



Girvan and District Community Council Minutes  
Tuesday the 02<sup>nd</sup> of November 2022, 7.00 pm, Carrick  
Buildings, Girvan.



*(The meeting started at 19:00 pm)*

**Present:** Rhona Walker, Ann McGinnis, John Young, Colin Davidson, Sconaid Clark, John McCreath, Ken Johnstone, Jane Jardine, Jane Willis, David Girvan, Karen McCartney.

**In Attendance:** Cllr Henderson, Chris Campbell, David Bone - Minutes

**Declaration of interest not already declared**

None.

**Bandstand**

Rhona said that there have been numerous discussions over the for sale sign on the Bandstand in the community. She added that any proposed disposal or change of use of property on common good land must be published and one of the bodies that must be notified is the Community Council, as per Section 104 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. She added that, as stated in the Report by Assistant Director – Place to Leadership Panel of 8 March 2022, the proposal would be subject to further public consultation, as well as consultation regarding the proposal to transfer Stumpy Tower from the Girvan Common Account to the Council General Services account.

Cllr Henderson said that he was not aware of this until the sign went up. He added that he has been told that three interested parties have come forward and by law, they have to put a for sale sign on the building, but that he was never consulted. He added that it was unfortunate that Cllr Clark was not present as he is the portfolio holder. He advised the community council to contact Jamie Tait and Tom Burns from SAC. Rhona said that she has emailed the head of SAC and requested that the for sale sign be removed until consultation has taken place. She added that he is happy to meet with her but there was no mention of a consultation. Jane W confirmed that the bandstand is a common good asset. Cllr Henderson said that the process for a change of use on common good land was feasible but that it requires a court order. Karen asked how common good assets can be sold. Cllr Henderson replied that it is possible to sell assets but there has to be a public consultation. Karen said that this felt like a land grab. Karen asked if Cllr Clark has provided information on this. Rhona replied that he was unwell at the moment.

Ken said that the Girvan Town Team (GTT) looked at the Bandstand a year ago, but a SAC survey recommended that it should be demolished. He added that the GTT are no longer involved in this. Cllr Henderson said that no decision has been taken by SAC at this stage. Ann said that Tom Burns has said that there were two interested parties, and not the three officially stated but that one of the parties did not want to be identified. David G asked what an 'interested person' actually was. Cllr Henderson replied that it is someone who is looking to develop the building and site and that they would have a business plan. David G said that he is aware of two of the people and they have not submitted a business case. Cllr Henderson said that one interested party is currently working with the wealth-building team and another is working with the asset team. He reiterated that he is not on the administration anymore and can't overturn any decisions.

Karen said that it seems like the balance has shifted to the local authority from the community council. She added that a meeting is required with the portfolio holder. Rhona said that there are concerns that the bandstand will end up like the recently demolished Bingo Hall. Cllr Henderson said that there are key differences between the two structures. For example, the Bandstand is not infested with vermin, it is

common good land and there are no private dwellings nearby. John Y asked if there were any reasons for the councillors not attending. Cllr Henderson said that they are both unwell. He added that another meeting is required to deal with these issues. Chris said that the period of consultation may not have taken place yet. Cllr Henderson said that no decision has been made. Rhona replied that the perception from the public is that the building is being sold even if this was true. John Y said that the for sale sign has upset numerous people in the community. Cllr Henderson reiterated that he has no papers or formal communication on this issue. Chris Saunders said that the Adventure Centre for Education (ACE) is one of the parties interested in taking over the Bandstand. He added that the for sale sign was never been mentioned to him. He added that he had hoped to come up with further plans and that they were looking for an asset transfer rather than a sale. Colin asked if SAC has the authority to sell common good land. Cllr Henderson said that SAC can do this but it has to go through numerous legal proceedings. Colin said that there have been parties interested in the building before but the for sale sign was not required. Cllr Henderson reiterated that they should contact the leader of SAC. Rhona said that she will email the leader to ask the exact law that states that it has to go up for sale when there are more than 2 interested parties.

Ken said that the GTT was informed that it would cost £170,000 to bring it back to a reasonable condition but this did not include bringing it up to modern standards. Sconaid asked what would happen if no one purchased the Bandstand. Cllr Henderson replied that SAC would make an evidence-based decision on this. John Y said that the Bandstand has gotten in this state due to neglect from numerous council administrations stretching back 40 years. Karen said that this seemed too quick, compared with the change of use for the common good land at Victory Park. David asked if there was any guidance in the 'blue book' to hold a separate meeting.

### **Apologies**

Wilma Dunlop, Stevie Galloway, Cllrs Scott and Clark.

### **Minutes of October 2022 Meeting:**

Proposed for accuracy by David Girvan and seconded by Ann McGinnis.

Discussion over the SAC buildings reopening and the outside of them being cleaned. Cllr Henderson said that this is being looked at but that SAC is suffering from staff 'churn', cost-of-living and other issues. Colin asked about the registry office in Girvan. Cllr Henderson said that before covid-19 there were certain days that it was open. John Y said that there should be a registrar in a Town the size of Girvan.

### **Matters Arising**

David thanked all those who supported the Football Pavillion.

### **Police report**

Emailed to all councillors.

Councillors reiterated that without context from a Police Officer, the data lacked meaning.

Chris said that Police Scotland had now employed a new Chief Inspector and suggested that they could be invited to a future meeting.

### **Public Participation**

Ellen Hannah asked if there was anything in place to fix the sunken mono-blocking in the main street. Cllr Henderson said that AMEY is aware of this. Ellen asked about the former Semi-Chem shop and its current dilapidated condition. Cllr Henderson said that it is privately owned and it is almost impossible to force owners to keep buildings in a decent condition if they don't want to. He added that it is not even possible to make housing out of some of these buildings as the entrance is through the building. He added that the majority of people now use online stores rather than retail outlets. Ann said that she has spoken to Cllr Clark about this and that he wrote to the company that owns the former Semi-Chem building and they never replied back. Cllr Henderson said that unless the building is a danger SAC can't act. Chris asked Ellen (or

anyone else) to take a picture and send it to building enforcement at SAC. Related to this, Emma Harper MSP is trying to get a law through Holyrood that would remedy this and force absent owners to maintain their property.

Rhona said that if there is a meeting about the Bandstand that the public should be notified.

**Matters arising from any group meeting at the moment:**

Harbour Users Group (HUG)

Meets next Tuesday. Rhona and Ann to attend.

Locality Planning Partnership

David Girvan said that funds have been acquired for defibrillators and it was hoped that there would be fourteen in place throughout the town.

About to conduct interviews for a Community Engagement Officer.

Cllr Henderson congratulated the work of the Locality Planning Group.

Karen asked how the process to access the defibrillator works. David Girvan said that you phone 999, ask for an ambulance, and then the operator will give you a code.

Community Led Tourism

Jane W said that the Tourism group is still progressing with the SCIO application and bank account. Awaiting funding for the proposed Ailsa Craig visitor centre. The employee contract has been secured until September 2023. Chris added that the group is in a transitory stage at the moment.

Community Garden

Chris Campbell said that a letter of apology was received from SAC and the community garden's name was removed from the document. Cllr Henderson confirmed that this was done at cabinet today.

Xmas Lights

David G said that light features on the side of buildings are now looking likely to be installed.

**Treasurers' Report**

Balance of Kilgallioch money has been spent.

£25 for the Girvan Academy prize has just been cashed.

£6913 is currently in the account.

Girvan and Carrick First responders cheque has not been cashed. David Girvan said that he would chase this up.

The headmistress of Girvan Primary asked Rhona to convey her thanks.

David G said that nine groups have asked for a form and four applications have been received so far. He said that the deadline for applications was the 10th of November 2022.

**Planning Applications:**

17 Ainslie Road.

Anaerobic Digester, Grants.

Telecommunication equipment at Glendoune Road.

Installation of floodlights columns, Linden Avenue

Discussion over the floodlights. Karen asked if the people that are local have been lettered about this.

John M asked what the process was to replace a wooden garage with a brick garage and if it required planning permission. Cllr Henderson said that as long as it was the same footprint that it wouldn't need to go to planning but said that this should be checked with SAC.

#### **Licensing applications**

None.

#### **Matters arising from correspondence**

Email from SAC Leader.

Email sent to licensing about the Victory Park Bar.

Email and text message to Sandra about the return of the laptop but no reply.

John Reid of SA Community Transport to attend the December meeting.

SPT annual report received.

#### **Update from local councillors**

##### **Cllr Henderson**

Attended the official launch of the poppy appeal. Will be attending Pinwherry on the 11th. Met with a representative from poppy Scotland and looking to support the creation of a memorial to the Merchant Navy and Fishing personnel in Girvan. Community Council agreed to support this. Rhona said that she will send an email of support to the Provost.

Attending Holyrood to discuss the A77 and A75 at an event hosted by Anas Sarwar that also has involvement from Northern Irish politicians

Legislation around fireworks has now changed.

The current administration has cancelled the proposed leisure centre in Ayr. They have also promised a £300,000 commitment to the Scottish Air Show.

Rights of the child legislation will be implemented in Scotland and must be taken into consideration for SAC equalities impact assessments. Cllr Henderson said that a child is up to 22 years of age.

Those on SAC benefits will get a £50 Scotland Loves Local card over the next few weeks to help with the cost of living crisis.

#### **A.O.C.B.**

Ken said that the community council wreath has been ordered for remembrance Sunday.

Rhona said that she has received another email from someone who couldn't access the public toilets. Cllr Henderson said that he would raise this. Related to this he said that the Flushes toilets will be gated soon. John Y asked if an attendant would be present. Cllr Henderson replied that the cleaners check them although they are not manned. John Y added that this issue with the toilets not accepting card payments is endemic. Cllr Henderson said that, like most issues, this is due to a lack of funding but he would also raise this with SAC.

Assel Valley Panel Meeting to be held on the 15th of November 2022.

Colin said that the Beach Park and Boat Pond is still an issue and that it is now months overschedule. Cllr Henderson replied that the rubberised surfaces will be installed next week and additional landscaping would be completed soon after this. John Y asked what the fencing was for. Other community councillors said that it

was to protect the turf. Girvan Youth Trust has been advised that the boating pond will be drained and cleaned for the next season.

Girvan and District Attractions fireworks display to be held on the 4th of November 2022.

Discussion over the fencing at the former, fire-damaged bookmakers along Dalrymple Street. Cllr Henderson said that this is dictated by Scottish Fire and Rescue and AMEY. Rhona asked when the building will be sorted out. Cllr Henderson replied that it may depend on its insurance status.

Remembrance poppies will be painted at Hamilton Park.

The community council thanked Chris for his contribution and assistance as the community council Link Officer as this was his last meeting. He said that he hoped it would be a temporary move.

*(The meeting ended at 20:50 pm)*

Next meeting - Tuesday the 06<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 at 7:00 pm