



**Girvan and District Community Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday the 04<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, 06.30 pm, Carrick**  
**Buildings, Girvan.**  
*(The meeting started at 18:31)*



**Present:** Rhona Walker (Chair), Jane Willis, Stephen Galloway, Catherine Maguire, Wilma Dunlop, John Young, John McCreath, David Girvan, Ken Johnstone, Sconaid Clark.

**In Attendance:** Fiona Ross (Guest speaker); Andrew McCrindle, Kate Gillon, David Powell, Ann Young (General public); Lucy O'Donnell (Girvan Youth Trust); Ainsley McCrindle (South Ayrshire Council Link Officer/Glendoune); Declan Griffin (Youth participant); Cllr Clark (South Ayrshire Council); David Bone (Secretariat)

**Apologies:** Karen McCartney and Colin Davidson.

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded all those present to speak through the Chair and raise their hands should they wish to speak.

**Declaration of Interest**

None

**Fiona Ross SAC - upgrade of Knockcushan Gardens**

In general, the GCC was supportive at the last meeting Fiona attended. It was noted that there was a discussion about the memorial benches and a decision to keep the park but give it a facelift while retaining the grassy area was decided upon.

Fiona said that efforts would be made to make the layout more symmetrical. She provided the following information:

- The hedge along the wall will be formalised into four equal beds, and the main grass area will be combined into one wider bed.
- Buggy and wheelchair access will be maintained.
- The hedge will also be retained, though it may look unappealing in the short to medium term.
- An obelisk-style structure will be placed in the centre for climbing plants.
- Two trees in poor condition will be removed while planting at the bottom of the area will consist of plants suitable for shade.
- The rose arbour will be extended.
- Most of the shrubs will be removed, but the seating area and roses will be retained.
- The footpaths will be resurfaced with golden hoggin instead of tar to create a more "country garden" aesthetic.
- Shrubs and plants will be chosen to be easy to maintain for the grounds team.
- An archway will lead down to the mosaic.

Some concerns were raised about the removal of trees. Cath asked if a replacement tree could be planted. Fiona responded that new funding could not be guaranteed until additional grants were secured for this.

David G inquired about the slabs. Fiona stated that they will initially be power-washed, but further improvements could be considered in stage two.

Declan expressed strong support for the use of golden hoggin.

A vote was held, and the proposal was unanimously approved.

Stephen mentioned a plan to run power from the Girvan Town House to the community garden, with funds from Wm Grants. He said he would email Fiona with more details on this.

John Y asked about the project timeline. Fiona responded that the path work needs to be completed before planting can begin. She aims to complete this before the summer season and is looking to use a contractor from an existing framework rather than going out to tender. Related to this, Fiona also mentioned the potential for delays and whether the park should remain open for the summer if the work is postponed. There was a discussion on when the summer season officially starts, with the beginning of the school holidays seen as the key date. It was agreed that the work should be postponed if this is the case.

David Powell raised concerns about tree removal, noting that in the past, trees had been removed without sufficient justification and were not always replaced like-for-like. Fiona replied that this was not the case and that trees were removed with justification.

John Y suggested that the garden needs more promotional signage. Cath added that the last plinth to be installed will focus on the garden.

David G asked about rapeseed, and Fiona said she would forward the relevant information to him.

*[Fiona left the meeting at 19:07]*

#### **Police report**

Sent out to all members. Any issues are to be emailed to Rhona.

#### **Minutes of the December 2024 Meeting**

Proposed for accuracy by Sconaid and seconded by Jane W.

#### **Matters Arising**

The issue with the bins at Victory Park has been resolved.

Regarding lost dogs, Cllr Clark suggested that it might be a good idea to have an Environmental Health Officer attend a future meeting. John Mc mentioned charities that are involved, adding that the Scottish Government has passed an act making it more difficult to buy and sell dogs. Cath asked if this would affect people adopting dogs from Eastern Europe. John Mc explained that most dogs from these countries are sponsored.

It was agreed to form a delegation to bring this issue up with SAC, with John Mc included.

Cllr Clark also mentioned that 'A' roads receive more funding for upkeep.

#### **Public Participation**

David P stated that CRAG (Carrick Rural Arts Group) is looking for a production space, and the area at the back of the former Picture House would be ideal due to its accessibility and location on the Main Street. He added that this need has arisen because GRAG's current premises at the Industrial Estate will be transferred to Land Energy.

Cllr Clark noted that the former cinema site is in a residential area and that plans for the site are already well advanced. David P expressed concern that a locked gate along Main Street would be a missed opportunity and that keeping the space in use would be beneficial.

David G asked if there were alternative locations. David P suggested the area at the SAC recycling yard as a possible option, as well as the land along Coalpots Road at Assell Place.

He also mentioned that the Invergarven site is too small for large-scale production, but it is currently owned by a private landlord. The former site of Colquhoun's was also suggested.

### **Youth Participation**

Declan thanked Cath and Rhona for their points on the refurbished theatre at Girvan Academy. Rhona thanked Declan in return and added that the Headteacher hopes to make Girvan Academy more accessible for community use.

Related to this, Rhona mentioned that Zanne will be looking for letters of support in the future. It was alleged that the theatre renovation project had received £450,000 from the SAC education budget, although this issue needs to be clarified. David G to email the relevant person.

### **Matters arising - From any meeting community councillors attended representing the community council Glendoune Community Association**

Ainslie mentioned that they are looking for a letter of support for 15 young adults for their theory and provisional test, explaining that they have been vetted based on need. She added that they have a driving instructor willing to provide lessons at a reduced cost.

Ainslie responded that it was high. Rhona asked if this was just for Glendoune, and Ainslie clarified that it was for the whole of South Carrick.

*[Ainslie left at 19:41]*

Some concerns were raised over the pass rate of the instructor.

It was unanimously agreed to offer support. Rhona asked Ainslie to send her an email with further details.

*[Ainslie returned at 19:42]*

Ainslie also mentioned a donation of over 500 warm hoodies, with 70% of them being new. She added that they can be provided to various community groups.

### **Girvan Youth Trust**

Work has started on resurfacing the boating pond, with the aim of completing it by the Easter holidays. Recruitment is currently underway for the boating pond team. Party on the Prom will have a 12-week season starting from June 8, 2025, and a special event planned for the September weekend. Planning for the summer season is currently in progress David G noted that the cable system will need ongoing maintenance. He also mentioned that Cash4Kids has released additional funding, which may be relevant to GYT.

### **Action Point Log**

John Mc mentioned that the bin at Duff Street has been removed.

Regarding the old library, Cllr Clark said that a group will be moving into the building, but he cannot disclose details at the moment.

It was noted that six flagpoles were proposed as part of the ward capital project, but no one in the community wanted them, nor were aware of this until December last year. Cllr Clark stated that the proposal will be put out for consultation on the website and that he was not involved in this. Rhona noted that it only appeared in December, and Cllr Clark confirmed that no action would be taken on this project at this time.

Cath pointed out that there was an actual flag project, and David G added that the proposal has gone through an entire SAC process and reiterated that it has neither been approved nor wanted by the community. He emphasised that the correct process was not followed.

Rhona said she would email Cllr Scott to explain the reasoning behind the inclusion of this.

#### **Treasurers' Report**

£10,000 received from Carrick Future.

No other issues.

#### **Planning applications**

David G noted that a planning application had been received to convert the former Maly's building from commercial to residential use. While this may not align with preserving the town's heritage, it was agreed that it is still preferable to having an empty shopfront. It was agreed to monitor future planning applications for similar developments.

Extension plans for the Quay Zone have been submitted. Stephen asked whether this would cause a delay in the reopening. Ken confirmed that it would not—the Quay Zone will reopen as planned, with the extension added afterwards.

David G asked if more updates could be shared to help manage public expectations. Cllr Clark stated that a joint press release will be issued by TQZ and SAC in the near future.

#### **Licensing applications**

None.

#### **Correspondence**

Sent out to all community councillors.

Rhona asked if anyone would like to attend the intergenerational event at the Academy on March 17 2025. Lucy confirmed that the event is open to all. Declan explained that its purpose is to encourage communication between age groups that are usually isolated.

Noted that the Community Action Group/Active Travel Action Group are meeting again. David G noted that previous meetings were held in person, whereas they used to be hybrid.

John Mc mentioned that doctors at the Community Hospital are withdrawing their overnight cover service due to staffing issues. David G stated that this will be discussed at the Locality Planning Group meeting on Wednesday, February 26 2025.

#### **Update from local councillors**

##### **Cllr Clark**

The McKechnie Institute and Library will have their official opening day on February 26, 2025.

The construction tender for the new Girvan Primary is now live and work is expected to begin in May 2025.

The SAC budget will be set this month. Cllr Clark noted that £3.5 million in NI contributions will be deducted. Additionally, all current ward projects are at various stages of progress. Rhona thanked Cllr Clark for his efforts in keeping SAC officers informed and engaged with the GCC.

Stephen asked about parking arrangements during the school's construction. Cllr Clark stated that a traffic management plan would be in place during the construction phase. David G suggested that the football club could use the grounds at the park in the meantime.

John Mc reported that the overall completion of the toilets at Ainslie Park has been delayed due to a power cut affecting the card readers.

**A.O.C.B.**

Fiona was shown a picture from Stair Park, where the plinth had moved. Further issues were noted over the number of trees that were downed in Storm Éowyn. Fiona said that SAC is removing these, but they were slightly overwhelmed at the moment.

There was a discussion about planting at Stumpy. Fiona mentioned that she plans to introduce greenery at this location. She also noted that she is working on a mix of seasonal plants in Ayr and Troon that if successful, will be used in planters throughout South Ayrshire.

David G emphasised the need to increase public awareness of consultation processes. Ainslie mentioned that there is a degree of mistrust in Girvan. Cllr Clark added that a similar situation exists across South Ayrshire, with general apathy towards consultations. He also pointed out that no action was taken following the charrette in 2011, leading to a lack of understanding and further apathy.

Cath raised concerns about the weight of buses travelling along Hamilton Street, noting that vibrations from them are an issue. She suggested writing to Stagecoach about this. Cllr Clark requested their contact details.

David G inquired about motorhomes at Ainslie Park. Cllr Clark responded that this is being looked into, but the land is leased from Bargany. He has raised the issue with ARA and suggested that a height restriction should ideally be implemented.

Noted that the tennis courts are nearly finished, with only the lining left to complete.

Chalmers Arcade is set to be relined.

Noted that the by-election closing date for community council applications is February 14th 2025.

Ainslie said she would double-check the postcode for Stephen, as he is moving to Dailly. Stephen said that he was keen to remain a member of the Girvan Community Council if possible.

John Mc asked about the relining of the small roundabout at the Harbour. Rhona believed that it was recently completed but due to the volume of traffic, has probably been wiped again. David G noted that Amey has marked it as a defect. John Mc also mentioned that a pothole has now formed at this location.

*(The meeting ended at 20:40)*

Next meeting - Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 at 18:30