

Symington Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tues 18th March 2025 at 7pm in the Hall for All, Symington.

Present: Liz Kelly, Dave Houfe, Julie Howie, Deborah Lochhead, John Mulholland, Jillian Mulholland

Apologies: Rhona Duncan, Cllr Ferry

Declarations: none

In attendance: Jan McGarry, Cllr Julie Dettbarn

1.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting The notes of the meeting held on 18th February were proposed by DH, seconded by JH.</p>	
2.	<p>Matters arising and outstanding items:</p> <p>Local bus service tracker screen – further emails & phone calls to ARA & SAC Planning this month, chasing updates. ARA Development Control Officer advised that McTaggart&Mickel attempted to get SPT to pay for the tracker and are now planning (no timescale given) to apply for a Section 42 under planning regulations, thereby placing the case back to Planning Enforcement Officer. <i>Section 42- Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 - applies to applications for planning permission for the development of land without complying with conditions subject to which a previous planning permission was granted</i> i.e. if granted, then a new permission exists for the development with different or no conditions attached. Community Council have been pursuing this lack of compliance with planning conditions over several years, and agreed it is disappointing that the developer continues to default on conditions, set 10 years ago, within the original SYM1 planning approval, through a lack of enforcement by SAC officials, highlighting the futility of planning conditions.</p> <p>Raise issue with McTaggart&Mickel representatives at next week's Burnbrae woodland proposal meeting.</p> <p>Highlight issue with Community Councils Forum.</p> <p>ARA traffic calming – original February schedule delayed (contractor setback) till March – ongoing.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">JH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">LK</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JH</p>

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	<p>Overgrown trees, Brewlands Road – SAC Forestry Dept advised busy on priority storm damage work, no action timescale provided (13 emails sent to SAC since June 2024). Forestry Dept will check photo of fallen tree at foot of Lomond View and advise whether Forestry or Grounds responsibility.</p> <p>Julie emailed SAC re a replacement tree for grassed area at Brewlands Road. SAC are on essential spend only, and if budget allowed, would be considered early 2026</p> <p>Damaged wall at the shops – ARA to monoblock the footpath and kerb it.</p> <p>Footpath - Brewlands Rd to shops c/f to Capital Spend</p> <p>Mobile phone cover – no update, request coordinated strategy through SAC, as issues also in Dundonald & Craigie, to be highlighted within Resilience Planning.</p> <p>Knockendale corner safety – volume/speed checking cables in situ across the road, await review outcome.</p> <p>Accessibility Access audit – Liz, Audrey and Helen walked through the village, highlighting areas of difficulties, which will be incorporated into the Community Action Plan.</p> <p>Ward allocation of funds discussed again, and in particular the position taken by Councillors that capital expenditure could not be entered, where such expenditure incurred maintenance costs. At a previous meeting Councillor Ferry indicated that the surfacing the car park in Shaw Park would not fall under capital projects. Mr Mulholland noted Symington Bowling Club has in the last ten years paid £34,000 in rental payments for the property in Shaw Park, left to the community by Lady McInnes Shaw in the 1970s and</p>	<p><i>Cllrs. Dettbarn/Ferry</i></p> <p><i>JH</i></p> <p><i>Cllrs. Dettbarn/Ferry</i></p> <p><i>All Cllrs</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Townson</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Ferry</i></p> <p><i>LK/SCC</i></p>
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	<p>asked why these money's could not be used. Indeed, he indicated to the meeting his intention of asking where that money had been allocated, through an FOI Enquiry. Julie reported that the Ward Capital Spending was approved by SAC in March 2023 and it included for clarity '<i>outdoor seating, play areas and road surfacing</i>'. Some of the budget apparently had been spent on resurfacing pavements in the village.</p> <p>It is important to make sure that community requirements are not discarded through other forums, such as those held with youngsters from the village, within Prestwick Academy. A discussion ensued around the merits of such inputs, how they may have an adverse effect and result in the exclusion of consultation exercises carried out by the community council and thereby exempt them from the decision making process. The current allocation plans reflect the greater influence of the Prestwick single age group rather than the community as a whole. It is important that issues such as an unsealed car park does not fall off the wish list or be side-lined by single age group requirements from meetings in Prestwick, bearing in mind, from a community point of view, apparently poor knowledge of councillors and officials over the allocation of funds.</p> <p>As the next ward allocation meeting is in June, and the community action plan exercise is not yet complete, there is a concern that if Symington doesn't have their requirements included in the ward allocation list, including the surfacing of Shaw Park car park, then they will lose out in funding for the community, as, according to SAC documents, applications for funding are saturated.</p> <p>Wifi (community hall) – Jim McKenzie met with VASA to cost 1 year trial period and monitor any benefits i.e. increase in hall usage, training opportunities, remote meeting attendances</p> <p>Symington churchyard – as confirmed at last meeting , SAC responsible for maintenance - Cllr Ferry informing relevant official of areas needing attention</p>	<p><i>JM</i></p> <p><i>LK/DH/Cllr Dettbarn</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Ferry</i></p>
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<p>3.</p>	<p>Police Report:</p> <p>Further to last month's report – house break in (security overcome and car stolen – targeted), fraud (phone scam, police/victim working with bank)</p> <p>This month, 2 antisocial behaviour, 1 domestic abuse, 1 licensing offences (sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18yrs), plus usual A77 road issues</p> <p>CRIMESTOPPERS SCOTLAND website allows the public to report incidents, to ensure issue logged (website link added to community council website)</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>Changeworks, an environmental charity, with aims to support rural communities to access free & impartial energy efficiency advice, providing households with information/support and offering free energy advice sessions (website link added to community council website)</p> <p>SPT Draft Strathclyde Regional Bus Strategy Consultation open, deadline for responses end May. Individuals and groups are encouraged to provide their input to the consultation (website link added to community council website)</p> <p>Walker Hines Burnbrae woodland proposal - meeting scheduled Wed 26th March 1pm with McTaggart & Mickel & Forestry Commission, support from the public is welcome. M&M have stated that the woodland proposal is not linked to housing development, it is for their centenary year & environmental reasons. Details of the correspondence regarding pathway links, continuous forestry planting was read out at meeting.</p>	<p><i>DH</i></p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance is £2603.71. • Expenditure last month - insurance liability £97 	<p><i>DL</i></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Planning Report:</p> <p>Planning applications – nothing of note to date</p> <p>Coodham – SAC Access Officer advised that signage erected regarding dangerous trees is not adequate.</p>	

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	<p>There should be a time frame for the works to be carried out on the signs. She will advise Hallbar Homes accordingly. Concerns were raised about unauthorised tree felling on the estate (contrary to Tree Preservation Orders), a member of the public displayed photos demonstrating the unwarranted destruction of the trees - Julie had notified SAC this morning of this unauthorised activity.</p> <p>Work has started on LDP3 (local development plan), and there will be the usual public consultation. People are urged to sign up online and get involved, to voice their opinions regarding the future of their village</p>	<p><i>JH</i></p> <p><i>JH/SCC</i></p>
7	<p>Elected members Reports:</p> <p>Cllr Dettbarn – VE Day commemoration events 1st week May. Cllr Dettbarn to forward information of ideas and a directory of planned events (when available)</p>	<p><i>Cllr Dettbarn</i></p>
8	<p>Pollinator Friendly Symington (PFS):</p> <p>Workshop 10am-1pm Sat 26th April, more details to follow</p> <p>Visited primary school to discuss working together in the interests of children in the community and local wildlife</p> <p>Visited Townend Care Home to discuss working together in the interests of their residents, business and local wildlife</p> <p>South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership seeking views on the nature emergency and local actions to halt decline of nature & become nature positive (see link on PFS page of CC website)</p> <p>Still awaiting collar protections promised by SAC for trees planted last year</p>	<p><i>DH</i></p> <p><i>DH</i></p>
9.	<p>Community Action Plan:</p> <p>Community council members are meeting with Audrey Gatt to propagate the adult responses into the CAP. Then repeat exercise with the child/youth responses.</p> <p>The LPP consultation will review use of spaces and</p>	<p><i>AG/SCC</i></p>

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	places, including, importantly, planning issues, as well as, traffic issues and facilities available within the village. Consultation timescale unknown (communities can register a basic document, then replace with fuller version at later date).	
10.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>SAC Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils documents review in progress. Julie involved in consultation phase and will forward draft documents to community council when available</p> <p>Regarding Cllr Ferry's claims of the previous month, of a higher level of activity at Monkton CC, Julie met recently with a Monkton community member, who advised that Cllr Ferry attended a meeting which happened to follow a place planning event in the hall. They both agreed that Symington and Monkton community councils experienced the same levels of activity. It was noted that Cllr Ferry attended 1 Symington CC meeting in 2024.</p> <p>Local residents raised an issue of walking to cars over the grass verges by the bungalows at top of Brewlands Crescent. Dave to write to Neighbourhood Services</p> <p>Concern raised that household waste is being dumped at Shaw Park public bins, member(s) of public have raised the issue with Refuse collectors who will monitor the situation.</p>	<p><i>JH</i></p> <p><i>DH.</i></p>
11.	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday 15th April 2025, Public Meeting in Hall 2 Symington Community Hall 7pm</p>	