

Maybole Community Council

Annual General Meeting 2025

Meeting held in the Chambers, Maybole Town Hall

3rd June 2025

Mark Fletcher the current chairperson of the Community Council presented his report for May 2024 to May 2025. A copy of his report is attached.

S Mason presented the Treasurers report. This has been submitted to SAC.

Alison Wales then chaired the meeting for the nominations of Office Bearers.

Chairperson Mark Fletcher

Vice Chairperson Max Agnew

Secretary Simon Glendenning

Treasurer Senga Mason

Licensing/Planning Jim Paterson

M Fletcher thanked Alison for chairing this part of the meeting.

Maybole cc agm chairs report for May 2025

Thank you to all of you for the support and the trust you place in me as Chair of the community council.

To the office bearers for the roles you take on, a special thanks and also the councillors for listening, advising and for taking the issues back to the wider council for action or answers and last but not least to Alison as our liaison who always keeps us well informed of all the great work that thriving communities offer.

Welcome to Andrew our newest member. We still have vacancies and should try to encourage new members as succession will become an issue as longer standing members look to retire. Its took a while but we seem to be getting feedback now from the police and we are receiving reports again . This information is valuable to us and I hope this continues and maybe a visit every now and again.

I mentioned last year that I was pleased too see the community association reform and they have certainly worked hard this last year to fund raise , put on events and they now have a gala date set for the 7th June , so a date for the diary.

We saw the opening of the new Skatepark last year and its success is amazing and It seems that we are the envy of many other communities and ive even been asked by Mauchline community association how we achieved it and offered what advice I could even though they

are East Ayrshire (lol)

Before Christmas we saw the Merkat cross installed after a long delay and this has been generally well received and feedback has been very positive about the cross but also the wider Bruce trail which is getting regular on line interaction.

Small projects that easily go under the radar sometimes happen and a good example is the folk at the bottom of the town where the old flats were demolished requested the embankment tidying and maybe some seating up the hill and some planting . After some very localised consultation we now have the start of an orchard at one end of the bank with 12 trees and maybe more next planting season and there are early talks of allotments at the other side where the gradient is much less. Sac will now be cutting that area so it will look much better than the mess over the last few years.

I was very pleased to see the high numbers of users of the new sports facilities at the campus released recently by SAC and it shows that these were much needed additions to the Town. The regeneration programme closed in 2024 to new applications as believe it or not the 5 years was drawing to an end . An extension was granted to the programme to enable those that had properties approved or ongoing to either get started or bring them to a conclusion and that extension will finish at the end of 2025. If the grants awarded are not drawn down in this timeframe they will remain incomplete and then the regen of the buildings is finished and what we see is it. There is still as we can all see a lot of work required on the high street and there may be other ways in the future to help owners address that but at the time of writing this there are no hard and fast plans. We can recognise the success of the buildings that have taken funding but Sadly we now have more buildings in worse condition than when we started with and now some are boarded up windows, more empty shops and very few useable assets. Many factors feed into this result which include but are not exclusive too , absent owners, cost of refurbishing buildings that sit in heritage areas, covid followed by the economic crisis too name just some of the factors . For new owners or those that wanted to be part of the programme, that either came too late or were disadvantaged by tenements that had one or more owners not engaging , there frustration has been probably one of the worst set backs and hopefully if similar programmes roll out in other areas I would hope that the coordinators can bring to bare absent owner contribution schemes. Overall I have too say the regen has been underwhelming and not what was envisaged.

The public realm proposals for the Town have stalled just now . Over the years there has been much talk (consultation) that when the bypass came we could reclaim the street for the people and widening footpaths was the primary aim . We need to go back to consulting on this as a number of residents and businesses have come forward saying the plans will destroy the high street and kill the businesses we have . There has been concern raised by us for many years that the town needs more parking or at least what we have requires tidying up, remarking and re zoning so at the April cc meeting where 60 people attended it was agreed that a postponement of the proposals would be put in place and a parking review by ARA would take place and a refresh on the consultation on the wider proposals.

The town engaged in place planning consultations in the latter part of 2024 with a view to replacing the now outdated action plans . We will have a version of that available fairly soon . Pleased to say it recognises the success of projects delivered over the past 5 to 6 years but inevitably highlights the weaknesses, particularly the regen and lack of new public realm. It will give us and other groups in the town a base line document of projects that may be deliverable over time.

I was saddened to hear that Roy Birnie our secretary is standing down this year and he will be greatly missed by myself and no doubts the rest of the cc . His diligence and approach to things has been admirable and his steady and calm approach to matters has been exceptional. I know I will certainly be sad to see Roy leave us , maybe we can persuade him to stay.

This brings me too my closing remarks and that is to say that the cc must continue to look for

new members and always be thinking of succession as inevitably we will all eventually retire. Where we can we must encourage new people through so the legacies of the past and present continue into the future .

Mark