

COLVEND AND SOUTHWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 6th May 2021 AT 7:00pm via zoom video conferencing.

PRESENT: D. Roan – Chair, S. Pain - Vice Chair, M. Parry - Treasurer, G. Webster - Secretary, Cllrs J. Coates, K. Coltart, T. Roan, A. Jack, H. Rowe, M. Pumphrey.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: S. Rasmussen, J. Rowland, T. Nicol, M. Nicol, D. McMillan, J. Stanning

APOLOGIES: S. Gourlay – Secretary, K. Filer.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

1. Minutes of 1st April 2021

With no further comments, the minutes were approved by T. Roan and seconded by J. Coates.

D. Roan mentioned the resignations last month of both S. Robertson (Minute Secretary) and M. Pennell (Cllr), he expressed his thanks for their service to the Community Council, hoping that we had not seen the last of them and would come across them elsewhere.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MAY MINUTES

1. A710 / Southwick Cemetery road junction parking for Southwick Nature Reserve:
 - Sven Rasmussen (SWT Reserve Manager South Scotland) gave an overview of the reserve.
 - The reserve has Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status and statutory protection.
 - A Facebook posting of the waterfall on the reserve last year went viral and has led to a dramatic upsurge in visitor numbers which has yet to die down.
 - From an SWT perspective, it is often difficult to manage both visitor and wildlife priorities as they often conflict.
 - SWT and Scottish National Heritage would not be in favour of sacrificing wildlife habitat to provide parking for cars.
 - Creating additional parking may not solve the problem however it would increase future costs to SWT as they would have to maintain any infrastructure and budgets are always tight.
 - T. Nicol asked if there were any other points of access to the reserve and, although there is another gate further along the road, it is opposite a small layby so parking is again limited.
 - Verge markers have been installed by DGC at the junction of the A710 and Southwick Cemetery road to deter parking on the verge around the junction.
 - It is hoped that the popularity of the site will return to normal levels in due course.
 - In summary, there are no circumstances in which SWT would provide additional parking.
2. A710 road surface - DGC have recently marked several potholes along the A710 in our area and remedial work has begun. Residents are encouraged to report issues to their local councillor or on the DGC website: <https://info.dumgal.gov.uk/faultreporting/>
3. Colvend Hall has now received the new communal recycling bins.

POLICE REPORT:

1. The recent tragic RTA fatalities in Southwick and Caulkerbush is an agenda item this month however, when contacted, Police Scotland were unable to provide a spokesperson for this meeting to discuss the matter due to Election priorities. It was noted that the report submitted for this meeting only contained a minor vandalism incident at Rockcliffe. It was concluded by

those present that the two RTA's, although apparently unconnected, are still very concerning for the community. The meeting was asked how it wanted to proceed, either to move the item forward or wait.

T. Nicol raised the following points:

- There was some justification for considering a speed limit in the vicinity of Southwick Bridge because of the potential hidden junction with the B793 Dalbeattie road.
- There is also an equal justification for a speed limit through Sandyhills.
- Both the above locations represent hazards.
- Kirkbean has a 40mph speed limit although the road is much wider and straighter.
- Mainsriddle has a 50mph speed limit.
- Colvend has a 40mph speed limit.
- The three locations above are less hazardous than either Southwick or Sandyhills so why are there speed restrictions at these locations and not at Southwick or Sandyhills.
- Potentially the speed limit over Southwick bridge is 60mph.

H. Rowe advised that the Southwick bridge has warning signs of a sharp bend and hump back bridge at either side on the approach. M. Nicol recalled a near miss with a van at the Barend road junction at Sandyhills and has become very cautious as a result. She was also concerned that DGC are promoting the A710 as the SW300 (bike) and SWC300 (car) events and have not correctly carried out a thorough risk assessment of the road itself.

Action: G. Webster to write to our three local councillors with a view to gain support for the safety concerns of the community for some sections of the A710. This to be done before engaging DGC.

2. G. Webster provided some feedback from recent DGC Visitor Management Plan meetings. An email from Ward Officer Kimberley Phillips with all the observations noted was forwarded to council members. J. Coates stated although a "No Overnight Parking" sign has been put up in Rockcliffe car park however there is nothing to indicate there is nearby authorised parking at the 7Stanes car park.

Action: G. Webster to contact Kimberley Phillips regarding signage at Rockcliffe car park.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The balance as of today shows a balance of £16445.77p.

Cheque for £3000 received from DGC in respect of the Coastal Interpretation Board project.

Final payment to S. Robertson as Minute Secretary of £105.00.

T. Nicol asked if there were any upcoming major financial commitments and M. Parry will provide a breakdown of these in due course before the next meeting.

PROJECTS :

S. Pain has arranged for the monthly project reports going forwards to be published on the CSCC website and advised that, over the past 10 years, the CSCC has spent over £100,000.00 on community projects

1. Borean Crannog Interpretation Board

Still awaiting the photograph from Scottish Museum in Edinburgh although they are now back in the building and starting to do some photography. The urgency of the outstanding photograph has been expressed as the SWEAT timescale for grant expiry is fast approaching.

2. Bus Shelter Projects

Southwick

The contractor has advised that the new bus shelter has been prefabricated and painted ready for installation however a shortage of cement and overnight frosts have prevented the concrete base from being laid. Installation expected to be completed around 20th May.

Portling

Thanks were expressed to J. & H. Rowland and P. Reid for completing the renovation of the bus shelter with materials supplied free of charge by DGC. Roofing felt kindly donated by J. Rowland.

Sandyhills

Materials available for the restaining of the bus shelter and S. Pain has treated the wood with Algaecide in preparation however it was noticed the cladding is riddled with woodworm. Staining is estimated at a half day's work. Gillespie Leisure were approached regarding a beach clean up and responded positively to the suggestion. They will make the overflow car park free to all volunteers involved in the beach clean-up. It was agreed the beach clean up would be organised for the next weather window coinciding with a low tide.

3. Coastal Path Visitor Interpretation Boards

We have now received the £3000 grant from DGC. At the suggestion of J. Rowland, an application has also been submitted to the Glasgow Galloway Association for the sum of £850.00 and was received positively when contacted. The application will be responded to by the end of May. RWE Renewables are proving difficult to get a response from and it is being assumed their Communications Manager is either ill or on holiday. Subgroup meeting has been held to start pulling together the content of the boards and a target date for completion is the end of May. It is estimated there will be enough money for the professional design of two boards but not all four.

4. Litter Campaign

Special thanks to Mark Jardine from Rockcliffe who has personally cleared 250 sacks of rubbish from the A710 to Dumfries since the 1st January, the difference has been noted!

Action: G. Webster to contact M. Jardine to express thanks from the community for his efforts.

Grant application for £648 submitted to DGC Regionwide Community Fund for the supply of 4 swing type pavement signs. Decision regarding the grant should be known by the 21st of May 2021. The Fund has received 41 applications so it is expected that only a proportional amount of the application will be received, however the minimum is £500.00 so payments are not likely to be less than this amount. As the school is involved in this project all design and poster work from them will be needed before the summer break.

Action: T. Roan to contact the school to discuss logistics of getting design and poster work before the summer break.

5. Tablet Computer

S. Pain applied for, and received, a tablet computer and peripherals / accessories from LEADER due to the organisation terminating in June and disposing of all its IT equipment.

Action: T. Roan to contact the school on how best to use this equipment.

6. Kippford Flood Prevention

The sea wall dyking at Kippford has now been rebuilt however the work at Meikle Richorn layby has yet to commence but is expected to begin soon.

7. Hardship Fund

D. Roan advised that he had contacted a local contractor and obtained quotes for the emergency generator switchgear for the Colvend Hall. Two options of emergency power were quoted for, lighting and basic power - £710.00 + VAT; lighting, heating and full power - £1655.00 + VAT. Funds received to date would require topping up by approx. £100.00 to pay for the first option. As the Colvend Hall committee are meeting next Tuesday they will discuss if they would want to contribute towards upgrading to the second option and advise S. Pain.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

D. Roan advised there is an outline framework for a Gala / Sports Day being planned for around August / September if Covid restrictions have receded to the extent that such an event will be allowed. S. Pain carried out an online survey to capture the appetite within the community for a range of activities. The survey had 67 responses (approx. 8.6% of the population in this area), although in the main these could be considered to be from households rather than individuals, it is however still a lower than expected number. A breakdown of suggested activities was given by their popularity and the enthusiasm for interesting talks was extremely high. The more popular physical activities were Walking Football, Table Tennis and Carpet Bowls. There was also strong support for some sort of social get together. If we are to be in a position to provide the physical activities in time for the darker nights, then they need to be set up for late September / October time as equipment will need to be purchased in advance. Funds have been identified to assist with these purchases. J. Coates and M. Pumphrey have each kindly offered to donate a Table Tennis table therefore the only equipment purchases are for Walking Football and Carpet Bowls.

S. Pain and J. Coates have submitted a request to the Events Fund for the sum of £836.00 based on an outdoor children's Sports Afternoon with refreshments and Art Display in Colvend Hall (total cost estimation approx. £1200.00). If successful, the events need to be held before the end of March 2022 and be for a not for profit, therefore any charges made cannot exceed the estimated £1200.00. Any event needs to be ticketed to allow for contact tracing and have a full Covid Risk Assessment. A subgroup consisting of five members is to be set up led by J. Coates to manage these events.

D. Roan asked H. Rowe, J. Rowland and J. Stanning if, for perhaps the next meeting, they would be able to provide details of suitable public speakers willing to give talks to the community.

J. Coates commented that he organised a talk by the artist John Threlfall early last year which had an audience attendance of approx. 100 so if a talk was deemed interesting it would attract the numbers.

S. Pain suggested having another Defibrillator training session with Amanda McCauley as they have proved popular previously.

S. Pain and J. Coates will make provisional bookings for things and this availability will help define possible dates.

PLANNING:

FPA- 7890 Southwick Estate

No concerns raised.

CSCC EMAIL ADDRESSES

G. Webster advised that all the email addresses had been created by S. King. S. Pain had spoken to S. King as there were problems with his ViceChair account in as much as he could receive email but not send it. M. Parry was still to activate his account and D. Roan will wait until it is all working before he activates his account.

COLVEND HALL NOTICE BOARD

G. Webster advised that last month he had to use both CSCC notice boards at the hall however, the Perspex in the one on the right is opaque and made the posting difficult to read. S. Pain has since replaced the Perspex.

CSCC FACEBOOK PAGE

T. Roan advised that she is concerned to be the only administrator for the CSCC FB page as there are times when comments need to be responded to in a timely manner and with many other commitments she is not always able to do so. Also any postings put up are her personal view and she feels it should be more of a CSCC view. There is also scope for developing the FB page as it is felt to be a potentially powerful tool not being used to its full potential at the moment. M. Pumphrey spoke to A. Whitby and she volunteered to become another CSCC FB page administrator.

CORRESPONDENCE

D. Roan announced that, after the departure last month of the Minute Secretary, G. Webster had agreed to take over the role temporarily until such time as face to face meetings were available once again. At this point a dedicated minute taker would be needed as it is difficult to participate in a meeting and take notes simultaneously.

AOCB

D. McMillan spoke about a project to record the marks made by ordinary people on the local landscape over time e.g. the Mersehead bombing target, the Salmon stake nets at Douglas Hall, further east the Powfoot Saltpan Circle and further west eventually Luce Bay and the Cones which are the bombing targets for Westfoot. He is wanting to do a survey of both the Mersehead bombing target and the salmon nets to record their structure whilst they are still there. He is hoping the CSCC could help him with any historical information or knowledge on the bombing target, old photographs would be particularly welcome. It would also be of great assistance if anyone had local historical knowledge of

the salmon stake nets or could provide the current owner's details. This is so he can get permission to record the nets digitally and to make sure he is doing nothing he should not be doing. D. Roan cited C. Henderson of Portling and A. Walker of Barcloy Mill as two sources of local information. J. Gatherer was given as another source of local historical information. S. Pain put forward W. Robertson as another possible source. J. Rowland offered to speak to a neighbour at Port o' Warren whose family has lived in the area for a long time. S. Pain advised D. McMillan to join the local WhatsApp group and use it to put out a request for information. D. Roan invited D. McMillan to give a talk on the Dalbeattie project he is involved in.

The subject of a bottle bank at Colvend Hall was raised by M. Pumphrey. S. Pain responded by saying one had been requested but has not materialised so he would chase it up.

Action: S. Pain to contact DGC regarding when the bottle bank will be delivered.

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

OUR NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY 3rd JUNE 2021 VIA ZOOM

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 email secretary@colvendcommunity.co.uk