

Symington Community Council & AGM
Minutes of meeting held on Tues 21st May 2024
at 7pm in the Hall for All, Symington.

Present: Liz Kelly, Julie Howie, Ailsa Paterson, Rhona Duncan, Deborah Lochhead

Apologies: Dave Houfe, John Mulholland, Jillian Mulholland, Cllr Townson

Declarations: none

In attendance: Cllr Dettbarn, Jan McGarry SAC.

1.	<p>AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Annual Report</u> presented by the Chair – see attached Appendix 1 • <u>Treasurer Accounts</u> prepared by JM and presented by the Chair but advised accounts still to be audited– see attached Appendix 2. <p>Chair advised JM stepping down as Treasurer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Election of Office Bearers-</u> presided by Cllr Dettbarn Chair: Liz Kelly Vice Chair: Dave Houfe Secretary: Dave Houfe Treasurer: Deborah Lochhead Planning Contact: Julie Howie • SM stepping down as CC member. Chair advised the meeting 2 seats are available within Symington CC, and to approach either the Chair or SAC for more information. • Chair advised the CC are looking for a minute taker and that some funding was available for the position. 	
2.	<p>Minutes of previous meeting 16th April 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Amendments to minutes from previous meeting. • Minutes proposed by Rhona Duncan and seconded by Julie Howie. 	
3.	<p>Matters arising and outstanding items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Local bus service tracker</u> screen at turning circle, enforcement of SYM1 planning condition: JH contacted ARA, and confirmed that this has been put back to developer. On Going • <u>20 mph & traffic calming measures</u> – ARA confirmed that works to start July/August. No further update • <u>Lollipop Person</u> - . The school has been approached to provide a letter of support to help progress this issue. • <u>Symington sign</u> and bench on Kerrix Road, Fingerposts on Symington Road North/Main Street and a bench in the playpark on Brewlands Crescent. Cllr Dettbarn confirmed we are still on spend list but was unsure when funds are being allocated. • <u>Local council owned areas requiring maintenance.</u> Cllr Dettbarn reported that a Locality Hit Squad had been in the area to perform one-off maintenance projects. Community Council was not aware of any works having been carried out. Cllr Dettbarn to investigate and report back what projects were undertaken. It was noted that a map of SAC owned areas be sourced to help pinpoint areas requiring maintenance, with grounds around Library being raised as area for concern. 	<p>JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>Liz/Cllrs. Dettbarn / Ferry</p> <p>Cllrs. Dettbarn / Ferry</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Kerrix Road / Main Street Junction</u>. Cllr Dettbarn reported that she had contacted Police Scotland in Ayr but to date had had no response. Will approach Local Area Commander at next scheduled Local Council meeting. • <u>Place Plan</u> – Expression of Interest. Expression of Interest has been submitted and a confirmation of receipt received. 	<p>Cllrs. Dettbarn / Ferry</p> <p>Cllrs. Dettbarn / Ferry</p>
4.	<p>Police Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Attached - Appendix 3 	DH
5.	<p>Secretary's Report: <u>Communications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19/04 'Community Council' from Jodie McFarlane of SAC ref new Senior Communities Officer responsible for overseeing Community Councils. • 19/04 'Community Council Grant Payments - 2024/25' from Vivienne McCulloch of SAC requesting documents be submitted to enable the reimbursement of admin grants and Zurich insurance payments. • 22/04 'Community Asset Transfer' from Colin Love SAC, answering queries from April CC meeting. [SAC will rebuild Pavilion as was, financed from the insurance claim without additional spend by SAC. Plans and layout are being finalised. The structure will comply with current regulations including accessible toilet facilities. The rebuild is expected to take place this year but start date and duration tbc.] • 25/04 'Ayrshire Link Community Advisory Group Membership' from Shona Maloney confirming that Symington CC will remain on the CAG database. • 26/04 'Coodham Estate - South Ayrshire' from Tom Macartney Hallbar Homes, is happy for their presentation to be circulated and promised to forward a copy of presentation on 29/04 but hasn't been forthcoming. • 08/05 'Pollinator Friendly Symington' from Josie McMurdo ref. adding PFS to South Ayrshire Life website, so will be more accessible to the public. • 10/05 'RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards - We Think You Should Apply!' from Awards@rspb.org.uk> ref. encouraging us to apply for their Community Initiative Award for the work being done by Pollinator Friendly Symington. • 15/05 'Public Station Based Engagement Event South Ayrshire – Ayr Fire Station Wednesday 19 June 14.00-16.00' from Maxine Lamb on behalf of Tom McGunnigle. Member of CC invited to attend. Aims to capture views and priorities of stakeholders (members of the public and local community groups: What does the public think that the fire services priorities should be? A short presentation followed by tour of the station. • 16/05 'Community Learning and Development Plan 2024 – 2027' Online survey live on SAC website. Seek to consult with as many people as possible – learners, partners, communities, workforce etc. • 21/05 'DPEA Planning Appeals Training' (forwarded prior to meeting to CC members) Wednesday 12 June 18.00 – 19.30 via Teams. DPEA's role, the way it works, and how communities can 	LK/DH

	<p>get involved in this part of the planning process. Short overview of Planning Aid for Scotland. Questions in advance are invited.</p> <p>24/04 Walker Hines Woodland Services, working as an agent, describing a proposed woodland on land to the west of Symington (South Ayrshire), located around the old Burnbrae Farm. The draft design shows a planting area of 59.75 ha made up of 105 native broadleaves, 18% productive broadleaves, and 72% mixed conifers. The owner is keen to include walking routes (unsurfaced) to provide public access through the young woodland. DH requested we seek more information about the types of timbers/trees being planted and the purpose of the development i.e. carbon offsetting. LK to ask developer to next CC meeting for discussion.</p>	<p>LK</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Appendix 2 	<p>JM / DL</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Planning Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Planning Applications</u> – There is a prior notification application for the conversion of an existing agricultural shed at Dyke Farm. They wish to convert the existing shed into 4 houses. • <u>Procedural Changes to Regulatory Panel Hearing.</u> – As reported previously, SAC have given their final response to the complaint. JH reported SAC did change some of their procedures but the issue of being able to challenge incorrect information was left to the discretion of the chair. All of the documentation was passed to our Local MSP's office in Cumnock. They were also unable to resolve the issue. JH has now collected all of the documentation from the MSP's office and gathered together all subsequent emails. JH proposes that this item be dropped from the agenda and all of the documentation be retained should it be required in the future. Cllr Dettbarn said that she felt there should be an opportunity to speak at such hearings and will speak to the current Chair of the Regulatory Planning Hearing to be mindful of this decision and will also speak with Leader of SAC at their next in person meeting. She also noted that all meetings are broadcast live on web and available to view online. • <u>Proposed development at Coodham</u> – The presentation by Hallbar Homes (HH) at last month's CC meeting raised several concerns with the main ones being - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HH have extant planning permission. • HH do not need to comply with current regulations as the permission was granted in 2004. • HH did not need to apply for full planning permission for the 38 homes. • Ther was no expectation for affordable homes. • HH were going to start marketing May/June 2024. (prior to planning permission) <p>A copy of the letter sent by SAC to the Developer (HH) has been obtained as a result of their pre application enquiry. The letter states – without prejudice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC advised the Developer that the planning application from 2004 was extant. • Developer must submit a full planning application. • HH must comply with current regulations. • HH will be expected to address the affordable homes issue. 	<p>JH</p> <p>Cllr. Dettbarn</p> <p>JH/Cllr. Dettbarn</p>

	<p>In response JH has emailed Historic Scotland, The Chief Planner and The Scottish Government for advice on extant planning permission. Historic Scotland and the Chief Planners office advised they would only advise the local authority on this matter and to contact SAC. No response from Scottish Government at this time.</p> <p>The majority of residents of Coodham are against the proposed development. Thus, the CC will represent the community wishes going forward and will continue to liaise with SAC. CC were advised that a legal challenge regarding the extant planning has been raised by a small group of Coodham residents. Cllr Dettbarn was unable to comment at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning approval has been granted at Knockendale Farm for 2 barn conversions. 	
8	<p>Elected members Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report that hasn't been already covered via agenda 	<i>Cllr. Dettbarn</i>
9.	<p>Pollinator Friendly Symington (PFS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update report 	DH
10.	<p>Place Planning/Community Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logo discussed and adopted for CC. 	LK
11	<p>AOCB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JH reminded that residents at Coodham and Bogend Toll be included in Community Action Plan. 	LK
12	<p>Date of Next Public Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th June 2024 in Hall 2 Symington Community Hall 7pm 	

SYMINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM May 21st May 2024

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A brief outline of some, but not all, of Symington Community Council's activities during the past year include: -

- Local planning applications have been monitored and, where appropriate, objections or support submitted to the Regulatory Panel. A considerable amount of time is taken by Julie Howie researching and submitting representations and keeping us all informed on local and national planning matters.

Julie Howie and Dave Houfe attended a meeting at the Scottish Parliament to discuss biodiversity and NPF4.

- The website has been kept up to date with agendas and minutes of meetings, links and information forwarded to Community Council by other agencies. Everyone is encouraged to check out the website, and we would welcome any comments you have for further improvements.
- A wreath for Remembrance Day was laid at the village war memorial by John Nimmo, a resident and former Community Councillor, on behalf of the village.
- Grants were allocated to local organisations. This year the Friendship Group, Youth Group, and the Scout Hut each benefitted from £50 grants.
- The Memorial Garden adjacent to the Church has been renovated with the assistance of South Ayrshire Council.
- Presentations at meetings were given by Audrey Gatt (Community Action and Place Plans), Sandra McMath (Youth Clubs), and Colin Love (Community Asset Transfer).
- Arrangements have been made to prepare a Community Action Plan and a Place Plan for Symington.
- Traffic issues, particularly speeding along Main Street and Brewlands Road, are still of concern and remain on the Community Council's agenda.
- Pollinator Friendly Symington (PFS), which evolved from the Wildflower Project, continues to develop led by Dave Houfe with valuable support from Lynne Bates (Girvan to Irvine Nectar Network), Joanne McEwan (SAC Ranger) and members of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Discussions are taking place with other local community councils to increase biodiversity throughout the area.

PFS has been nationally recognised by the Scottish Wildlife Community and showcased in its Action Next-door Nature Project Trust <https://community.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/story/pollinator-friendly-symington/> It was also mentioned on the BBC Scotland Outdoors, and received commendation through a Parliamentary motion to the Scottish Government by Elena Whitham, MSP for Carrick, Cumnock, and Doon Valley.

Other associated activities have included: a Bat Walk in August, workshop and celebratory event held in September, presentation by Dr Jo Davis ('Gardening to Encourage Pollinators'), showing of the film 'Riverwoods' followed by a panel discussion, planting of around forty trees which have been 'adopted' by local residents, hedge planting, hedge laying at the Symington Road South verge.

Further information on the project is available from Dave Houfe, Symington Community Council email and website, and posts on various Symington Facebook pages. The enormous value of private gardens and growing spaces contributing to pollinator corridors is being recognised.

Finally, I should like to say 'thank you' to Symington Community Council members: Dave Houfe (Vice Chair and Secretary), John Mulholland (Treasurer), Julie Howie (Secretary and Planning contact), Ailsa Paterson, Jillian Mulholland, Sheila Murray, Sean Robertson and Felicity Thomson. Also, thanks to our local councillors: Julie Dettbarn, Stephen Ferry, and Duncan Townson, Jan McGarry our Link Officer, and especially to members of the public who attended our meetings.

We look forward to our year ahead and welcome new members Rhona Duncan and Deborah Lochhead.

Liz Kelly, Chair – Symington Community Council May 2024

SYMINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL		
Income & Expenditure Account 01/04/23 to 31/03/24		
2023		2024
£2,049.28	Opening Balance	£5,373.85
	Income	
£600.00	Grant SAC / Admin Grant SAC	£414.60
£4,020.00	Jubilee Grant South Ayrshire / Grant South Ayrshire	£264.13
£86.00	Ayrshire Insurance Payment	£86.00
£0.00	Repayment Homes Farms	£1,000.00
	Pollinator Grant	£248.40
	Repayment of grant made to Youth Group 2023	£50.00
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£6,755.28	Expenditure	£7,436.98
£60.00	Honorarium Secretary	£0.00
£60.00	Minute Secretary Fees	£60.00
£30.00	Audit Fee / Audit Fee 2 years	£60.00
£44.60	Remembrance Expenses	£50.80
£20.00	Rights of Way Membership	£20.00
£264.13	Hire of Community Hall	£182.25
£40.00	Information Commissioner	£40.00
£130.00	Scout Hut Lets / Gala Committee	£20.00
£50.00	Scout Hut Grant	£50.00
£50.00	Friendship Group Grant	£50.00
£30.00	Symington Magazine / Let Symington Bowling Club	£30.00
£250.00	Party Palz Community Day Hire / Community Garden Purchases	£137.48
£30.00	Scout Hut Hire Community Day Hire / Bench Comm M Health	£1,203.35
£80.50	Mental Health Project	£475.89
£106.20	Community Day / Natural Flower Project Lets etc.	£366.16
£50.00	Grant Youth Club / Holmes Farms Community Mental Health	£1,000.00
£86.00	Zurich Municipal Insurance	£97.20
	Let community hall (Pollinator Project)	£23.00
	Pollinator Project	£248.40
	Microsoft Subs	£59.99
	Domain Subs	£12.46
	HP Ink subscription	£53.82
	Community Hall Grant	£50.00
	Website	£313.37
	Cann Print	£70.00
	Mothers and Toddlers Grant	£50.00
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£1,381.43		£4,724.17
<u>£5,373.85</u>	Closing Balance	<u>£2,712.81</u>
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£5,598.85	Balance at Bank	£2,822.81
£225.00	less outstanding cheques	£110.00
<u>£5,373.85</u>		<u>£2,712.81</u>

Appendix 3 Police Report

Community Council Meeting:	Symington
Date:	May 2024
Officer Attending:	Report submitted

The information below covers the period from 16/03/24 – 13/04/24 with details provided in relation to the local priorities highlighted in the 2024-26 Local Police Plan for South Ayrshire.

Specific figures, stats and trends will continue to be provided at the Senior Management Scrutiny Board via the Partnership Panel.

1. Serious and Organised Crime – (including Violence, Drug supply, Sexual Crime)	<p>Violence</p> <p>No incidents of note in relation to violence for the reporting period.</p> <p>Drugs Supply</p> <p>We continue to welcome any information in relation to drug dealing activity.</p>	
2. Safer Communities (including Hate Crime, ASB, Domestic Abuse)	<p>Nil</p> <p>Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</p> <p>Another positive month for Symington Community Council.</p> <p>For the reporting period, one report of youths fighting however on police attendance no trace of youths.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse</p> <p>This area of policing continues to be an area of focus, officers provide support to victims and ensure with consent of the victim they are referred to support agencies.</p>	
3. Acquisitive Crime	Housebreaking	Nil
	Robbery	Nil
	Fraud	Nil
4. Community Wellbeing	<p>Substance Use</p> <p>Nil</p> <p>Children & Young People</p> <p>Nothing to report on for this meeting.</p> <p>Welfare Concerns</p> <p>We continue to respond to a high number of these types of incidents, which often take up a considerable amount of time of officers.</p> <p>For any calls of this nature, we continue to work alongside partner agencies to deal with the incidents in a timeously manner as possible ensuring individuals speak with the relevant agency.</p>	
5. Road Safety (Drink / Drug Driving, Speeding, Disqualified / Uninsured Driving)	<p>2 RTC near to Symington nothing for within the village.</p> <p>1 complaint received regarding speeding in the village.</p>	
Up-coming events	Nil	