

SYMINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 17th October 2023 7pm in Symington Community Hall

1. Present: Liz Kelly (Chair), Dave Houfe (Vice-Chair), Julie Howie (Secretary), Ailsa Patterson and Sheila Murray. Ten members of public also in attendance.
2. Apologies: John Mulholland (Treasurer), Gillian Mulholland, Sean Roberston, Felicity Thompson and Labour Cllr Townson.
3. Declarations of interest: None
4. Approval of minutes of previous Community Council meeting 20th June 2023.
Proposed by Dave Houfe, seconded by Julie Howie
5. Matters arising/outstanding:
 - Local bus service - real time bus tracker screen at turning circle clarification of SYM1 planning condition and Timetable inaccuracies (Cllr Townson)

Community Councillor Howie has contacted ARA but as previously offered Cllr Townson appears as yet not to have made contact with them. It seems one or two members of public still concerned about lack of clarity as to exactly where prospective bus passengers should stand when waiting for transport. Cllr Townson had undertaken to ensure clearer timetabling would be provided. Still to come.
Liz Kelly, Chair, will seek clarification.

Ayrshire Roads Alliance 20mph proposals for Symington, traffic calming measures - .

Community Councillor Howie has been in touch with ARA who say they are still waiting for response from Fisherton Community Council before road works can commence.

Symington PTA Survey has agreed to yellow lines outside Primary School.

They had also emailed South Ayrshire Councillors re possibility of Lollipop personnel at school but no response as yet.

Unfortunately, Councillors Dettbarn and Townson not in attendance and so no update re possibility of a 'lollipop person' for Symington.

- Symington sign on Kerrix Road, bench on Kerrix Road, finger post at Main St/Symington Rd North junction, playpark Brewlands Crescent – awaiting update from Councillor Dettbarn re allocation of funds.
- Place Planning update (Jan McGarry)

There is now a new member of staff (Audrey Gatt) in post. There are currently 14 themes to be considered but a review will be held. CC asked if it thought SAC Councillors should be involved. Since none were present it was decided to postpone this matter until next meeting. A budget does exist to help with what might be requested/suggested for the village but the amount available is not known.

- Churchyard maintenance (Cllr Dettbarn)

Councillor Dettbarn not in attendance but member of public confirmed weedkiller has been put down. Unable to confirm where responsibility for such matters of upkeep lies.

- Replacement Community Council meeting banners: -

Two new banners have been purchased at a cost of £96.00

- Pavement on Kilmarnock Road. Cllrs Dettbarn/Townson absent from meeting so no update.

Members of public mentioned that two bollards still in place between exit to Symington and on A77 at Coodham/Dundonald Road area. Presumably further work to be done.

6. Police Report

Typed report forwarded to Committee Secretary who shared contents with meeting.

No detailed incidents of violence, drug supply, welfare concerns, domestic abuse, housebreaking, robbery or fraud or RTA.

Some discussion re various points.

On section referring to Anti-social behaviour "another good month for Symington" is noted. However, reports of youths causing annoyance in the area of Deer Meadow have been reported". Officers did speak with youths re their conduct. The campus officer will also be made aware re this engagement to deter further behaviour.

Under the heading of Community and Wellbeing it is stated that "police continue to respond to a high number of these types of incidents and to work alongside partner agencies to deal with incidents in a timeous manner."

Under Section 5, "Road Safety", it says there is nothing of note to report within the village. However, at previous public meetings it is not unusual for residents to reference traffic issues including parking congestion in Main Street. Also, anti-social revving/gunning of car engines is noted as commonplace. This evening speeding in Main Street, Brewlands Road, Mount Avenue and Lawhill Road mentioned by member of PTA.

No Police presence at meeting so unable to clarify points where some information seems rather contradictory.

Again, no mention/update of any police involvement/enquiry re fire at Pavilion in Shaw Park.

This matter to be kept on CC Agenda.

7. Secretary's Report (Julie Howie)

(1) Details of funding opportunities from VASA have been forwarded to the Indoor Bowling Group, Scout Hut Committee and Friendship Group.

(2) An invitation to attend a meeting of the Active Travel Strategy for South Ayrshire. ARA and SAC have drawn up future plans, based on suggestions as noted on local place plans. These are to be agreed (a survey will be sent out in the following weeks to gain agreement). As part of the CAG Community Action Group, we are being asked to agree and prioritise Active Travel Related projects per Ward.

Ward 6, Kyle focus on 105 square metres area of resurfacing of footpath in Symington to be undertaken but exact location unknown, traffic lights/Zebra Crossing at Co-op and improved lighting and seating in park. Secretary will attend next meeting and report back.

Member of public asked that consideration be given to M77 bus stop being moved to within or as near as possible to Symington village rather than at Hansel. Pedestrians currently being dropped at Hansel which necessitates what can be a rather unpleasant/unsafe walk alongside a very busy carriageway.

(3) Active Travel Survey – Consultation for organisations, not individuals, to complete.

8. Treasurer's Report - Apologies from Community Councillor Mulholland.

9. Planning Report (Julie Howie)

Email forwarded to Catriona Caves, head of Legal and Regulatory Services at SAC. Clarification being sought as to procedures when regulatory panel meetings held. The question being that if there is no mechanism to allow a fair and democratic challenge when an Officer or Officers of South Ayrshire Council presents incorrect information as a means of supporting a planning application.

If there is a misrepresentation of circumstances/details expressed then an opportunity to question/disprove wrongful claims must surely be allowed.

Planning Permission in Principle granted for erection of dwellinghouse in rear garden area of 62A Main Street, Symington.

10. Elected Members' Reports - None

Cllrs. Dettbarn, Ferry, and Townson absent

11. Remembrance Sunday (November 12th 9.30am Church, 10.15am War Memorial)

Liz Kelly –

Details to be clarified with Community Councillor Sean Roberston.
Church Service at 9.30AM to be followed by laying of wreath.
Lunch will be provided by Church Guild.

12. Wildflower Project/Pollinator Friendly Symington update (Dave Houfe)

Workshop and celebratory event well received. A cheque for £248.48p kindly donated by local Co-op. Two bat detectors may be built by volunteers at a cost of £73 and Hayes Garden Centre contacted with request for possible help. Seed planting had gone fairly well with Yellow Rattle quite predominant and more abundant growth of flowers expected next year. New signs required for wildlife verges.

Now in partnership with Scottish Wildlife Trust. Also, Scotland's Rural College conducted bee surveys with 5-minute video completed.

13. Memorial Garden (Liz Kelly)

Funding of £1000 confirmed as secure. Still waiting to hear what will be done by SAC. Meanwhile a member of the public suggested bulb planting as part of improvement scheme.

14. AOCB:

Unfortunately, no interest shown re vacancy for Community Councillor or any offer of help re taking minutes.

Much interest shown by two members of PTA re possibility of some sort of after school or evening club for young people. Apparently Bowling Club have offered use of premises, but at a cost. Also, PTA members will advertise need for volunteers. Volunteers will need official background checks.

A lengthy conversation ensued re this topic and concerning young people in general. It seems youths tending to congregate in various locations to smoke, vape and/or drink. Community Councillor Julie Howie will contact the police and ask that they speak to shop owners about sale these particular items.

Deteriorated condition of pot holes in and around village referred to by members of public. Also Prospect of public transport link to Troon questioned as a possibility.

Jan McGarry, SAC, to speak with Sandra McMath re Thriving Communities.

15. Date of next meetings: Tuesday 21st November 2023, 16th January 2024 6.30pm (Community Councillors pre-meeting), 7pm (public meeting) in Hall 2, Symington Community Hall, Main Street.