

STEVENSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open to the Public Meeting held in the High Kirk Church Halls on Monday 12th June 2023.

ATTENDEES

I Winton	Chair
D Campbell	Secretary
J Frew	SCC Member
J Dick	SCC Member
R Wilson	SCC Member
C Inglis	Elected Member
D McTiernan	Elected Member
J Sweeney	Elected Member
J McClung	Elected Member
I Hamlin	SCC Advisor
G Ferguson	NAC
A Gemmell	NAC

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed all attending.

APOLOGIES

An apology had been received from D Young.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Amendment to the May Minutes:

Under Attendees. C Innes should read C Inglis.

Acceptance of the May minutes was Proposed by J Frew and Seconded by J Dick.

There were no matters arising.

SECRETARIES REPORT

D Campbell reported that only routine correspondence had been received and distributed as required.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

D Campbell reported the following Account balances;

No1A/c	£901.38
No2A/c	£16. 24
No3A/c	£1057.58

POLICE REPORT

It was noted from the Police Report that Sgt Iain Fitzimmons is retiring from Police Scotland at the end of June. SCC wishes him well.

**POLICING IN AYRSHIRE
JUNE 2023
COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT FOR
STEVENSTON**



Locality Priorities

- 1. Violent Crime**
- 2. Drug Dealing and Drug Misuse**
- 3. Youths Causing**
- 4. Antisocial Behaviour**
- 5. Housebreakings**

Contact us

In an emergency always dial 999

For non-urgent crime, you can contact your local police office by telephoning 101.

Our Twitter and Facebook sites are not for reporting crime and they are not monitored 24/7.

Facebook – Ayrshire Police

Twitter - @AyrshireNPolice

E-mail – AyrshireLPST3Towns@scotland.police.uk

**LOCALITY POLICING
OFFICERS**

Sgt Iain
Fitzsimmons

STEVENSTON
PC Jonathan Mackie
PC Colin Johnson
PC Colin McLelland (Auchenharvie
Academy)

SALTCOATS

		PC Seth Hendren PC Carole Rankine PC Neil Hayes (Town Centre) PC Iain McGregor (Town Centre) PC Kenny Docherty (St. Matthews Academy) ARDROSSAN PC Allan Kerr PC Val Gribben PC Chris Poulter (Ardrossan Academy)
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UPDATE FROM LPT - PC Colin Johnson

During the period of 12th May 2023 and the 6th June 2023 there were 221 incidents reported to the police. Of these incidents, 47 resulted in a crime report being raised and investigated.

In comparison, within the same period last year, there were 234 incidents reported; resulting in 47 crime reports being raised.

Two people have been reported for off-road motor-bike use at Ardeer, with ASBOS placed upon their vehicles, should they be caught again their vehicles can be seized.

There was one recorded Housebreaking within a public house within Stevenston, during which a gambling machine was broken into and monies taken.

Locality officers have liaised with colleagues in Shetland after a drugs package was intercepted, having been believed to be posted within Stevenston, enquiries are ongoing to trace those responsible.

Shoplifting is still occurring, with several high value thefts of alcohol reported from local supermarkets, it is believed this is an organised crime group travelling throughout the United Kingdom.

We would respectfully request that community council members continue to report matters to police using 101, alternatively, reports can be made regarding illegal activity anonymously via CrimeStoppers.

Noteworthy Crimes/Offences – 13/02/2023 – 09/03/2023

Local Priorities	
Assault & Violent Crime	
5 reports of Assault	2 currently detected
Drug Use & Drug Dealing	
3 report of drugs offences (including one for drug driving.)	2 Detected
Anti-Social Behaviour	
Wilful Fire-raising (refuse bin)	1 (Not detected)
Breach of the Peace / S.38	6 (4 detected)
Vandalism	4 (0 detected)
Protection of Workers Act	1 (1 detected)
Comms Act	1 (0 detected)
***Use of off road bikes on public land is classed on police systems under Road Traffic Offences however local officers fully understand that these can be regarded as ASB.	
Theft and Housebreaking	

5 reports of theft by shoplifting 0 report of theft of a wheelie bin	
4 reports of theft of fuel from filling stations 1 theft of bike 1 theft HB (dwelling house) 1 theft HB (commercial – public house)	Due to CCTV opportunities and number plates all drivers dealt with appropriately. Ongoing work with fuel retailers to reduce opportunities for this crime to occur. Enquiries ongoing. Enquiries ongoing.

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Incidents for Stevenston	Current Year	Previous Year
Total number of incidents reported to Police Scotland during reporting period	221	234

Public Nuisance	11	19
Disturbances	13	9
Noise Complaints	0	10

It is confirmed that the Police Scotland/ North Ayrshire Council quad bikes will be delivered in the next couple of weeks, these will be based at Saltcoats Police Office. A number of Locality officers have been trained and these will be utilised where appropriate to deal with arising issues and will allow patrols of the Ardeer Peninsula to deter anti-social behaviour and illegal use of off-road bikes.

It has been identified that young people are travelling locally to meet up, this leads to increased calls regarding antisocial behaviour and youth offending. At present, Irvine beach would appear to be the current focus with this, with young people travelling from across Ayrshire and the Central Belt.

Locality Officers and Police Intelligence Offices are continuing to monitor this. Where appropriate actions plans submitting with coordinated working between partners.

The funfair temporarily situated at Trelawney Terrace did not result in an increase in calls to the area.

Finally, Sgt Iain Fitzsimmons is retiring at the end of June from Police Scotland.

GLEBE ST./BOGLEMART ST GABLE END, FORMER LONSDALE AND RANKINS SITES.

The following points were noted:

No report had been received about the Glebe St/Boglemart St situation..

No report had been received about the former Rankins pub.

D McTiernan will follow this up.

SCC understands that the granting of planning permission for the former Lonsdale site to be turned into a car wash was not discussed by the Planning Committee.
J Sweeney to explore the possibility of compulsory purchase of this site.

SCC is aware that NAC has not, as yet, recruited a new Head of Planning.

The Chair introduced Alistair Gemmell of NAC Planning Department who would answer questions posed by SCC on the following subjects:

New housing developments in Stevenston.

The former Kerelaw School Grounds.

The Ardeer Peninsula Special Development Order (SDO)

Questions and Answers on the above as follows:

New Housing Developments in Stevenston.

Q. Developers sometimes provide funding to improve local infrastructure.

Persimmon has provided funding to improve West Kilbride Primary School because they are building several hundred homes on the outskirts of West Kilbride.

Has Persimmon offered any infrastructure funding in respect of their Mayfield site at the Northwest of Stevenston where they are building circa 400 houses?

A. No. They have not. Any funding received by NAC is incorporated into the LDP.

Q. What Agencies do NAC consult with to gather information which would allow them to make planning decisions and is this information "fact checked"?

A. Depending on the scope of the application, NAC would consult with Roads, Scottish Water, Electricity Suppliers, Scottish National Health Service, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue, SEPA, Scottish Education Dept and the Scottish Government if Required.

Local opinion is also taken into consideration.

All Planning Applications are published on the NAC website.

All objections to planning applications can also be made via the Planning Portal on the NAC website.

The former Kerelaw School Grounds.

Q. NAC commissioned an independent review of its Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) in 2015. The review concluded that all of the former Kerelaw School grounds should be declared an LNCS. From what we (SCC) understand, Planning are currently in charge of completing and publishing the LNCS review.

Can you confirm that the entirety of the former Kerelaw School grounds will be declared an LNCS and indicate a likely time scale for this happening?

A. This is an ongoing process and I cannot give a definitive answer at this time.

Ardeer Peninsula Special Development Order (SDO)

Four questions had been asked.

Q. After the appropriate legislation is passed by the Scottish Government (e.g. legislation pertaining to compensation) to revoke the Ardeer SDO, what steps will NAC go through before revoking the SDO?

Q. When the SDO is revoked, will anything replace it?

Q. When the SDO is revoked, will it be the case that all applications for development at Ardeer will be determined by NAC Planning the same way they determine applications in the rest of the county?

Q. We hear from the Scottish Government that progress producing the legislation necessary to revoke the SDO is being delayed because the government and NAC cannot agree who should pay compensation after the SDO is revoked. If this is correct, how will this stalemate be resolved?

A. Mr Gemmell thought that these questions should be put to NAC'S Legal Dept as he could not answer them.

The Chair thanked Mr Gemmell for his contribution to the meeting.

NB. SCC had provided Mr Gemmell with a list of questions prior to this meeting.

Due to the short timescale between SCC providing the questions and the actual date of the meeting, Mr Gemmell could not answer all of the questions posed.

The unanswered questions were as follows:

Q. The population of North Ayrshire is falling and NAC predicts that the number of occupied households will drop significantly over the next 10/20 years. Would Planning continue to allocate land for housing and approve planning applications for new housing estates in a future where there is a surplus of housing in the county and so little or need for new housing?

Q. What information from SCC would Planning find useful and influential when deciding whether to allocate the former Kerelaw School grounds for housing in LDP3?

Q. Planning have previously stated that if a site is allocated for housing in one LDP, then they have a bias in favour of again allocating it for housing in the subsequent LDP. Why does this bias exist?

These questions will be posed again.

BEACH ACCESS AND SIGNAGE.

SCC is aware that a "site meeting" took place on May 19th at the beach, involving NAC Officers and Elected Members.

SCC understands that NAC will now consult with the people of Stevenston on the matter of beach access.

SCC is not aware of a timetable for this consultation, or indeed, what format it would take.

Please refer to SCC May 2023 minutes under the same heading for further comments by SCC.

LOCAL PLACE PLAN SURVEY.

SCC will undertake another survey on the views of Stevenston residents. Details to follow.

AFTON RD ACCESS AND SAFETY.

SCC has arranged a meeting with NAC Roads Dept on Monday July 3rd.

A report on this meeting will be circulated to all members.

NATURIST BEACH

SCC understands that Ardeer Beach was designated as a nudist beach by Cunninghame District Council.

Legally, people are permitted to be nude in public, regardless of whether an area has been “designated” for such use, provided that they do not engage in behaviour intended to cause alarm or distress.

Sexual activity in public is a criminal offence and should be reported to the Police.

(NB. I can’t believe I just typed this! I bet that there is not another Community Council in Scotland with a minute entry like this!)

BERRY FACTORY VISIT.

On June 12th, four members of SCC were given a tour of the Berry Industries Site at Ardeer. The subject of the objections (made by SCC) to the proposed wind farm on the Ardeer Peninsula was not discussed.

Farm Energy had contacted SCC to allow them to make a presentation at our next meeting, which, coincidentally was June 12th.

SCC could not accommodate this request as we had a representative from NAC Planning Dept attending our meeting.

Farm Energy was asked to provide two alternative dates for their presentation.

To date, there has been no reply from Farm Energy.

FLY TIPPING AND NAC CO-OPERATION.

A member of SCC reported an instance of fly tipping directly to NAC. This took place in the Mill Dam area. A mattress and various bits of furniture had been thrown over the fence and were lying on the slope down to the burn. That same afternoon/evening, volunteers, not NAC, cleared the rubbish from the slope and stacked it at an accessible point at the foot of the Mill Dam. The rubbish was still there seven days later. Co-Operation?

GARDENING PROJECTS.

J Frew reported the following;

SCC is looking forward to welcoming staff and pupils of Glasgow Gaelic School to Stevenston on Tuesday June 13th. The pupils will be planting flowers/shrubs into the beds at the Cross.

All beds at the seated area at the Cross are now planted.

All side beds at the Cross are now planted.

The flowers/shrubs from the Gaelic school will be a welcome addition.

G Ferguson will arrange for volunteers to help SCC with their gardening tasks over the summer months. This will start on Wednesday July 5th.

A.O.C.B.

The Chair announced that K Rowswell had resigned from the Community Council. He thanked Kevin for his considerable contribution to SCC and wished him well for the future.

The Chair asked that J Sweeney pass on the thanks of SCC to the Halls Committee of the High Kirk for the use of the hall for tonight's meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

September 11th 2023 at 7.00pm in the Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre.

