

COLVEND AND SOUTHWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 4th November 2020 AT 7:00pm via Zoom video conferencing.

PRESENT: D. Roan – Chair, S. Pain - Vice Chair, S. Gourlay – Secretary, M. Parry - Treasurer, M. Pennell, J. Coates, M. Pumphrey, K Coltart, S. Robertson, H. Rowe, A. Jack, Cllr Ian Blake, Cllr R. Davidson

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: J. Rowland, R. Aston, G. Aston, C. Sinclair, T. Nicol, F. Carson MSP

APOLOGIES: D. Stitt, T. Roan, K. Filer

TECHNICAL ISSUES

There were issues with some members getting in which meant that the agenda started in a slightly different order than expected until the relevant members were present.

NEW MEMBERS:

Mr Gordon Webster was proposed as a member of the CC by A. Jack. This was seconded by M. Pumphrey.

Mr. Henry Rowe was proposed as a member by D. Roan and this was seconded by M. Pumphrey.

Both new members were welcomed to the Community Council.

POLICE REPORT:

The police report discusses parking at Rockcliffe, and they are aware of the issues where cars park on double yellow lines, grass verges and other places where parking isn't appropriate or causes issues for residents. Parking is a Police Scotland issue and isn't a high priority for them at this time. J Coates explained that at certain times of year cars are allowed to park on the double yellow lines and that possibly the times that cars are prohibited should be changed. D. Roan is cautious that we would still look to encourage tourism in the area and asked for guidance from the Cllrs present. The regional council could enforce compliance with Community Safety officers however the pandemic has resulted in necessary changes with allocated resources.

There are also reports of anti-social behaviour in the Rockcliffe area which was also noted in the police report. There's an empty property in the area which is thought to encourage young people to congregate there. The property has now been boarded up and the anti-social behaviour has reduced. D. Roan is going to try and find out more information regarding this property to find out what long term plans are.

MINUTES OF MEETING 01/10/20:

There was a proposed amendment via email regarding two sections of text relating to the Right of Way discussed at the last meeting. Details of these were circulated to CC members prior to the meeting start. Some discussion took place regarding the process by which minutes are created. Several proposals were made however the Minute Secretary refused to edit some selected text (a second requested change), based on the fact that the text suggested did not accurately reflect the content of the meeting.

It was proposed to accept the first change but not the second and this was seconded by J. Coates. However, the Chairman decided the minutes should not be formally adopted at the meeting so that D. Roan and M. Pumphrey can discuss this issue and then liaise with S. Robertson as the CC do not wish to create friction between members. It is intended that a new set of minutes for October will be prepared and sent out to all community council members and interested parties.

Approved: Signed:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The balance as of today shows a balance of £8171.98

We have made four payments since we last met.

- £189 to G. Herries (playing field)
- £1790 to J. Gibson (information railing)
- £49.39 to S. Robertson (zoom and minutes)
- £57.56 to K. Filer (gifts)

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

There was a presentation earlier in the month to give gifts to the proprietors of Colvend shop and a staff member a token of our appreciation for the extra work they have done during the pandemic. Special thanks are due to Kristine Filer for arranging the presentation.

PROJECTS

S. Pain circulated text detailing a summary of ongoing projects.

SOUTHWICK BUS SHELTER The grant application for this has been submitted to the Robin Rigg Community Fund. They have responded and advised they need a covid policy which S. Pain circulated last night. The CC approved that this could be sent.

DEFIBRILLATOR CABINETS A quotation for connecting Colvend Information Centre came in at £126.75 to connect the power supply. It was also agreed this work could be carried out.

COASTAL PATH INTERPRETATION BOARDS S. Pain has been in contact with the general manager of RWE Renewables who are considering sponsoring one of the information boards and initial feedback is positive.

Paths For All have also advised that they could provide funding for one of the boards if a large section had a route map displayed. Applications would open in March 2021. S. Pain advises that D&G Council Coastal Benefit Fund is expected to open in November this year, S. Pain and T. Roan has been discussing applying here too. Maps of the routes to walk was favourably received. It is hoped we could have four boards placed in various locations at an approximate

cost of £1500 each, £6000 in total. Support was given for this to move forward, with more detailed plans to be agreed later.

SIGNS J. Coates requested a 'Do not look directly at the sun' sign to be placed near the Telescope at Rockcliffe at a cost of £5. There is also a sign to be made for the emergency cycle box at a cost of £22. A recognition sign for the new railings at the Information Centre at £30 together with a replacement for the AED sign on top of the pillar for £10. The total cost of all these notices is £67. This was approved.

E COMMUNICATIONS (prepared by T.Nicol)

The Community Council wrote to elected representatives and others in June 2020 to express concerns about the area being poorly served in several areas of telecommunications, and received several detailed responses. Mr Finlay Carson offered to participate in a Community Council meeting to discuss the community's experience, clarify issues and answer questions.

On the matter of TV degradation, Mr Carson reiterated the position of Ofcom that some HDTV channels had been available on a *temporary* basis because of spare transmitter capacity. As a result of preparation for the introduction of 5G networks, this bandwidth would no longer be available for HD transmission of some TV channels and this was unfortunately unavoidable. Mr Carson emphasized that, in the long term, 5G was expected to deliver not only a better mobile phone experience, with added "streaming" capability, but also, for example to promote remote medical diagnosis and care - particularly relevant to rural areas such as Dumfries and Galloway.

Digital radio was discussed. Mr Carson explained that whilst ownership of DAB radio receivers continues to increase, the growth rate has been slower than expected, and accessing radio via the internet is rising. As there is still work to do on eliminating digital "not spots", the original plan to shut down FM transmission has been paused until further notice.

Mr Carson outlined the good progress being made in improving Broadband service - various UK and Scottish government initiatives had together improved availability of fast broadband. The recent introduction of the Broadband Universal Service Obligation acknowledges that broadband is an essential part of life in the UK, and gives residents the right to request a "decent" connection. Whilst *availability* is now considered very good overall, *take up* tends to be considerably lower in rural areas such as Colvend & Southwick. Mr Carson advised that more affordable options (lower than the currently typical £40 per month) were being actively investigated by the Scottish government. You can check your own connectivity at www.scotlandsuperfast.com

Mobile coverage remains an issue for many residents. Mr Carson explained how Ofcom had enabled mobile service providers to cooperate to speed improvement, for example by sharing phone masts, and providing "hot spots" along major roads. There are no estimates of when these initiatives or the planned 5G network will have an effect on the quality or coverage of local mobile services. Meeting participants made it clear that waiting many years for 5G services was unacceptable. Mr Carson was made aware that the community

has requested to be added to the Scottish Government's "4G Infill" programme and he undertook to progress this possibility with the relevant departments. He also planned to provide the Community Council with a point of contact to help pursue these issues further.

Mr Carson was thanked for participating in the meeting and for hearing the community's concerns "first hand"

CORE PATH 20 and RIGHT OF WAY

This agenda item was held over from the previous meeting. D. Roan asked that interested parties have the opportunity to add any new relevant information.

Mr Gordon Webster read out a prepared statement. It is a cause for concern in the community that the Right of Way has been diverted for some considerable time and that the construction and demolition work that required restrictions on access have ceased. Section 35 of the Countryside Scotland Act 1967 provides that in order for a Right of Way to be permanently diverted a path diversion order with mandatory planning permission is required by the landowner. As this has not been obtained by the landowner. As neither of these have been obtained by the landowner, the continued Right of Way diversion must, consequently, be illegal. As the CC have previously recommended that the Right of Way remain open G. Webster is formally requesting that the CC actively pursue restoration of the Right of Way

Mr Clive Sinclair agreed with the statement given by G. Webster.

Mr Robin Aston was then provided with an opportunity to respond. The current pandemic situation has slowed the process considerably which has not helped the situation. For safety reasons during construction access must be restricted to the general public and this is why access is still restricted. The Astons have not yet received a completion certificate for the house therefore they are still living under a 'Licence to Occupy' until the works are completed. Mr Pumphrey said that it could be reasonably inferred from what Mr Aston had just said that he would be prepared to reinstate the path as it originally was, once the Completion Certificate had been issued and the rubble removed such that the route was safe again. Mr Aston replied that no such inference could be made. Mr Roan asked Mr Aston whether he intended to reinstate the Right of Way, to which Mr Aston replied that that would be up to the Dumfries & Galloway Council. Mr Webster asked Mr Aston whether he could now walk the Right of Way. Mr Aston replied that his understanding was that it would be illegal to do so, though, off the top of his head, he could not quote chapter and verse. The comment regarding clearly and permanently diverted R. Aston disagrees with this as the works are not completed and so the Right of Way cannot be permanently diverted. Mr Aston would also like it noted that he has never asked for the old route to be relocated. He referenced a communication from D&G Council to the CC which states that the Right of Way would follow the Core Path route.

D. Roan read out a response from Richard Masters of D&G Council which states that an "evidence of use" survey must be carried out, but the timing of this is dependent on the availability of resources.

The CC members were then given the opportunity to present their views, and they took the time to clarify some issues. The Chairman confirmed with both parties that they would be happy with a decision regarding the Right of Way from D&Gs Access Officer. They confirmed this is true. The CC can understand that this is a divisive issue for the community and are keen to have it resolved. The handling of the surveys conducted by the CC on members of the community about the proposed diversion of the Core Path was again criticised by members of the public present.

The CC will contact Richard Masters again and stress the importance and urgency of the matter, and ask that some progress is made with the issue. Cllr Blake is also going to contact Simon Fieldhouse and reiterate that the issue needs to be progressed urgently.

PLANNING:

APPLICATIONS:

None recorded

CORRESPONDENCE

- Police Report
- Info Centre Railings

Anyone wishing to see a comprehensive list of correspondence should contact Mrs Sue Gourlay: suegourlay@me.com

AOCB:

A resident has contacted S. Pain about the weeds on the footpath near the church. D&G Council were contacted and they will attempt to hoe the area in the near future. It is unfortunately the wrong time of year for weed killer.

THE NEXT MEETING IS WEDNESDAY THE 3RD OF DECEMBER VIA ZOOM

JOIN US ON ZOOM

MEETING ID - 631 158 8515

PASSWORD - Colvend7

We encourage people who live in the area to attend these interesting meetings! Find out what is going on in your community.

www.colvendcommunity.co.uk

We also have a Facebook page & WhatsApp groups!

If further copies of these minutes are required please e-mail
colvendandsouthwick@gmail.com