

ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Royal Burgh of Kirkcudbright Community Council in the Kirkcudbright Primary School, Kirkcudbright on Wednesday 10th February 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Mr B Thomson
Mrs L Garbutt (Provost) (Chair)
Mr L Forbes (Treasurer)
Mrs M Maxwell
Councillor P Gilroy
Mr J Johnson
Ms K Lowe
Mr D Collins
Mr D McHale

In attendance: Mr S Gillespie Galloway News
Ms D Craig Secretary
PC J Brown Police Scotland

Apologies: Ms E Allan Youth Representative
Ms C Kenny Youth Representative
Mr C Wyper Dumfries & Galloway Councillor
Mr P Smith

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting on 13 January 2016** **Action**
These were approved, proposed by Mr Johnson and seconded by Mr Thomson.
2. **Business arising**
 - a. **KBT signs** – following correspondence from the Council, it was decided that there was nothing to preclude Incorporated Trades from going ahead with the repairs to the signs.
3. **Reports**
 - a. **Police:** PC Brown reported that there was the ongoing issue of vandalism at Park House. The problem, he said, was that the property could not be secured as the owner didn't have the funds to it. Until it was secured, he said, the police would be keeping an eye on the property.
There had also been some more break ins, some anti-social behaviour and an ongoing feud between step-brothers in town.
Mrs Garbutt then said that she had been invited to a meeting with the Inspector and Community Wardens. It had been a very interesting meeting and she said that the importance of calling 101 was stressed if anyone had seen anything suspicious. Mr Thomson said that many people felt that because you didn't get through to anyone local when calling 101, many people felt that there was not much point in calling 101, whereas it was quite the opposite case and perhaps Mr Gillespie could include something in the Galloway News.
Mrs Garbutt then thanked PC Brown for attending the meeting and he left.

- b. **Dumfries & Galloway Councillors:** Councillor Gilroy reported that the focus had been on budget savings as £11,357 million had to be found. Mrs Garbutt asked if there was likely to be a rise in council tax. Mrs Gilroy replied that there hadn't been a rise in council tax for nine years and it seemed the council was now paying the price. Mr McHale then asked why weather warnings were being sent out from the Council. Mrs Garbutt, Mrs Gilroy both thought they were a good idea and Ms Craig agreed to continue sending them out as she received them.
- c. **Chamber of Commerce:** Following the recent meeting, it was reported that the Chamber planned to hold a meeting with the Shop Doctor, Mr Smith to try and re-engage with the town.
- d. **Kirkcudbright Forum:** Mr Forbes reported that Visit Kirkcudbright 2016 was in the process of being printed and everything was well underway. Mr Thomson then raised the issue of the forms that were sent out from the design company asking for artwork. He said that to the lay person the forms made no sense at all and asked Mr Forbes to raise the issue at the next Forum meeting. Mr Forbes agreed to do this.
- e. **Incorporated Trades:** Mr Collins said that tickets for the annual Burns Supper were selling well.
- f. **Kirkcudbright Development Trust:** Mr Johnson reported that meetings had been set for the 1st Monday of each month and the Trust was actively looking at more effective ways to engage with the town about developments.
- g. **Kirkcudbright Academy:** there was no one present, but it was reported that the Candelmas Ball had been a great success.
- h. **Community Centre:** Debbie Craig agreed to contact someone again about attending the Community Council meetings. **DC**
- i. **St Cuthbert's Trust:** Mr McHale reported that there had been a recent meeting of the congressional board.
4. **Stewartry Area Committee (SAC)**
Nothing to report for Kirkcudbright.
5. **Common Good Fund (CGF)**
KBT Parish Church: Mr McHale and Ms Lowe declared an interest and Mrs Garbutt asked that if everyone had given thought to the application from the KBT Parish Church. Mr Johnson expressed concerns that maintenance of the Church should be the responsibility of the Church. Mrs Maxwell proposed that the Church be given the grant and this was seconded by Mr Collins, Mr Forbes and Mr Thomson. Mrs Gilroy then raised the matter of the bequest left to the CGF by Mary Mitchell as it was proving difficult to get any information from the solicitors, Kingston, Smith and Co in London. Mr Forbes thought this was outrageous and agreed to contact Dumfries Sheriff Court to find out the details of the will as it would be a matter of public record. **LF**

Mrs Garbutt added that she thought there was an official letter with Mr Rodgers of Williamson Henry Solicitors.

6. **Planning**

- a. **General** – St Mary’s Street - installation of seven replacement windows on front elevation of dwelling house.
Beaconsfield Place - crown lifting/pruning of eight lime trees.
Soaperie Gardens - crown reduction of one oak tree.

- b. **Wind Turbines** – None to report

7. **Correspondence**

Correspondence from David Mundell regarding the Scotland Bill - which DC forwarded 25th January. **DC**

Email regarding Community Council Network Meeting - which DC forwarded 26th January.

Email regarding Patient and Public Partnership Group - which DC forwarded 4th February.

Email regarding SCVS Community Guardian Project - which DC forwarded 4th February.

Email regarding Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards - which DC forwarded 19th January.

Ms Craig also passed round a newsletter she had received from Dumgal Against Pylons. It was agreed the Community Council add its name to the letter of objection.

Mrs Garbutt then read some correspondence she had received from Ms Vivienne Bradley regarding a community garden. Everyone thought it a good idea but the issue of maintenance was raised. It was agreed that everyone was happy for Mrs Garbutt to contact Ms Bradley and suggest that the area at the back of the school be used as maintenance would hopefully not become an issue then.

8. **Any other competent business**

Pavements on St Cuthbert Street – Mr Forbes asked that a letter be written regarding the poor state of the pavements on St Cuthbert Street. Ms Craig agreed to contact Mr Nick Jackson regarding the matter. **DC**

Cannee – Mrs Garbutt said that had received even more complaints about the building site and Ms Craig agreed to chase up the issue with planning. **DC**

Victoria Place – Ms Lowe voiced her concerns that there was potential for this spot to become a fly-tipping point. It was established that the area concerned was private ground and was in fact in use by a local business.

Kirkcudbright What’s On – Ms Lowe reported that she had formed a Facebook page listing that were happening in Kirkcudbright. Mr Johnson said he felt that there were too many websites for Kirkcudbright, which the Development Trust was planning to address. In the interim though, it was agreed Ms Lowe should continue.

Royal Hotel – Mr Collins asked if the Community Council could do anything regarding the shabby appearance of the Royal Hotel as it was, he felt, becoming an eyesore which everyone agreed with. **DC**

Mr Forbes felt that since the building was privately owned it could prove difficult. Mrs Gilroy said that something should be able to be done as the building was in the conservation area. It was agreed that Ms Craig write to Mr David Suttie, head of

planning, regarding the matter and also to contact the local conservation officer.

School bus parking – Mrs Maxwell asked if the Community Council could contact someone regarding the parking of school buses on the main road as she felt that there could be a potential accident. It was agreed that Ms Craig write to Mr Colin Grant regarding this issue.

DC

Community Council files – Mrs Garbutt reported that there was a filing cabinet in the library for Community Council files and asked that there should be a space found for it in Daar Road.

Sustainable Travel Kirkcudbright – Mrs Garbutt pointed out that the Sustainable Travel for Kirkcudbright actually referred to Dalbeattie and wanted to record a complaint.

Stranraer to Carlisle bus route – Mrs Garbutt asked if there was a reason the Stranraer to Carlisle bus had been stopped. Mrs Gilroy said she thought it had been a commercial decision and it was agreed that Ms Craig write to SW Trans regarding the matter.

DC

Queen's 90th birthday – Mrs Garbutt raised the matter of the Street Party and reported that she still had not heard anything affirmative regarding this from the Lord Lieutenant. Mrs Gilroy agreed to contact Mr Ross regarding the matter.

Correspondence – Mr Johnson asked that letters sent out on behalf of the Community Council be sent to members. Ms Craig agreed to do this in the future.

There being no other business, Mrs Garbutt thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.