

STEVENSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Public Meeting held in the Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre

On December 6th 2022.

ATTENDEES.

I Winton	SCC Chair
D McGrory	SCC Vice Chair
L Thomasson	SCC Vice Chair
D Campbell	SCC Secretary
R Wilson	SCC Treasurer
J Frew	SCC Member
J Dick	SCC Member
K Rowswell	SCC Member
C Inglis	Elected Member
J Sweeney	Elected Member
G Ferguson	NAC
D Young	NAC
I Hamlin	SCC Advisor

APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from D McTiernan and G Pollock

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed all attending.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS OUTSTANDING

Acceptance was Proposed by J Frew and seconded by J Dick.

There were no matters outstanding.

SECRETARIES REPORT

D Campbell reported that there had been three "Closed" meetings of the SCC in November 2022.

The Secretary is now aware that any proposals made at these meetings must be RATIFIED at the next Public Meeting of the SCC.

At the Closed Meeting on November 10th 2022, it was Proposed that SCC had ample grounds to oppose the Planning application by Farm Industries/Berry to build a wind farm on the Ardeer Peninsula. This was proposed by J Frew and seconded by K Rowswell.

There were no proposals at the closed meetings on the 17th and 29th November that needed to be Ratified.

For the record, J Frew proposed (again) that SCC oppose the planning application and K Rowswell seconded (again). There were no objections.

The Secretary further reported that only routine correspondence had been received and distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

R Wilson reported the following;

No1A/c balance £36.94

No2A/c balance £3011.97

No3A/c balance £1053.91

POLICE REPORT.

North Ayrshire Sub Division

Stevenston Community Report

1 November 2022 to 30 November 2022

UPDATE FROM LOCALITY POLICING SERGEANT IAIN FITZSIMMONS

The month of November started with a number of challenges, not least was the building of bonfires in the area and the associated problems. The usual site at Stevenston Ind Estate, which has been the subject of many complaints of the past year did not see any bonfires this year, but inevitably, another site was chosen, this time at the beach park off Trelawney Terrace. As well as the resultant scorch marks and mess, damage was sustained to the height barrier.

Officers engaged with Operation Moonbeam attended a number of sites throughout the three towns. Fortunately no injuries or disorder occurred. However, it is a worrying trend that these bonfires seem to be getting bigger every year with no cognisance taken of what is placed within them and a lack of control around them.

Since then, I am pleased to say that November has been relatively settled and we are looking forward to that continuing into December and over the Christmas period.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year when it comes.

Kind regards,

Iain

01294 404506

PC Colin Johnson

LOCALITY POLICING OFFICERS	Inspector Stuart Dougan Sgt Iain Fitzsimmons	PC Jonny Mackie PC Colin McLelland (Auchenharvie Academy)
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Local Priorities

Assault & Violent Crime

Serious Assault

There have been no recorded crimes of serious assault during this period.

Common Assault

There have been thirteen recorded common assaults this month, seven of which have been detected. Five of the reports were domestic assaults and three involved juvenile victims.

One of these assaults took place on 21/11/22, within the pharmacy on New St. A 78 yr old complainer was assaulted within the pharmacy. Police attended, traced the male offender nearby who was arrested and taken to Saltcoats P.O.

Robbery

A robbery took place at Ardeer Services whereby a male suspect is being sought by local CID. As yet no one has been arrested but they are following a positive line of enquiry.

Drugs

There have been no recorded drug offences in Stevenston this month.

Anti Social Behaviour

A 53 yr old female was arrested after a number of calls were made to the police by the offender, causing them to have to attend and arrest her for a number of offences including obstructing police.

A 28 yr old male was reported to the PF after a disturbance in Misk Knowes after a family gathering.

A 43 yr old male was arrested after a call to the police regarding him acting erratically. Police approached the male near to the railway station and arrested him after he was abusive and threatening towards them.

A 52 yr old male was arrested outside the Madras curry house in New ST after causing a disturbance and annoying members of the public. On arrival of the police, he was arrested after making lewd comments and assaulting an officer. He was arrested and has been reported to the PF.

Theft and Housebreaking

Police Scotland continue to receive reports of stolen fuel from Ardeer Services and other petrol retailers. Although a small number of these are genuine thefts committed by as yet untraced individuals, most are clerical errors and genuine mistakes.

There have been a number of reported theft by shoplifting incidents from various retailers in the past month. Enquiries are ongoing into these incidents with some having been detected and reported to the PF.

ACTION PLANS

The Locality Policing Team have continued to be involved in Action Plans regarding youth disorder this month. I am pleased to say that there have been no significant incidents of youth disorder this month.

OTHER MATTERS OF NOTE

ROAD TRAFFIC

A 23 yr old female was reported for driving without insurance in Lundholm Rd on 31/07/22.

A 20 yr old female has been reported for taking a vehicle without permission, driving without a licence and insurance on 21/08/22 in McGregor Ave, Stevenston.

Enquiries are ongoing to identify the driver of a M/V in First Avenue Stevenston at 2230 hours on 03/09/22. The vehicle in question, a black VW Polo, SK52 YPX, shows as uninsured and no MOT.

DRINK/Drugs DRIVER

There have been no recorded drink/drugs driving this month.

DISQUALIFIED DRIVER

There were no disqualified driver offences recorded during this period.

Offensive Weapons/Bladed Articles

A 14 yr old male was found in possession of a knife after a report from a member of the public regarding threats to assault another child.

Fire Raising

There were no criminal reports of fire raising this month (despite it being bonfire night...)

Upcoming Events:

At time of writing, the Stevenston Christmas Lights switch on will take place on 2 December PC Johnson, Locality officer will attend with other officers.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

MEDIA TEAM REPORT

D McGrory and L Thomasson reported that they had re-run the survey carried out in November with one additional question added, ie "what day would suit you best to attend an open to the public Community Council meeting?"

The result of the survey showed that Mondays would be the preferred day.

After a short discussion, the consensus of the CC was that their open to the public meetings would be held on the second Monday in the months of February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November and December in 2023. Venues for these meetings have still to be decided. As a precaution, the secretary will book the Ardeer venue for the February meeting and look for available dates for the Hayocks and Church Hall venues.

LONSDALE AND RANKINS SITES

There has been no change in the status of this matter.

GABLE END AT BOGLEMART ST/GLEBE ST CORNER.

There has been no change in the status of this matter.

It was noted that this building is now up for sale by auction.

SIGNAGE.

This subject has been under discussion by the Three Towns Locality Partnership for the past three years at least. There has been no progress on this matter.

At the next meeting of the Locality Partnership, SCC will ask that a new sub-committee be formed to speed up this topic.

BEACH ACCESS BRIDGE

Elected Member J. Sweeney had been in contact with NAC to ask when the bridge will be operational again. The response, from A Cowley, Senior Manager of NAC Engineering Services is detailed below.

“Although the watercourse now seems to have returned to its previous course, the undermining has caused considerable damage to the footbridge and we do not consider that it is safe to be re-opened.

We will undertake an inspection to determine how much work needs to be undertaken to make it safe and what the cost is likely to be. The bridge cannot be re-opened in the short term and we intend to take additional measures to prevent it being used.

There are issues around what happens in the future with the direction of the watercourse and we would not be prepared to undertake repairs, only to have the undermining take place again with more damage taking place to the footbridge or the watercourse moving so far that the footbridge did not cross it at all.

To prevent the watercourse from changing course we will look at measures to restrain it. However, we would need a Marine Scotland licence in order to do that and there's a fairly reasonable chance that they might not let us restrain the watercourse. Even if they do, we know from other projects that it will take a very long time to get the necessary approvals. There's then the issue of how much the work would cost and where would we find the budget to undertake the work. The bridge is not part of the adopted road network and there are very little resources dedicated to the maintenance and repair of these additional assets, so there is likely to be some in finding the necessary funding, even if Marine Scotland allows us to constrain the burn.

I understand that the topography of that area has changed dramatically since the time that the bridge was built and that a large area of sand dunes has been washed away.

In retrospect, it is easy to come to the conclusion that this swiftly changing and exposed environment was not the right place to build this footbridge.

I believe that there is another footbridge a little further upstream which allows access to the burn to western part of the beach and which can be used in the meantime”.

This response was discussed by the CC.

Elected Member J Sweeney was asked by the CC if NAC could address the following points;
Beach access.

Risk of flooding.

Environmental protection.
Adverse publicity about this situation.

NB. Although this was asked on the 6th December, a reply was received on 7th December. The Secretary thought that this reply was pertinent and should be incorporated into this minute.

Elected Member J Sweeney emailed the following to A Cowley, Senior Manager NAC Engineering Services and T Reaney, NAC Head of Service.

“ I was asked by SCC to highlight to you that the damaged bridge will not only prevent access to the beach but there is a serious flooding risk at this area and there is a definite need to protect the environment in this area.

You will be aware that Stevenston has been selected as 1 of 7 Climate Action Towns at risk of flooding and I would appreciate it if consideration was given to all aspects of this situation and not just the damaged bridge.

There has been considerable adverse publicity relating to the damaged bridge.

The consensus of the meeting of SCC last night was that consideration be given for assistance from the Comms Team for publicity/updates on the bridge situation to alleviate fears of neglect”.

The response from T Reaney, NAC Head of Service is detailed below.

“ I note the concerns about protecting the environment.

We will look into what else can be done in relation to this.

I agree with the point re communication and will work with the Comms Team to address this and explain the situation”.

PARKING and RESTRICTED VIEWS at BOGLEMART ST/GLEBE ST CORNER

Elected Member J Sweeney reported that he would meet with the local Chief Inspector and bring up this matter and report back to the CC.

GARDENING PROJECT

D Young of NAC Street Scene reported the following;

Shrubs had been planted in the bed at the Shell car park, as requested by the CC.

Four fruit trees had been planted at the wall at the High Kirk, as requested by the CC.

Ground cover ivy had been removed from the trees around the Cross area, as requested by the CC.

The Chair thanked D Young and his team for these actions.

It was noted that J Frew would draw up a time table to cover all aspects of the Gardening Project for 2023.

PLANNING PROJECT

A sub committee consisting of K Rowswell (CC Member), I Hamlin (CC Advisor), J Dick (CC Member) and J Eaglesham (Stevenston Development Trust) had been formed to implement this project. K Rowswell will chair this sub committee.

The sub committee will present a draft proposal of the project at the CC meeting in February 2023 and a full presentation of the proposal would be made at the CC meeting in March 2023.

A.O.C.B.

The following points were noted:

The street lighting issue in Glen Cres. has been resolved. Glen Cres. is an “unadopted” road and street lights are the responsibility of the Housing Dept of NAC.

The question of a fireworks display as part of the Christmas Lights Switch On Ceremony was raised.

The Media Team will trial “One Drive” as a way of getting our minutes on Facebook.

The Chair wished all attending a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday February 13th at 7pm in the Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre.