

**NEWTON & HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**HELD AT 6 PM ON TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**AT NEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL, GYM HALL**

	<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>		<b>APOLOGIES</b>
EE	Eddie England – <b>Chair</b>	LBW	Cllr Laura Brennan-Whitefield
VM	Vivienne McCulloch, SAC (Minute Taker)	DP	David Porte, SAC
ET	Eudora Tabor – Licensing	LB	Linda Bennett
SW	Stewart Wallace - Planning	BS	Reverend Barbara Suchanek-Seitz
ID	Cllr Ian Davis		Police Presence
JF	Jim Fenton – Vice Chair		
IC	Cllr Ian Cavana		
JR	Jane Robertson		
KB	Kevin Braidwood, ARA		
PM	Patricia McKeand (Member of Public)		
TW	Tracy Whiteford, SAC		
MD	Cllr Mark Dixon		

**INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES**

EE (Eddie England) welcomed everyone and introduced TW (Tracy Whiteford), Senior Communities Officer, SAC. PM (Patricia McKeand), joined the meeting as a member of the public.

EE read out the Apologies.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the previous meeting dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were agreed by all. SW (Stewart Wallace) pointed out that the shop name should have read Cream Crim and not Cream Crime. The Minutes were proposed by JF (Jim Fenton), seconded by SW. VM (Vivienne McCulloch) will send to Graeme Stevenson, SAC, for onward publication of SAC Website – **VM to action**

**MATTERS ARISING**

EE – **Website** - We are trying to create and produce; we will take this forward to the April meeting – **ongoing action**

EE – **Tree and plaque for Sheila** - Will speak to Kevin Johnson about planting a tree for Sheila, past Secretary and Treasurer for N&H CC. Will ask Kevin to suggest a tree. ID (Ian Davis) – New head of Grounds Services, Fiona Ross, seek her advice on this – **ongoing action**

EE – **Play areas and dogs** – Despite previous replies from various sources, I will keep trying to make sure that dog walkers are licensed and insured. What can we do about the dog owners (not all); try to educate these dog owners allowing this fouling to happen. Received an email report from David Porte, very positive – will read this out later.

EE – **Police Reports** - Still waiting on two items to be dealt with, as stated in the previous minutes. Have been informed that they do not have the manpower to come to the meetings.

EE – **Pot holes** – To be addressed to KB (Kevin Braidwood) in this meeting, to follow.

EE – **Fly tipping** – Renfrewshire Council are leading the way on this problem. What are SAC doing about this? – **ongoing action**

EE – **High fence and notice boards** – **ongoing action for DP**

## **CORRESPONDENCE & REPORTS**

EE - Thank you letter from the Befriending Project – JF raised this initiative and EE very impressed with what work they do; they depend on volunteers and have been a going concern for 26 years. Very much an organisation to be admired.

EE – Passed around the meeting a picture of a bench surrounded by garden features which Helen Russell from Newton has created to raise money for various charities - **ongoing action**

EE – Stated that all emails that EE gets from TW and SAC Community Council mailbox are forwarded to all committee members.

EE – Treasurers Report - £1,116.07 – with £100 to come off for Befriending. Next month the accounts will be due to be verified by our Accountant for the end of the financial year.

## **POLICE REPORT**

The following Report was emailed with apologies for non-attendance.

Policing in Ayrshire, Community Council Report, Newton & Heathfield  
March 2023:-

1. **Serious and Organised Crime (including Violence, Drug supply, Sexual Crime)**

**Violence** – Report of an assault, minor assault within dwelling house, named individual responsible and enquiries are ongoing.

**Drugs Supply** - Proactive work targeting drug supply is ongoing, for the reporting period there has been very few calls from the community providing information in relation to drug activity. In relation to any calls

received, information has been pulled and entered into our intelligence database and will be developed appropriately.

**Sexual Crime - Nil**

2. **Safer Communities (including Hate Crime, ASB, Domestic Abuse)**

**Hate Crime – Nil**

**Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)** - Good month for Newton Community Council and nothing of note to report on.

Majority of these calls relate to ongoing neighbour disputes. Officers spoke with parties involved and advice given.

We make every effort to be proactive to prevent ASB type matters escalating by working in partnership with SAC's ASB team and carry out joint visits at the earliest opportunity. We review all calls on an ASB nature daily.

**Domestic Abuse –** This area of policing continues to be an area of focus, Officers provide support to victims and ensure, with consent of the victim, that they are referred to support agencies.

3. **Acquisitive Crime**

**Housebreaking – Nil**

**Robbery - Nil**

**Fraud – Nil**

4. **Community Wellbeing**

**Substance Use –** We deal with a high number of incidents whereby substance misuse in relation to alcohol and/or drugs is a factor. We work alongside partner agencies to refer individuals for further support.

**Children & Young People –** Nothing to report on or note for this meeting.

**Welfare Concerns –** We continue to respond to a high number of these types of incidents, which often take up a considerable amount of time for Officers. These incidents can vary from persons suffering from mental health to concerns for the elderly members of the community requiring assistance. We work alongside partner agencies to deal with the incidents in a timeously manner as possible ensuring individuals speak with the relevant agency.

5. **Road Safety (Drink/Drug Driving, Speeding, Disqualified/Uninsured Driving)**

We continue to receive a number of reports in relation to road safety. These range from speeding complaints and parking complaints.

One driver reported for careless driving, nothing else of note for the reporting period.

**Upcoming Events - None**

**Other Matters/Appeals - None**

IC – They are saying that they cannot supply Police Officers to come to meetings. Councillors will meet with the Police tomorrow to discuss this. Police will meet with the Chairs on a MS Teams meeting. Police were going to talk to the Chairs of all SAC CC to do this. IC & ID will be asking about where this is going. TW – Karen Barlas asked contact details for all Chairs to get something done about this and when the invite will be going out; I can chase this up with Karen Barlas- **TW to action.**

IC – Yes, I do agree with the Chair, there is too much repetition on the Police Reports. When was the last time we had a police person here? EE – It was PC Nicol some time ago and the other one was to do with the hate crime and youths with knives in Newton Park; heard nothing back from the Police about that either. TW – Kevin Lammie brought this up at the session we had at Chair and Vice Chair meeting. He is looking to see if this is an option. SW – I think it was a report to Council to start the ball rolling about this. Suggestion was to try and meet CC to be one in three meetings. IC – Not sure that will work.

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IC - Introduce Kevin Braidwood (KB) of ARA; he was asked along to this meeting to discuss matters that have been raised.

**The following Questions were asked:-**

- EE – Potholes in General – Do ARA intend to buy a pothole repair machine?
- ◆ KB – There is the multi hog which can fit different attachments and used for gritting, footpaths etc. We are looking to lease a Multi Hog and are talking to Multi Go on how we set up a lease for this; still in negotiations. We are looking at an alternative machines too. The JCB one is too expensive and even to hire it is very expensive. I have got to keep people in employment and to keep the balance right. We are still delivering the service across every month.

- EE read out a question submitted from LB (Linda Bennett) – What are the processes for fixing potholes?
  - ◆ KB – We have a risk based approach to pot holes and governed by the Highways Well Maintained Code of Practice. Carry out drive and safety inspections and assess what is high risk or not. They are assessed on risk. Category 1 - on a major junction and where we have a two hour response time and whereby a cone is placed on the pot hole. Category 2 – takes 5 days to fix. Category 3 – takes up to 45 days and then category 4, that goes on a planned programme. If it is not classed as an emergency, we have three days to go and inspect this. A line is generated, and the line goes to the yard and they have to repair it. Best way to report a pot hole is to go to ARA website, report a fault, put in all details and then pin it on the map and this goes to ARA and picked up by the inspectors and inspect it within three days.
  - EE - Question from LB - White lines need to be painted around Newton, when will these be carried out?
  - ◆ KB – We are aware of lines that need to be re-painted and this time of year is not the best time to repaint as it is a hot application which does not work well in damp weather conditions. We have a contractor to do this. We are looking at getting a fixed term contract in.
  - EE – Speed restrictions in local residential roads, Hunter Park, Northfield Avenue and St Georges Road. Can you do anything about this?
  - ◆ KB – We have pilots for the schools’ streets programme but we have been doing 20 mph in rural villages and this is done by consultation. Best way to reduce vehicle speeds is to have horizontal deflection. It was agreed that all we would do would be to bring in white lining. Villages have come back and said we wanted this, but it is not working. In terms of any street within an urban area, we will look at all schemes. We need full support from Police Scotland. We can put in traffic islands and some sort of deflection, and this is not always supported by the residents. If you do know of any vehicles that are speeding, you must call 101. We can also put out the speed radars – the ones that lie on the roads and see what results we get.
- IC – Hunters Avenue is a problem. KB – Do you want me to put the radars out; all agreed to this.
- JR – Georges Road is also a cause for concern, kids and elderly and they are a risk of speeding incidents. KB – I must have the demonstrable record.

- IC – Parking at corners, this is illegal, what is being done about this?
- ◆ KB – We are awaiting the government guidance on parking at corners, if there are areas where this is occurring and is a danger, we can go out and look at this. We can put yellow lines down and this will discourage corner parking.
 

ID – Some of the junction parking is where there is an event and it is late hours, one area is Seaforth Road and the junction with East Park Road, 8/9 pm is more difficult. KB – A lot of traffic is from 8 am to 6 pm however if there is an event, we can speak to the people who are organising the events. Other issues with youth football in Prestwick etc. IC – Parking at corners is a police matter and it is 15m from a corner. ID – Motor home or van on corners, this is happening outside CB's. JF – Common occurrence that large vans park around Newton Park at night. KB – We can certainly speak to Police Scotland in our monthly meeting.
- EE – Question from LB – Offloading car transporters on Heathfield Road, has this caused problems that ARA would be aware of?
- ◆ KB – No it hasn't.
- ID – Pavement parking by the transporters and this obstructs the pavement and for people trying to cross. EE – There are mobility scooters to think about too trying to pass. KB – There is pavement parking guidance and we have still to assess every street in South and East Ayrshire. It depends a lot on width of footpath and road. Huge piece of work and we still don't have the guidance for this.
- JF – Congratulations on the Roads Alliance Partnership and disappointing that North Ayrshire chose not to join as would make more sense to have a larger partnership and more money. Wonder why North Ayrshire chose not to join?
- ◆ KB – Allegedly, North Ayrshire said that they could save more money than ARA but they also wanted to be the main authority. We do share exercises with them and the local floods management is led by North Ayrshire. There are bits and pieces of work that we do jointly. JF – The budget for East Ayrshire is over £5 million and the budget for South Ayrshire is £3 million. KB – Every pound that South Ayrshire puts in is spent in South Ayrshire and the same for East Ayrshire. Since recording the road condition index in 2008, we went from 27th to 12th best in Scotland out of 32, so vast improvements. JF – Just to say that the roads in Dumfries and Galloway are far worse than SA. KB – Organisation called SCOTS and all localities get together about sharing resources. Localities like Dumfries & Galloway is too big. ID – Different Councils have factors such as how many roads they had and problems with flooding. KB – We don't have so many floods in South Ayrshire however they do in East Ayrshire plus our bridges are better maintained too.

- IC – We spoke earlier about machines, are we going to get them?
- ◆ KB – The jet patchers are coming in and we are hiring them in for the summer season. We have the hot boxes and we have the pot hole repair squad that go out. A lot of the roads in South and East Ayrshire in high speed rural areas are old tracks that are turned in to roads. If we go out and try and fix a pot hole, we do a patch, we do this because the road is not good because it is in bad repair due to being a track. JF – Utility companies come across and put in wiring and lift up the pavements and roads, frost comes in and the roads are ruined. KB – If we resurface a road, we put an embargo on it for three years and no one can come in and touch this. They then turn round and say it is an emergency and we have to allow access on this.
  
- IC – On Heathfield Road, can we get the lines refreshed at the traffic lights?
- ◆ KB – Yes, we can look at this for you and see what can be done.
  
- PM – North Harbour Street, near the bridge, single person on either side of the road. A lot more housing around there and the Jewson site will produce more housing. Pavement is at the same height as the road. Further down North Harbour Street there is no pavement. They are at road level. Police cannot stop people parking on something that is the same level as the road, what can be done about this?
- ◆ KB – I will get someone to go down and look at this and the footways.
  
- SW – Parking on double yellow lines – where a minor road joins on to the main road, sometimes the double yellow lines are not prominent and faded away. Could an orange cross be put there to emphasise this?
- ◆ KB – No we must stick to the yellow lines that we put down as this is the law. I have been down several times and not seen any issues, however we can monitor this and see what happens. KB – We have to use the ones that in the traffic act and regulations. Cannot deviate from this that is the law. We only use yellow and white luminant paint. We will enforce it as will the Police. We only have 6 parking attendants for the whole of south Ayrshire.
  
- EE – Parking at Newton railway station, outside the church, has this been resolved?
- ◆ KB – Yes it has.

- EE – Seaforth Road that joins Prestwick Road, trying to cross Seaforth Road is a nightmare. Could pedestrian lights be put on this road at some point near Seaforth Road?
- ◆ KB – We need to do a pedestrian count to see about putting a crossing in.

***EE & IC – Thank you for coming to answer our questions.***

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**Laura Brennan-Whitefield Report – Given in Absence**

I have been dealing with a lot of casework regarding littering, fly tipping and dog fouling. I would encourage members of the public to report these issues.

I would also draw attention to the new sports centre at Craigie which will be a fantastic resource to the people in Ayr North and further afield.

**David Porte Report – Given in Absence**

Re: Concerns raised around dog fouling, at previous meeting, I would like to update the following:-

South Ayrshire Council work in partnership with our Environmental Health, Waste Management, and other appropriate departments to tackle dog fouling in areas of concern.

We recently carried out an initiative in the Green Street/York Street area of Ayr after concerns were raised at their Tenants Association meeting.

Our partnership carried out a programme of engagement that saw –

- An audit of the area to gauge extent of dog fouling problem.
- Letters sent to all households in area, with doorstep conversations passing relevant information, and seeking info on potential culprits.
- Additional signs and stencilling introduced to area, warning of potential consequences if caught fouling.
- Enforcement patrols.
- Cleaning of fouling in area (pavements & grass)
- Follow up audit to gauge success of action.
- Continued enforcement patrols.

If there are sustained issues in relation to this issue, and particularly in Newton Park, we can look to take this partnership approach in a targeted way here.

Please let me know if this course of action would be something the CC would like to request?

EE – Which areas in Heathfield do we target – St Georges Road, around the park etc.

EE – Will suggest some areas to DP at next meeting – **to action**



### **Ian Cavana Report**

- ❖ More dog fouling noted at the KG5
- ❖ 2012 – Cream Crim – When first built, it was refused by SAC and it went to the LRB for a café and a flat above it. LRB passed it and it was refused by ARA but that wasn't around in 2012. It is an eyesore and causing dampness to other houses.
- ❖ KG5 – want to extend the parking in KG5 – comes in front of IC at Planning.
- ❖ Rosalind Place, at end of Teviot Street, empty ground – vermin sighted.

### **Ian Davis Report**

- ❖ Consultation about an active travel link between Ayr and Barassie, an in-person event at the Citadel on Thursday. They are proposing that it goes via a cycle route. Creating a new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the river Ayr.
- ❖ In terms of litter issues, would like to make the committee aware that the Council launched a Litter Lotto scheme along with Keep Scotland Beautiful. Launched a week ago.
- ❖ Meeting with the police this week and with the new Police Liaison Officer with some complaints we have had. Issues with dirt bikes, especially around the KG5 park, lighting fires in the field there too. Ownership of the field is in doubt. Problems at the stamp work site. Talking to police about this.
- ❖ KG5 Park – Dog fouling - Raised this with Grounds Maintenance and this has been passed to Environmental Health. No direct meeting yet arranged yet. Few concerns about the lighting as this is not deterring the anti-social behaviour around the old pavilion and people loitering around this park.

### **Mark Dixon Report**

- ❖ Attended a meeting in the Town Hall about a course being carried out by Ayr College – “English for speakers of another language”. It was a discussion with the Ukrainians that are still here. They're being decamped out from the Mecure Hotel. Presentation was good. There are no plans to send the Ukrainians back and no time limit on this. This is because they are being brought more into the education system. It is a good thing that the children are being educated and putting a priority on this. Children will be brought up bilingually. There has been a lot of money put in to educating these children which is so good to see.

JF – There is discussion at Westminster how they can plan a route back in to their own country.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

EE – ***Newton Park Court Care Home*** - Rev Barbara has requested that we contribute to Newton Park Court for a smart TV – leave this for Barbara to talk about at the next meeting – **ongoing action**

EE – **Newton Tower** – Any further forward on repairs and painting – Nothing happening – **ongoing action**

EE – **Election for new members** – TW – If you are going to look to try and get new members this would go through the co-opting process. You would need to agree and minute that you want to get your adverts out there to try and get new co-optees. I can prepare a notice for you to send over to get this done. **All agreed to this**

TW – Will look at how many vacancies and get the documents sorted for this. TW & VM will liaise about this and get the documents to EE – **TW & VM to action**

SW – Do we already have a notice in the Carnegie Library? EE – No I think it has been taken down. TW – Try the four weeks first and see what comes back.

ID – Not having members from separate parts of Newton & Heathfield, there are notice boards in different parts. David Porte was dealing with notice boards. TW – I will speak to DP to see what notice boards he has access to – **TW to action**

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6 pm at Newton Primary School

The May meeting – Could we have it the day after in May – talk about this next month – **ongoing action**