

# NEWTON & HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 6PM,  
Newton Primary School

### In Attendance

Eddie England, Chair & Secretary  
Jim Fenton, Vice Chair  
Eudora Tabor, Licencing  
Stewart Wallace, Planning  
Jane Robertson  
Linda Bennett  
Councillor Ian Davis, SAC  
Councillor Ian Cavana, SAC  
Vivienne McCulloch, SAC – Minute Taker

### Apologies

Councillor Laura Brennan-Whitefield  
Councillor Mark Dixon  
Reverend Barbara Suchanek-Seitz  
David Porte, Link Officer, SAC  
Police Scotland

#### 1. Introductions/Apologies and Chairman's Remarks

Introductions were made and apologies accepted for the meeting.

#### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 were agreed by all, proposed by Jim, seconded by Eudora. Vivienne will send to Graeme Stevenson, SAC, for his information – **Vivienne to action**

### 3. **Matters Arising**

**Police Contact(s)** : Eddie stated that the contacts for the Police would be Lisa Thomson and Karen Barlas, who is the new Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO).

**Website** : Eddie asked if anyone present had had any suggestions for the new website as he was to have a chat with his son, Craig, about this. Jim said a map would be of benefit; Ian D said this could be downloaded from the SAC website. Eddie suggested to have a think about this for the next meeting – **action to remain open**

**Tree & Plaque for Sheila** : Eddie spoke to Sheila's son and it was suggested to also put on the plaque that Sheila was involved in the bowling club as Treasurer for 30 years and was President in 1987. Perhaps we could say something like "In memory of our revered stalwart of our Community Council and member of the bowling club" or perhaps a little shorter. Eddie also suggested the need to find out the soil type in the area suggested to see what would grow best. Thus far, strawberry tree was the most favourable suggestion. Ian C agreed that a soil sample would be good a good idea. Linda added that she has a strawberry tree and it grows very well. The tree would be planted on the Bellesley Hill Road side of the championship green. Ian D said to contact Kevin Johnston or Kieron Gallagher of the Parks Department in SAC.

**Play Areas and Dogs** : Eddie asked Ian D if he had anymore information or feedback on this subject. Ian D said that no licence is required for dog walking businesses in SAC; Eddie find this quite astounding. Ian C had to remove all dog fouling and remnants of dog waste on the KG5 pitch before his grandson could play football there; he feels this is definitely happening very early morning and late at night where people are not picking up the dog waste. Ian D said it is very hard to reach the burden of truth especially when dogs are allowed on the playing fields.

Eddie asked about what SAC could do about dog walkers having to have a licence in South Ayrshire. Ian D stated that banning dogs in certain areas would require a by-law to be passed and this is a long drawn out process. Ian C said that dogs going in to certain area should be restricted through signage; perhaps this is something that can be looked at – **to action**  
Linda added that there is signage used at parks such as Rouken Glen in East Renfrewshire and the signs are placed up high as to not be kicked down.

Eddie asked about whether the Private Members Bill could be taken up by SAC on this matter. Jim enquired about what other local authorities are doing to tackle these issues. Ian D reiterated again that legislation is present but only on farm land and play grounds in schools.

Eddie said that he had gone to Siobhian Brown MSP about this however this had come to an end and he was disappointed with the response. Eddie felt that action had to happen about this situation before a child is maimed or dies. Linda suggested a contact in SAC might be Sharon Dowey.

**Police Reports** : Eddie said that after the last Police Report, two items they have been notified about have still not been addressed; one was for a hate crime and another for the use of knives on trees in Newton Park. This month, only one report was received.

**Pot Holes** : Ian D is not sure if SAC have one or have use of one of the new pot hole repairing machines; this is perhaps a matter for ARA to clear up and report back – **ID to action**

Eddie wanted to thank Vivienne for the research she had carried out on the pot hole repair machines for the committee and given in a comprehensive report in the Minutes for 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 meeting.

**Fly Tipping** : Eddie said that down in Maidstone, Kent, there is a Waste Crime Team which was proving very successful. Ian D said that there are now redeployable CCTV cameras in use and to contact David Porte about this for his update – **David P to action**

**High Fence** : David P was not at the meeting to discuss this further with regard to Eudora’s enquiry about this.

**Moving the Meetings** : There was talk at the last meeting to move these CC meetings to the old Newton Arms which is now an Ayrshire Housing building. All agreed to remain where we presently meet at Newton Primary School – **action closed**

#### 4. **Correspondence & Reports**

Eddie handed around a thank you card from Newton Tenants Association for the £100 given for their Christmas party. The other thank you card is from our very own Santa Claus, William Bunting, for the £100 we gave to him to buy Christmas presents for this year (he likes to start buying them early). David P has also arranged for the SAC Christmas gazebo to be loaned to William for his event this year.

Eddie read out the letter received from Jamie Tait of SAC that Newton & Heathfield had not received any nominations for the election this year; co-opting can begin in April for new members.

Jim handed around leaflets on the Befriending Project he had been along to see and how this works. It is where you can volunteer to provide a one to one supportive friendship for a socially isolated young person aged 8 – 18 years who live in South Ayrshire. This would involve meeting fortnightly for a few hours, sharing time together to make a real difference to the young person’s life. Jim and Eddie felt that a £100 donation would be of value to this very worthy cause; all agreed at the meeting. Eddie and Jim will take along a cheque and get a photo of this too as this is what we can be putting on to our website.

#### **Treasurer’s Report**

Bank balance is **£1,652.07** to date minus the £100 for the donation to the Befriending Project and Zurich Insurance payment which has just been sent in the amount of £86.

#### **Police Report**

The following Report was emailed with apologies for non-attendance.

Policing in Ayrshire, Community Council Report, Newton & Heathfield  
February 2023:-

1. **Serious and Organised Crime (including Violence, Drug supply, Sexual Crime)**

**Violence – Nil**

**Drugs Supply** - Proactive work targeting drug supply is ongoing, for the reporting period there has been very few calls from the community providing information in relation to drug activity. In relation to any calls received, information has been pulled and entered into our intelligence database and will be developed appropriately.

**Sexual Crime - Nil**

2. **Safer Communities (including Hate Crime, ASB, Domestic Abuse)**

**Hate Crime – Nil**

**Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)** - For the reporting period, we've had a number of calls linked to ASB.

Majority of these calls relate to ongoing neighbour disputes. Officers spoke with parties involved and advice given.

We make every effort to be proactive to prevent ASB type matters escalating by working in partnership with SAC's ASB team and carry out joint visits at the earliest opportunity. We review all calls on an ASB nature on a daily basis.

**Domestic Abuse** – This area of policing continues to be an area of focus, Officers provide support to victims and ensure, with consent of the victim, that they are referred to support agencies.

3. **Acquisitive Crime**

**Housebreaking – Nil**

**Robbery - Nil**

**Fraud – Nil**

4. **Community Wellbeing**

**Substance Use** – We deal with a high number of incidents whereby substance misuse in relation to alcohol and/or drugs is a factor. We work alongside partner agencies to refer individuals for further support.

**Children & Young People** – Nothing to report on or note for this meeting.

**Welfare Concerns** – We continue to respond to a high number of these types of incidents, which often take up a considerable amount of time for Officers. These incidents can vary from persons suffering from mental health to concerns for the

elderly members of the community requiring assistance. We work alongside partner agencies to deal with the incidents in a timeously manner as possible ensuring individuals speak with the relevant agency.

**5. Road Safety (Drink/Drug Driving, Speeding, Disqualified/Uninsured Driving)**

We continue to receive a number of reports in relation to road safety. These range from speeding complaints and parking complaints.

For the reporting period, officers dealt with a driver who due to his manner of driving will be reported for dangerous driving. Officers also dealt with a Road Traffic Collision whereby alcohol was alleged to be a factor and the driver was charged with offences.

**Upcoming Events - None**

**Other Matters/Appeals - None**

Eddie felt it was very disappointing that two items from the October and November CC meetings have not been addressed, with one item going back to February 2022, as follows:

- (i) The hate crime reported to the Police by Barbara; the Police did not provide an incident number and therefore Barbara had to contact the PS DPS.
- (ii) The use of knives to damage trees in Newton Park; this item was first raised at the February 2022 meeting.

**Councillor Ian Cavana Report**

- *Dog Fouling* – Mr Cappriani (formerly known as Kream Krime) on corner of Laggan Road is a complete mess and we are attempting to get this area cleared up. Ian has phoned three times to request that they clean up this area as there are complaint from neighbours.
- *Rosalind Place* – There are barriers around an area and building work is ongoing however there is vermin and foxes present.
- *Newton Primary School* – Spoke with Head Teacher, Fiona, whilst attending an event. She is very distraught that the Ukranian children are not being enrolled into Newton Primary but going to the Grammar School due to staying at the Mecure Hotel. This procedure has to be followed due to the constraints of the Education Department. I did speak with head of education about this however this is the way it is and cannot be changed. The unfortunate matter is that they are coming to use the food banks here in Newton & Heathfield but the children are not attending the local school.
- *Police* – Chief Inspector Kevin Lammie has made a suggestion that the Chairs would be able to have a meeting with the Police to air all their enquiries as the Police are too stretched to be able to attend every South Ayrshire Community Council meeting.

## Councillor Ian Davis Report

- *Newton Tower* – Ian had had a response back from the Asset Department with regard to fixing the rendering on the Tower and particularly on one of the walls as this would require to close off the road access. There is also vermin inside it too which will need to be cleared first. There is a projected start date of May 2023. Eddie asked if there was building failure and had this been investigated because if there was, there would be no point in trying to fix the render as it would just be in the same state again in a few months. Ian said he would look in to this and report back – **Ian D to action**

Jim enquired about the listing for the Tower. Ian stated is it B listed.

- *Laggan Road* – North Harbour Street, section by pontoons is not maintained and causing an obstruction. The Council has now ripped away this area and has been fixed and will prevent any overgrown elements occurring.
- *Problems with Corner Parking around Heathfield* – Ian is collating a list of what is being reported about this. Linda added that on Northfield and North Park, there is parking right on the corner. Ian said he planned to have meetings with the Road department about this and if enforcement areas are required. Jim added that the refuse trucks cannot get up some roads in this area.
- *Parking* – there are issues around garages in some areas and parking on some of the roads. There is also work being carried out on cars, fixing them up. These are causing obstructions; Ian is in discussions with Planning and will look further in to what the rules and regulations are for this - **Ian D to action**

### 5. Any Other Business

Eudora and Stewart were at the Planning and Licencing meeting held at County Buildings and said the discussions which took place were good.

Linda enquired as to why there were no “pull in” places for transporter trucks on Heathfield Road which cause obstructions.

Still to be discussed are the notice boards however David P would have to be present at the meeting for this.

### 6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 6 pm in Newton Primary School.