

ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Royal Burgh of Kirkcudbright Community Council, Kirkcudbright on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 6.15pm

Present:

Mrs L Garbutt (Provost) (Chair)

Mr R L Forbes (Treasurer)

Mr D Collins

Mr P Smith

Mr I Swan

Mr D McHale

In attendance:

Ms Debbie Craig

Cllr Denerley

Kam Deo

Apologies:

Cllr A McFarlane

Cllr Campbell

Police Scotland

Mr Brian Thomson (Vice Chair)

Mrs Garbutt welcomed everyone to the September meeting.

1. Sederunt and apologies: as above

2. Minutes of the 12th July 2023 – Proposed by Mr McHale Mr Smith.

3. Business arising:

Mention of road of Tongland Bridge. Council don't have funds to repair or look at the bridge, but hopefully there will be money in the 2024 budget.

Mr Collins thanked Cllr Denerley for his attention in the matter, but felt strongly that something should be done before there is a serious accident.

Cllr Denerley appreciates Mr Collins' concern and will add that email to the Committee so that it moves to top of the priority list.

4. Reports

a) **Police:** Police report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Mrs Garbutt was shocked at the amount of drivers under the influence that were stopped during August. There were no

questions for the police but it was felt there was a general lack of police presence.

Mrs Garbutt has spoken to Ian Howie with regards to what is happening to the police station and would take it to the next police committee meeting. Cllr Denerley asked if the police station was still up for sale? Mrs Garbutt reported that the question still remained who owned the station. Cllr Denerley agreed to follow this up with the council.

b) Dumfries and Galloway Councillors: Cllr Denerley explained that it was brief but following the summer recess, and the new Conservative administration, there was an agreement made on road repairs and there was a £30 million grant for the road network. Everyone thanked Cllr Denerley for the report.

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

d) Kirkcudbright Forum: It continues to exist, but Mr Forbes thought it was going round in circles and it seemed the only thing was to meet and talk but nothing was very much being done. Mrs Garbutt suggested that it be raised at the next meeting.

e) Incorporated Trades: There was not much happening following a busy summer, but there was a AGM due in October followed by the Kirkin of the Dean Convenor as well as some collaboration with the Irvine Trade.

f) Kirkcudbright Development Trust: Mrs Garbutt reported the KDT was continuing to deliver its services and the Trust continues to be very busy. We are finally going to complete on the Seaward Bothy. Thanks were given to Mr Neil Cavers regarding this matter. It is going to remain a Bothy and there is already a high interest in using it by scout groups, school groups etc.

Mr Swan asked if KDT was still involved in the swimming pool. Mrs Garbutt reported that KDT was supporting the swimming pool and there will be an advert for a swimming pool manager. KDT is currently looking for funding for various items.

Mr Smith reported that there were nine camper vans parked in the swimming pool car park and three others on the road. He asked if there was anything to be done and could they be moved on. Mrs Garbutt reported that there was no one to police the matter and it was on the council radar. Particularly the anti-social behaviour such as people emptying their waste in the park.

Mr Collins discussed the ongoing issue of motorhomes in the harbour square. Is it appropriate that representation made to D&G Council regarding signage dissuading motorhomes parking overnight. Could a bigger site be created for motorhomes?

There followed a discussion regarding the campervans, and it was agreed that the CC contact the council regarding this.

g) Community Centre: Ms Craig reported that the community centre was opening a Community Kitchen on 1st October. Posters would be distributed throughout the town.

g) **Kirkcudbright Academy:** Nothing to report. It was agreed that a poster be distributed throughout the school advertising the CC for pupils to attend.

5. **Stewartry Area Committee:** Cllr Denerley reported that the lease/CAT of tennis courts were raised, and the matter was deferred to the next Common Good Fund Committee. It was asked if the land was gifted by the Hope Dunbar family. Mr Forbes replied that it was a legal matter that the council needed to look at and thought that a 25-year lease would be more beneficial. Our concern is that if something is transferred out of the CAT, it cannot be transferred back in and it should revert back, if anything happened, to the Common Good Fund.

It was agreed that we write once again to the councillors offering our support for the tennis club, but we do not agree that there should be a CAT.

6. **Common Good Fund:** Mr Forbes explained that he had written to the Trustees of the Common Good Fund explaining his disappointment at the set of accounts provided. He then went on to discuss the matter. He was, he continued, that if done correctly then the balance, including the shares and if the land was included properly, stand at around £3 million. And he finds the whole thing unacceptable.

Mrs Garbutt asked if Brewin Dolphin had attended a meeting recently? She explained that she had a conversation recently, she suggested that we write to other communities in Scotland inviting a cohesive approach to this issue with the common good fund. Perhaps if there was a co-ordinated group from across Scotland to take proactive measures. It was suggested that perhaps Cllr Denerley could get involved at this stage. Cllr Denerley agreed that this was extremely important, and this discussion was extremely valuable and the responsibility should be with the council. There was unanimous support for this.

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:**

Phone box: Mr Collins spoken to contactors and waiting on quotes.

A memorial in the cemetery: Mr Swan had been approached regarding a memorial to those buried there from the poor house.

Remembrance Sunday: It was agreed that the KBT CC contact the MOD regarding attending the ceremony.

Citizen of the Year: Mr Smith asked if it KDT would help advertising the Citizen of the Year.

Soaperie Gardens: poster designed by KDT asking children to get involved with ideas for a design to cover the well.

Parking survey: This was discussed and it was agreed that it would be regionwide, not just in some towns and villages and it was something that should be rejected.

MacLellan Castle: It was agreed that we write to HES asking once again about the removal of the barriers.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7.20pm with the next meeting being 11th October 2023.