

Minutes of Belmont and Kincaidston Community Council
Thursday 5th February 2026 @ 7.15pm Belmont Academy, Ayr

Members Present: Cara Bennington (Chair/Sec), Flora Fleming (VC), Ian Douglas (Treasurer), Colin Hall (Planning & Licensing Contact), Hezekiah Adesina, Dennis McLellan, Carol Campbell, Dianne Markham, Matthew Grant (Link Officer), Councillor Brian McGinley.

Visitors: None

Apologies: Donald McLean, Councillor Mary Kilpatrick, Councillor Chris Cullen.

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Minute</i> | <i>Action</i> |
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| 1 | Sederunt was passed around, and the meeting was quorate with 8 members in attendance out of a current membership of 9. | |
| 2 | No declarations of interest. | |
| 3 | Community Police Report Secretary had received the Ayr East Police Report for the months of December and January and had emailed this out to members. | |
| 4 | Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting in December - Proposer – Flora Fleming Seconder – Dennis McLellan | Secretary to send approved December minutes to SAC. |
| 5 | Planning and Licensing – Colin mentioned a recent decision by the regulatory panel to “approve in principle” plans for a large housing development on land from Holmston roundabout to Bankfield roundabout. This land is in the Ward of Maybole North, Carrick and Coylton which abuts Ayr East (incl. Belmont and Kincaidston). Councillor McGinley expressed concern that the planning application had not been approved by a full council, given that previously, large developments i.e. >250 houses always had to be approved by a full council rather than a panel of 7 and the casting vote of one person (Chair). Members agreed that this does seem odd. Councillor McGinley has contacted the Monitoring Officer at SAC to ask if they can investigate the process. | |
| 6 | Treasurers Report – Ian Douglas stated what funds are currently in our business bank account. Total = £1972.70 of which £465.42 is our admin fund and £1507.28 is our defibrillator fund. Receipts were passed to treasurer for £7.30 (taxi fare for Flora) and £104.99 for annual subscription for Microsoft 365 for secretary (which was debited from secretary’s personal account in July ‘25) | |
| 7 | Elected Members – Councillor McGinley could not attend a meeting about the Ward funding due to a clash with another long-standing meeting but hopes to be able to provide an update on the promised Ward funding soon. Councillor McGinley notices that there is not a lot of activity at SAC in terms of meetings and consultations with all the elected members. Some meetings have been postponed due to lack of business, e.g. Governance. | |
| 8 | Secretary report – Ageing Well Champions Board – Dennis and Carol mentioned that the AWCB meetings are moving to the Cutty Sark in Ayr | |

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| | <p>Town Centre at the foot of the High Street and that meetings will take place every 2 months on a Wednesday. <u>Age Without Limits Action Day</u> – VASA looking for ideas on activities for this day. Cara suggested weight training. SEPA have two consultations out now that members are encouraged to participate in – Flood Risk Management (which turns out to be particularly relevant to parts of Old Belmont) and Safeguarding Scotland’s Water Environment. Google SEPA website for access to consultations. A third newsletter – An Action Plan – was received from Michael Gallagher regarding petitioning for Community Councils to have the same rights and responsibilities as Parish Councils have in England. The members are still considering this. Secretary mentioned that she has invited Jane Corrie from Ayrshire Roads Alliance to attend our meeting in May. Jane is Head of Roads at ARA. Dianne mentioned the Stepping Stones Launch Event where a member or two are invited to attend on 28th March at Ayr Town Hall. The Stepping Stones tree planting event is still to be held on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th March at Woodpark play area, weather permitting. We await more details from Joanna at SAC Rangers and Jenny from Stepping Stones. Audrey Gatt from Thriving Communities at SAC has written up a draft Local Action Plan for Ayr East based on the results of the residents’ survey and this has been emailed out to all members for their comments and/or additions. Secretary received an email from Ian McLeod regarding opposition to Accessible Ayr proposals and the idea to form a group of Ayr community councils specifically to discuss Ayr Town Centre regeneration ideas. Members agreed with this proposal in principle. Secretary is looking at the plans for Burns Statue Square redesign and will communicate with other CC’s this coming month.</p> | <p>Secretary is having a Teams call with Audrey tomorrow to discuss the Ayr East Local Action Plan.</p> |
| <p>9</p> | <p>The Urban Forestry Challenge Fund – Dianne attended a webinar hosted by the Improvement Service for Scottish Community Councils which introduced the Future Woodlands Scotland charity and a funding opportunity for communities called The Urban Forestry Challenge Fund. This inspired Dianne to contact an independent ranger called Jo to discuss nature activities that could be hosted in our community council area and be paid for with The Urban Forestry Challenge Fund. Dianne arranged a meeting with Jo and Cara to show Jo our areas of greenery and to find out what could take place. Dianne has now, with the help of Jo, put in an application for funding from The Urban Forestry Challenge Fund to support activity workshops for local people with nature as the theme.</p> | |
| <p>9</p> | <p>Meeting ended 2035hrs. Next meeting – March 12th, 7.15pm in Belmont Academy conference room on the ground floor. Turn left to go through the ADMIN corridor after entering the school via the main doors. Conference room is down the corridor on the right-hand side.</p> | |

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