, Margo O'Brien, David Stokes, Steven Dunlop, Liz Hitschmann and Denise Brownlee of No GNP.

Pat Lorimer chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

- 2. Apologies:** Marnie Watson, Councillor Brian Connolly, Ryan Douglas (SAC Link Officer), Pat Hunter-Blair

- 3. Register of Interests:**

No changes to the register of interests or conflicts of interest declared.

- 4. No Galloway National Park:**

Elizabeth Hitschmann and Denise Brownlee stated the case for not having a national park in Galloway. Their campaign had grown from a couple of individuals to around 3,200 members. They didn't think that national parks worked for nature, as they have failed to deliver biodiversity in other national parks. They said existing agencies such as NatureScot and the Biosphere were already doing a great job, and these should continue to be funded directly. They suggested that funding for the national park was not agreed or guaranteed, and a large part of the funding would go on administration rather than projects. In their view a national park status would further increase house prices and the number of second homes. Many people in other national parks were said to be unable to afford to buy a house if they are on minimum wage. They thought an increase in tourism would cause problems with litter, road congestion, parking and general mess in the countryside. They said they did want tourism, but not a sudden influx of irresponsible tourists. They suggested we look at sites such as Park Watch, and a video by Stephen Reid.

A lengthy question and answer session followed the presentation.

Steven Dunlop said the farming community was generally against a national park, mainly due to planning restrictions.

After the "No Galloway National Park" representatives had left, the community council discussed how to respond to the consultation. Although we have not canvassed local opinion, it was suggested that John could organise a survey monkey questionnaire to get all community councillors opinions on the consultation questions. This would allow us to submit a response as a community council before the deadline of 14th February. This could be accompanied by the results of our survey. In the end this was decided against, but could be done for a future consultation stage. Community Councillors should also respond to the consultation as individuals, if they wish, and encourage others to do the same.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.