

TROON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY 3rd December 2013

SEDERUNT:

TCC – D Cram; R Pollock; D Graham; H Duff; D Barr; A Cameron; E McNish;

Police Scotland: PC M Morton & PC S Jackson

South Ayrshire Council: Cllrs. P Convery; N McFarlane & Thea Pettigrew

Youth Forum Representative: None

Local Press Representatives: S Houston (Ayrshire Post), E Harbinson (Troon Times)

Public Forum: C Malone; T McCormack; Mr Cowan

APOLOGIES: E Williamson; K Workman; F Carson; M Love; K Beckwith; Cllrs. P Saxton; W McIntosh

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:

On behalf of Troon Community Council, Chairman R Pollock welcomed all those present, including two attending members of the public, together with two members of the local press. In the absence of M Love (secretary) E McNish (TCC member) took the minutes. A minute's silence was observed in reflection of the sad events in Glasgow over the weekend

POLICE REPORT:

PC M Morton delivered a comprehensive and positive overall report with regard to the crime situation in Troon over the last month. She noted that Inspector Greenwood is now staying in Troon. She explained the Troon Festive Action Plan where more officers will be on the streets particularly on Thursday – Saturday which are seen as "party" nights.

REPORT FROM THEA PETTIGREW PARKS DEPT. SAC

Ms Pettigrew introduced herself to the TCC as Manager of all Operations in the parks and maintenance dept. She has 20 years' experience. She has seen over the last 18 months a drastic cut in operations e.g. staff leaving and financial cutbacks. She explained this has an impact on ground maintenance in SAC where the view of the gardens looks pleasing to the public though it is not so good for the horticultural workers. She explained these sites are important for tourists and locals alike as the flower beds and garden maintenance benefits all concerned.

She explained the ground maintenance reviews over the last two years have made drastic cuts and they need to make a saving of £50,000. She has been told this will manifest in the workforce working longer hours in the summer and shorter hours in the winter. She explained the workload in the winter is immense and they will plant 150,000 shrubs and 500 – 600 saplings in the previous flower beds so they will grow in the summer months requiring less maintenance leaving the workforce free to cut more grass and water plants.

The pruning and shredding of shrubs and roses will take 2^{1/2} – 3 months in the winter months so the plants

can grow in the summer. This will commence on January 1st by clearing all flower beds ready for the shrubs and sapling planting. The hardest hit towns are Troon, Prestwick and Ayr but the arterial routes will not be affected. The chair praised the work of the parks dept. saying the town centre displays should remain as they are a big attraction for locals and tourists alike. Thea explained the programme for the elderly, infirm and disabled are being cut. Cllr McFarlane asked if a scrutiny has been done to investigate ways of doing things differently but still within budget. C Malone asked if the payback scheme could be deployed to help in this area and Thea explained they are already integrated within council squads painting shelters over a 2 year period. They are gritting the elderly resident's areas. The previous flower beds will be grassed over and where possible trees will be planted. Cllr. McFarlane said a training programme is underway on multi-tasking where the council will utilise the cleansing and parks depts. to help each other but indicated this is not being actively pursued. The grounds maintenance dept. has moved from Ottoline Drive to Dukes Road.

The chair invited Thea to come back next year and give a presentation to the TCC.

PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman welcomed Mr Cowan to the meeting, enquiring as to any issues he might wish to raise. Mr Cowan expressed his observation of the warm welcome received by visitors to the town at Wintertainment. He reported there were cars parked on both sides of the street between Portland Terrace and Titchfield Road there was no traffic congestion reported. He said the traffic constrictions imposed by the council are causing problems and should be removed. He observed 5 parking attendants in the area "excessively" issuing tickets as he saw it. He also expressed a need to support the residents in the area where parking especially disabled parking is concerned.

Cllr McFarlane said she had a meeting with the roads dept. after a disabled resident called her in some distress; he couldn't park in the designated disabled parking bay because a works van had parked there. He had to park across the road where he received a parking ticket. Cllr McFarlane said the council were looking at making parking spaces where possible. Cllr. Convery said the resident could have called the police to report the Blue Badge scheme being abused; he said there should be signage directing the public to the promenade parking.

TCC member Dougie Graham asked how he could obtain a consultation report that had been carried out in Troon and Prestwick town. Cllr Convery replied it was available by writing to Mike Newall (SAC) or the public office requesting a copy.

Cllr Convery reiterated the need to make Troon more parking friendly for visitors and residents. Cllr McFarlane suggested opening the school car parks (St. Patricks & Troon Primary) during the summer holidays thus lessening the demand in the beach areas freeing up the town centre.

Mr Cowan asked how many parking tickets are issued when there is an event in the Town Hall; the chair replied this information can be obtained through the freedom of information act from the council.

C Malone

Spoke about the secret Santa and the success it has been around Troon he spoke about a mobile skate park being donated by a resident keen to pursue a permanent site. He said the round table are on-board and it can be set up all over Troon in different areas of the town. The paddling pool area is one site up for

consideration. The chair asked if the council would be supportive of council ground being used for this venture; both Cllrs said they would support it. Helen Duff asked for a vote to donate £50, a show of hands voted it approved. C Malone informed the TCC a skating day on the 21st December has been arranged for the public and will be held in Troon Primary playground. The near neighbours will be informed.

Braemorewood Development

TCC members attended the open meeting on Monday night (2nd Dec) and a meeting has been arranged for January with the Development Group re access to Marr College for pupils. Cllr McFarlane asked if the new owners will prevent this. The question of two rights of way were discussed and noted it will be included in their title deeds. Cllr Convery shared Cllr McFarlane's concerns asking if the owners will uphold the policies and Dougie Graham has indicated he will do a site visit with their development officer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were proposed by Dennis Cram and seconded by Anne Cameron.

MATTERS ARISING

- Dawn Barr asked that the Activities Committee be prioritised higher as they have a lot to discuss at the meetings
- The chair informed the council he has been invited to attend a meeting in the Youth Centre.

YOUTH FORUM

(Keir Beckwith's Report in Absentia due to his hospitalisation was emailed to M Love, who was also absent from meeting, due to illness.)

Keir noted the following recent events and achievements of Marr College:

- Fiddle Orchestra which meets on Tuesdays for S1 to S6 pupils
- Young Musician of the Year – 10 entrants for this competition, with the winner being singer Katy Brown of S6, who will progress to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for the national heats
- School Choir who performed at Portland Church on the first Sunday of Advent
- Cricket – Ellen Watson (S2) has been selected for the U17s Scotland team
- Ayrshire Schools Swimming Gala – where Karen Reid (S4); Megan Niven(S2); Erin Moore (S2); Anna Paul (S1); Ewan Paton (S5) collectively achieved a total of 8 medals.
- In addition – Jack Dickson (S4) achieved 2 medals for his performance competing in Sportability for South Ayrshire
- White Ribbon Campaign – speaker S Smith spoke of a 16 day campaign of action against abuse, along with a Stalking presentation by PC Simpson – to all year groups.

- Chemistry Week where various activities were outlined

CORRESPONDENCE

Outgoing:

- Police gave the TCC notification of new ranking – e-mail of thanks will be sent
- TCC website calendar is noted as a good idea and will be circulated to community groups
- McTaggart & Mickel invited to next meeting

Incoming:

- Invitation for a representative from TCC for SAC Crime Prevention Panel
- SAC Licensing Policy needs replies by 11th December - no reply given
- Prestwick North Community Council asked for information on how TCC do things

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

ClIr McFarlane spoke of the following:

- Trading Standards spoke to residents about water overflow problems. It took two days to resolve
- An elderly gentleman reported damage to his car from a council gritter, there are on average 8 calls a week about gritters causing damage to cars
- Food Bins – the colour is bad for vision impaired residents they can't be seen clearly and are a danger on the paths, luminous colours were suggested
- Ivy Cottage –now being charges because they are a registered charity, they don't need the green bins at a charge of £22 they could use only blue bins at a charge of £3

ClIr Convery spoke of the following:

- Junctions at St Patricks and Troon Primary the work is mostly done but the final "give way" sign and road markings at St Patricks still to be completed
- The Scottish Water hatch is in the middle of the road and still to be marked
- The high Blaise covering is clearly being marked at Academy Street junction
- PConvery reiterated the problems at these junctions is due to poor driving

- The roads portfolio manager has given more funding for the work
- Putting Green- 36 hole putting green at the promenade P Convery spoke to the leadership panel it is moving from inactive to active mode. Papers can be handed out for tenders for development, upkeep and sponsorship of the Scottish Putting Championships
- Council are looking for a new leaseholder
- It was noted the promenade is sustaining the town in critical ways by tourism etc.
- P Convery and C Malone working together to hold a “moon” putting event. Staff supplying kids putters.
- All child attendees will win a prize
- Event date 20th December
- £50 donation from TCC
- P Convery has recovered the shield from the town beacon and will have it reattached
- The owner of the cash4clothes shop will be contacted to re-paint the gaudy frontage.

TREASURER'S REPORT

D Cram confirmed a healthy situation with regard to Troon Community Council's finances in mid-Nov the balance stood at £5292.30 he indicated funds must be used.

OTHER REPORTS

Troon Municipal Golf Club meeting at County Hall on 19th December ref: refurbishment or rebuild, a decision will be made at meeting.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Dougie Graham: Church St/Jubilee Rd traffic lights are confusing even to locals, it was suggested the road markings should be moved further down the street.

Dennis Cram: Kilmarnock Rd sign for golf club is confusing, it doesn't indicate which course.

No signage to show where the railway station is.

The putting night is open to everyone.

It was noted the “Golf Signs” are paid for by the golf clubs

Dawn Barr: Dawn reported the lampposts in the town were a disgrace being covered in fly posting and scarves being tied to them making the town look scruffy.

The Council notifications of planning etc not being removed.

Wintertainment:

Reports from the public were positive and exuberant; Mrs Claus was a great hit with the children and raised £144 that was donated to the RNLI. A bottle of malt whisky was donated to Tony Peters who provided his wagon for the float; thanks were extended to everyone involved.

5 Hi-Viz jackets from Hillhouse Quarry were mislaid.

Bob has proposed to buy more jackets for the TCC.

The press representation was thanked for their coverage of the day; a presentation/training evening has been arranged for the next TCC meeting on February 4th to guide committee members on press etiquette.

The Lifeboat Station has given Helen Duff a bag of goodies to give to a little girl and Provost Helen Mooney wrote her a lovely letter

Robert Shirley (Robbie Nugent) coming to the February meeting to discuss and promote the skate park.

Civic Award

Civic award closing date is December 13th, Activities Group to meet on December 16th at 6pm to judge the winner.

It will be announced on January 7th 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at approx.9.15pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th January 2014 at 7pm, in Council Chambers

Chairman: Robert Pollock,

Tel 01292 315998 E-mail: robertpollock26@hotmail.com