

ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Royal Burgh of Kirkcudbright Community Council, Kirkcudbright on Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 6.15pm

Present:

Mrs L Garbutt (Provost) (Chair)

Mr Brian Thomson (Vice Chair)

Mr R L Forbes (Treasurer)

Mr I Swan

Mr D Collins

Mr P Smith

Cllr D Campbell

Attendance: Ms Debbie Craig

Apologies:

Mr D McHale

Mrs Garbutt welcomed everyone to the November meeting and reminded everyone that without regular meetings there was a real danger of losing the community council. It was agreed that additional members be sought.

1. Sederunt and apologies: as above

2. Minutes of the 13th July 2022 meeting – Proposed by Mr Thomson and seconded by Mr Collins.

3. Business arising:

Kirkcudbright Community Hospital – It was agreed, after some discussion, that KBT CC write to Chief Executive Jeff Ace asking for an update regarding the hospital following recent talks with the League of Friends.

Police station – it was agreed that the situation regarding the police station in town be followed up.

4. Reports

a) **Police:** The police report from PC Brown had been circulated ahead of the meeting. There were no comments for the police following the report.

Cllr Campbell then entered the meeting.

b) **Dumfries and Galloway Councillors:** Cllr Campbell

Cottage hospitals. A letter had been sent to Jeff Ace regarding the opening of cottage hospitals across the region as it was widely recognised that this would help reduce bed blocking. It was also recognised that staffing is a major issue, but that an explanation was needed as to what is happening.

Cost of living crisis: A letter was going to full council meeting

Roads & public transport: £800,000 from reserves was being allocated to ramp up resources over the winter period.

Delays in planning system: again resources are a problem. A pot of money has been set aside to recruit planning officers but currently there is only one educational establishment running courses so this continues to be a problem.

Budget: Cuts in the region of £50 million are expected over next five years. A 5 year council plan is in development and it will be a cross party approach, but, Cllr Campbell continued, we have to be reasonable in terms of expectations. E.g. energy costs have more than doubled, which is why the decision was taken to reduce the temperature in D&G Council buildings.

Mr Collins asked if the council is in a position to improve street lighting to greater efficiency levels. Cllr Campbell replied that all options were being looked at.

Cllr Campbell continued that the council is also looking to fund much of its own resources, so was actively looking at things like utilising vacant land for solar panel farms. Another thing is something like charging for car parks which everyone agreed would not be popular.

It was agreed that there were some very difficult decisions to be made.

c) **Chamber of Commerce:** Nothing to report as the Chamber had not met post-Covid.

d) **Kirkcudbright Forum:** Nothing to report.

e) **Incorporated Trades:** Mr Swan reported that the Kirkin of the Cornet had been well attended and while there was nothing else planned for the remainder of the year, they were already looking forward to 2023.

f) **Kirkcudbright Development Trust:** Mrs Garbutt reported that things were going well with the AGM having been held on Monday 7th November 2022, with all the office bearers being re-elected.

g) **Kirkcudbright Academy:** Nothing to report.

5. **Stewartry Area Committee:** Cllr Campbell reported that the main course of action would be tackling the Poverty Fund.

6. **Common Good Fund:** An application from the Chamber of Commerce had been submitted for £7500 for the repair and purchase of Christmas lights. It was agreed that this should be deferred to the next meeting.

Mr Forbes reported that the Common Good Fund accounts are not a true reflection of the fund

and it was agreed that Ms Craig and Mr Forbes meet to draft a letter to be sent from KBT CC to the Common Good Committee.

7. Planning

a) General: Nothing to report

b) Wind Turbines: Nothing to report

8. Correspondence: All had been circulated by email.

9. Any other competent business:

Remembrance Sunday: Mr Swan reported that everything was in order and Police Scotland has asked to lay a wreath at this years' service.

Mrs Garbutt then left the meeting at 6.55pm and Mr Thomson then chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Estuary Footpath: Mr Collins reported that he had applied for funding for the repair of the path and would keep the Community Council updated.

CG Fund property: It was agreed that Ms Craig scan and circulate a list of the properties that had been discussed by Mr Forbes.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7.15pm with the next meeting being 7th December 2022.