

Proposed M O'Brien John O'Brien
Seconded Gordon Ferrie Gordon G Ferrie

CROSSHILL, STRAITON & KIRKMICHAEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Secretary: John Haston, 71 Patna Road, Kirkmichael, Ayrshire KA19 7PJ

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Minutes of meeting held in McCosh Hall, Kirkmichael on 25th March 2025

- 1. In Attendance:** Pat Lorimer (chair), Emily Pike (vice chair), John Haston (secretary), Gordon Ferrie (treasurer), Steve O'Brien, Margo O'Brien, David Stokes, Marnie Watson, Martin Dunlop, Ryan Douglas (SAC Link Officer), Audrey Gatt (SAC), Joanne McEwan (SAC), Lynne Bates (Scottish Wildlife Trust), Brenda Byrne, Joyce Byrne, Jen Williams

Pat Lorimer chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

- 2. Apologies:** Steven Dunlop, Councillor Brian Connolly, the police.

- 3. Register of Interests:**

No changes to the register of interests declared or conflicts of interest for this meeting noted.

- 4. Place-making Survey:**

Audrey Gatt brought draft copies of the Community-led Action Plans for Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael, 2025 – 2030. These were discussed in detail, and it was agreed they would be put out to public consultation until 22nd April. Subject to this, and any amendments that might be agreed, the document could be formally approved at the next CC meeting on 29th April.

- 5. Wildlife Habitats:**

Joanne McEwan and Lynne Bates discussed what they could do to help the communities to promote wildlife habitats. This could be on council owned land such as play parks, community areas, or private land and farms. They recently helped with planting trees at Straiton Primary School. Pat asked about the use of Roundup (glyphosate) weedkiller, and Lynne said it was not their policy to use it, but the council did use it. Weedkiller is used before replanting annual wildflower areas, and around edges of grass areas. A perennial flower mix could be used without spraying. Scottish Wildlife Trust could help with planting, hedges, trees, etc. Suggested areas for planting were made.

- 6. Police matters:**

The police were not present, but a report had been received covering the period 14th Feb to 14th March. This contained 29 reported incidents, including 21 incidents related to planned shoots, one road traffic crashes (1 car, minor injury and driver investigated for drink driving) and one incident of housebreaking with intent to steal. An email was received from a resident of Kirkmichael, reporting cannabis use by neighbours. This was also said to be an issue in Crosshill. Pat will make the police aware of the resident's concerns. Pat to write to see if a face to face meeting can be arranged.

- 7. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the meeting on 18th February were accepted, proposed by Margo O'Brien and seconded by Gordon Ferrie.

- 8. Matters arising from the minutes:**

No progress on the Bruce Square/ Milton Street development issues in Crosshill. Viga Homes promised action but none has happened. They have now been granted approval to build another house in this development. Pat to take the matter up with both Viga Homes and SAC Planning Dept.

- 9. Village concerns**

Crosshill: An abandoned tyre and wheel is lying by the cemetery wall. The cemetery gate latch is still not aligned. New colourful benches have been installed around the village, thanks to ward funding. These are intended to help with dementia. Two cardboard cutout

traffic cops have been bought by the community association, and said to be effective in slowing down drivers. The broken fence between the play-park and the church now has a wire fence put up. A solid base is wanted for the picnic tables. Lighting at the park is very poor – only one light under a tree.

Kirkmichael: SAC has agreed that drainage work is required at the football field. The handrail at the park by the bridge is rotting, and the wooden steps have the chicken wire breaking up. The football goal posts badly need painting. Pat reported a handrail had been put up at the community garden. Dog fouling has increased, and certain times and individuals have been identified. Better signs are wanted to deter dog fouling. Fly tipping on the B7045 lay by was dealt with, thanks to SAC. The Gala will be held on Saturday 24th May.

Post meeting note: It was not discussed, however earlier CC correspondence indicated that the CC would support the community in their application for an asset transfer of the McCosh Hall to the Kirkmichael [Ayrshire] Development Trust [KDT].

Straiton: The phone box is wanted to be retained, but this needs to be done by the community council. It was agreed for the CC to buy the phone box and give or lease it to a Straiton village group. Straiton reps to let Pat know what letter/ communication is required from CC Chair to enable purchase to take place. The pétanque terrain is now supported by SAC, and a grounds foreman has agreed on a best site. This is now out to tender, funded by ward capital funding. Flood prevention work with a larger pipe is working, but it is still a problem where water flows off the field and floods the road. Storm damage to the fence at the play-park has not been repaired. Village skips may be discontinued due to reported toxic waste content.

10. Treasurer's report

Gordon Ferrie gave a report to 25 Mar 2025. The latest bank statement showed a balance of £593.58. There was no income in the last month, and one outstanding cheque for £40 for McCandlish Hall rental. Chris Johnston has agreed to audit the accounts for the usual fee. SAC have requested documents to be submitted for year end reimbursement of grants and insurance payments, including a signed grant application, Zurich insurance certificate, ICO certificate, year end statement to 31st March 2025, and audited year end accounts.

11. North Carrick Community Benefit Co. (NCCBC)

Pat had a recent meeting with Mark, Chris and Stuart to discuss matters generally. NCCBC have now employed Lynn Hyslop as an admin operative and she will be working part time and starting on 1st April. The next meeting is in a month, with several applications to consider. Pat suggested that our CC minutes of November 2024 be clarified regarding Stuart Lindsay, due to the issues raised at the AGM. This was discussed, and it was felt that our agreed minutes were an accurate representation of our discussion, and these should not be altered. NCCBC has agreed that CPF can now be used for revenue funding, and are looking at a broader level of revenue funding. A limit of £50k per annum is likely to be introduced for any application.

12. Wind farms

Back Fell wind farm was raised, but this was still at a scoping stage.

13. Correspondence

All email correspondence to the secretary were forwarded to the rest of the council, so these are not repeated here. Subjects of note include:

- SEPA flood maps
- Galloway National Park – Nature Scot has requested a short extension from the Scottish Government to complete the report back on the recent consultation.
- Timber Transport – it was agreed to support ARA's request for additional funding. CC secretary to draft a letter to this effect.
- SAC scheme for Community Councils. Steve O'Brien is on the working group and reported that no proposals are in the pipeline. They are considering returning to a 3 year tenure, and limiting the tenure for office bearers. It would be problematic to

impose a fixed tenure for office bearers as it is recognised that volunteers are difficult to find. There are many stages and committee ratifications required before anything will be proposed, let alone changed. They also advise office bearers use a generic email address.

- SA CAG (South Ayrshire Community Action Group) meeting on 27 March in Grivan

14. Planning applications

Steve O'Brien advised there were no new planning applications in our area.

15. Social media

Margo O'Brien reported Facebook now has 156 followers, but not many followers on X.

16. Any other competent business

None raised.

For information, the current office bearers were appointed as follows: Pat as chair in 2019, Emily as vice chair in 2019, Gordon as treasurer in 2019, and John as secretary in 2010.

17. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 29th April 2025, at 7:30 pm in the McCandlish Hall, Straiton.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.