**Troon Community Council Meeting**

**Council Chambers, Town Hall, Troon**

**Minutes**

**December 4th 2018**

**Present:** H.Duff (Chair), D.Graham (Vice-chair),W. Barr (Treasurer), N.McFarlane, E.Williamson, A.Cameron, K.Workman, L.Matheson, R.Milligan, D.Barr, F. Carson

**Apologies:** J. Thornhill

**In Attendance:**  Cllr.R.Pollock, Cllr.C.McKay, Cllr.P.Saxton, Cllr.P.Convery, P.Scully (Community Safety Officer), T. Burns (SAC), J. Bradley (SAC), S. Telford (Dundonald Gymnastics Club DGC), D. Telford (DGC).

**Open Forum:** As there were a number of members of the public present to discuss the Muirhead Activity Centre (MAC), Helen Duff introduced Tom Burns, who, along with other members of South Ayrshire Council (SAC), were in attendance to clarify the situation with regards the proposed Asset Transfer of MAC to Dundonald Gymnastics Club.

T. Burns first described the background to the Asset Transfer Scheme. The Community Empowerment Act was passed by the Scottish Government in 2015 and provides community bodies with the right to request to purchase, lease, manage or use land and buildings held by local authorities. The Asset Transfer Scheme is the result of this. It allows communities to have a say in the use of council facilities, and the councils to reduce its property portfolio. Groups can apply for an asset transfer if they have a constitution etc. and must then demonstrate how their proposal will benefit the community. There is a six month consultation in which the community and community groups are consulted to assess whether the proposed Asset Transfer would benefit the community. If approved SAC would set up conditions for the use of the facility. There is a right of appeal. The six month consultation for Muirhead Activity Centre commences 5/12/18.

H. Duff (Chair) then introduced Scott Telfer, Head Coach of Dundonald Gymnastics Club who has applied for an Asset Transfer of MAC to the club. S. Telfer identified that Dundonald Activity Centre is the same size as MAC but is frequently used by Dundonald Primary School for activities and thus cannot be adapted as a more permanent Gymnastics facility. If approved, MAC will be used primarily for gymnastics; hard court sports will not be permitted but hopefully most other activities presently held in MAC will continue. All details will be available on the Business Plan.

H. Duff then opened the floor to questions.

* F. Carson Member of Muirhead Tenant and Residents Association (MTRA) asked why the MAC was placed on the Asset Transfer list. It is the MTRA’s understanding that many of the activities that are held to the Community’s benefit will no longer be permissible.

T Burns responded that all assets are available for the scheme as per government law.

* F. Carson continued. The Muirhead Community feel let down and have heard that the keys will be available to Dundonald Gymnastics Club from 1st April. T. Burns stated that this latter fact is incorrect.
* D. Graham (Vice Chair) asked if the SAC will be speaking to all the users?

SAC replied that yes this was part of the consultation process. One of the conditions that must be met is that the proposal must have the support of the community. He reiterated that all groups will met with and letters will also be sent to the wider community.

* N. McFarlane (TCC) referred to the Community Empowerment Act which states that any proposed Asset Transfer must meet the needs of the community. How can this be met when there will be permanent equipment in place?

SAC replied that part of the consultation process will be to look at possible alternative spaces such as Marr College for those groups who are no longer able to use MAC.

A member of the Public Forum responded that facilities at Marr College cost up to £47 per hour. SAC reiterated that this would be considered but that many of these groups would be eligible for a concessionary rental price.

* A member of the Public Forum asked it might be better to build a new facility dedicated to Gymnastics?

SAC responded that would also be considered during the consultation process.

Other points that were made included

* Why should groups be moved when they have set up their groups near where they live. Many Muirhead residents do not have cars and Marr College is too far and the short cut across the golf course is unsafe especially at night.
* The Youth Centre is now utilised more since the change.
* A member of the Good Companions Pétanque Group has 50 members one a 97 year old and suggested that these people can not be expected to go further afield to play
* A member of the Public Forum asked about the Dundonald Gymnastics Club organisation. How does it finance itself? What happens to the profits? T. Burns responded that the DGC is a SCIO ( Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and would not be allowed to apply for an asset transfer otherwise. S. Telfer also responded that all income is invested in the club. He sees this as a long term more sustainable investment project. A lot of disinformation was given at the beginning that has fogged the issues. He wishes to keep the Activity Centre open and profitable rather than risk the likelihood that SAC will close it in a couple of years as was suggested earlier this year. He would like to meet with all groups and work together to make it a highly successful, well used community commodity.

At this point H. Duff brought the discussion to a close, thanked the SAC and S. Telfer for attending and asked if there were any other issues the Public Forum wished to raise. There were none.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes should read that the next meeting of the Troon Development Trust was 13th November not December.

Crosbie Kirkyard – in response to a question raised about families with sufficient funds to pay for the headstones the minutes should also state that there are no ancestors alive to pay for the headstones themselves.

**Matters arising**

A previous minute had indicated that there was a proposed Bag Pack for Xmas lights. L Matheson was asked if this was still going ahead. As this was a Troon Business Association (TBA) initiative, L. Matheson referred the TCC to them.

A question was then raised as to who is responsible for any consequences of the lights over Christmas? It was suggested that the TBA is surely responsible. A long discussion ensued regarding the proposal from the TBA for TCC to take over the lights in the future. Members of TCC felt that this was outwith the remit of the TCC. Could SAC take the responsibility? SA councillors offered to look at the possibilities available via the SAC and any proposed SAC strategy.

Waste management - many bins are being left on the pavement. Will these be taken back by Waste management if not claimed? They are becoming a safety issue which is aggravated by fouling by dogs. SA councillors reminded everyone that the letter issued to all households regarding the new waste management system instructs everyone to contact them if they do not need all the bins and to report any issues. Girvan and Maybole who received the new bins first report that the new waste management system appears to be working well. Dog fouling is an ongoing problem and it is difficult to patrol this. Incidents should be reported to SAC.

A previous issue with heaps of sand blown into St Meddans Street during a storm has been reported and dealt with.

TCC thanked P. Scully for personally removing the Summer posters.

**Treasurers Report**

TCC has a bank balance of just over £6000. The Treasurer tabled an interim breakdown of costs related to Wintertainment. Overall there was a loss of £211 but this includes a one-off cost for banners etc of £150.

A donation has been given to the Secret Santa Project as previously agreed.

**Correspondence**

All correspondence has been previously circulated to members via email. There were no queries about any of these.

**Youth Forum**

Two students from Marr College had attended the meeting but agreed to return in the new year because of the likely lengthy public forum.

**Police Report**

No police in attendance.

**SA Councillor reports**

*P. Saxton* reiterated that any SAC asset can be targeted by an appropriate community group. Muirhead was not specifically identified as available for a community asset transfer. But DGC selected it as suitable for their needs.

Marr College football courts will be getting a budget for maintenance for next year of £50K starting 1st April.

SAC have been discussing potential projects for the prom such as an exercise area, palm trees etc and the lamp standards and notice boards outside the Town Hall. There is £33,000 in the Common Good Fund. If there is anything else the TCC would like SAC to consider, please advise him at the next meeting.

*B. Pollock* spoke about parking at Barassie Railway Station. He has asked if there is any funding available to increase this, but this is very limited. It may be more feasible to consider traffic management around the town. There will be a report back in due course. There may be funding available elsewhere and this is also be considered. There may be further traffic regulation orders put in place to deal with the parking next summer.

*P. Convery* identified issues related to roads near Barassie railway station. Members of the public are double parking and parking illegally. Ayrshire Roads Alliance (ARA) are looking at the issue.

He had been invited to meet the new headteacher and deputy at Marr College and they discussed a range of issues. This was a very useful meeting.

There has been a request for an extension for street lights and pavement on Monktonhill Road. However, this road is very narrow and unlikely to be feasible.

*C MacKay* – the consultation re Muirhead AC. The business plan has not been published as yet and Craig is concerned that we may not see it until January when one month will already have passed. Craig is keen that benefit to the community must be clear.

ARA and SAC are discussing the problem with tree roots as there is a query whose responsibility this is.

Barassie Primary School had a very good inspection report earlier in the day.

Questions and comments were asked of the SA Councillors

E. Williamson asked if the artificial turf at Marr College is being maintained at present. There is £10K available until April.

The lane from toilet block to back of the Walker Hall has a bad patch of broken tarmac needs repairing. Please report this.

The sign post next to the Ivy Cottage is needing replaced at the correct height.

F. Carson suggested that SAC should keep Activity Centres open as the Health and Social Care partnership is identifying the health needs of the community.

D. Barr is there any news on the traffic management around Wilson Road or the car park at the Cooperative. There is none as yet.

A.Cameron – there has been a problem with a broken water main in Academy Street for several days. This was being fixed earlier today.

N. McFarlane asked about parking at the golf course. Many of those parking appear to be commuters at the train station. Golfers are having to park along Fullarton Dr and on Golf Crescent.

St Patricks school was open in the summer for visitors previously but not this year. Would this not be sensible?

Muirhead AC - Nan noted a lack of enthusiasm by staff which may have an affect on the use of the Muirhead AC.

K. Workman – there is a large puddle at the road crossing between Cancer Research and WH Smith. This has been reported.

W. Barr - are new developments not expected to provide community facilities when requesting planning permission. This is considered when planning permission is discussed.

R. Milligan - surely community problems should be reported directly to the relevant department of SAC or ARA, and only raised with councillors if they are not solved. One outstanding issue is the signage near the railway station which is awaiting repair. This is not being completed timeously and not by local businesses.

Loans - traffic calming is not slowing traffic. This is Loans Community Council business.

The SA Councillors will look into outstanding issues above.

**Other reports**

Planning permission information was sent to TCC by email previously.

Troon Yacht Haven – there is a plan for holiday flats at the Marina. The issue of due process was discussed.

Crosbie Kirkyard – N. McFarlane is in correspondence with L. Fulton of SAC. An archaeologist will examine the wall and a budget has been found to fix the wall. N. McFarlane will be in attendance when archaeologist visits. She would like to form a sub group to look into this. The building also needs examined and restored. Graveyard tourism is on the rise and this graveyard should be one that is listed. She has also spoken to the Family History Group. This group are also looking into the genealogy of those listed on the War Memorial.

N. McFarlane reported that she has also been helping Marr College with the history of the names of their houses. The centenary of the birth of CK Marr is next year. Are there any plans to celebrate this? None as yet.

D. Barr - a number of TCCs have not been in attendance for some time. Are they planning to continue? P. Scully advised us that TCC has three vacancies at present, but all members will be up for re-election in March. D. Barr noted that non-attendees affect the number of available people who can join any subgroup.

Civic award - advertising is ongoing at present and the closing date for nominations is 21st Dec. This will then be voted on at the next Community Council meeting. There was discussion around whether a group can be nominated. It was agreed that groups could be nominated.

**AOCB** – none.

Next meeting 8th January 2019.