

**Symington Community Council: minutes of meeting and AGM held on Tues 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the Hall for All, Symington.**

**Present: Liz Kelly, Julie Howie, Sheila Murray, Stuart Pike, Ailsa Paterson.**

**Apologies: Dave Houfe, John Mulholland, Jillian Mulholland,**

**In attendance: Jan McGarry SAC.**

1.	<p><b>Declaration of interest:</b> There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2.	<p><b>AGM-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annual Report was given by Liz Kelly – a copy of which is appended to the minute.</li> <li>• Annual Statement of Accounts – the accounts have not been audited yet and as some items require clarification, Jan McGarry offered to check if the annual statement of accounts can be brought to another meeting.</li> <li>• Election of office bearers as follows- Chair- Liz Kelly Vice-chair- Dave Houfe Secretary – Julie Howie Treasurer – John Mulholland Planning Contact – Julie Howie Licensing contact – Julie Howie</li> <li>• The position of minute secretary was discussed and it was proposed that an advert would be placed on our website for a paid position. In the meantime Ailsa Paterson will continue in this role.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting ( 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023)</b> proposed by Julie Howie and seconded by Sheila Murray.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Matters Arising and outstanding items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real time bus timetable – still awaiting response from SAC.</li> <li>• SUDS pond at Sym1 and cutting of grass verges – no update available</li> <li>• Traffic calming – ARA have agreed to proceed with the reduced measures as requested by Community Council and will keep us updated.</li> <li>• Symington Sign on Kerrix Road , bench Kerrix road , Finger Post Symington Road North junction – no update available.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Cllr. Dettbarn</i></p> <p><i>Cllr. Dettbarn</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign at Knockendale for C93- matter passed back to resident to raise with ARA.</li> <li>• Place Planning – ongoing</li> <li>• Play Park Brewlands – no update</li> </ul>	<i>Cllr.Dettbarn</i>
5.	<p><b>Police Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident of assault and disorder within a contained environment – involving a child assaulting staff.</li> <li>• Safer communities- continues to be an area of focus.</li> <li>• Acquisitive Crime- nil</li> <li>• Community Wellbeing- nothing to report</li> <li>• Road safety – 1 male arrested for being under the influence while driving.</li> <li>• Lighter nights and better weather may increase incidents of Anti-social behaviour- patrols will be carried out to all hotspot locations.</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elena Witham’s office (MSP) are to chase up lack of response form SAC Planning to regulatory planning issues.</li> <li>• No new planning applications.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Wildflower Project:</b> Work is continuing and has now been extended to include some residents’ gardens.</p>	<i>Dave Houfe</i>
9.	<p><b>Mental Health Project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz has been in contact with SAC re: possibility of adopting and renovating the Memorial Garden using some of the Mental Health and Well-being project monies which must be spent by end of May. No response so far. Jan McGarry agreed to follow up.</li> </ul>	<i>Liz Kelly</i>
10.	<p><b>AOCB.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is interest in planting a tree for the Coronation and the Memorial Garden was suggested as a suitable location.</li> <li>• Felicity Thomson is to be co-opted on to the committee June 2023.</li> </ul>	<i>Julie Howie / Felicity Thomson/David Dickson</i>
12.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 , 6.30.pm Community Councillors pre- meeting. 7pm Public Meeting in Hall for All .</p>	

## SYMINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This has been a busy year for Symington Community Council and the first full year of meetings since 2019. A brief summary of some, but not all, of our activities include:-

- Local planning applications have been monitored and, where appropriate in response to requests from residents, objections or support submitted to the Regulatory Panel. During the past year Symington Community Council formerly expressed concerns about some of the processes involved in Regulatory Panel hearings. We understand that some changes are being made, and look forward to finding out what they are. A considerable amount of time is taken by Julie Howie researching and submitting representations, and keeping us all informed on planning matters.
- The website has been established and is 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. Thanks to Bryce Howie for his help with this.
- An informative meeting was held with Elena Wittam MSP.
- Information regarding South Ayrshire Council's disposal of materials suitable for recycling was requested. However, due to 'commercial sensitivity' details were not available but Councillor Dettbarn was able to reassure us that South Ayrshire deals with this appropriately.
- A wreath for Remembrance Day was laid at the village war memorial by Community Councillor Stuart Pike who is a Naval Officer, on behalf of residents.
- The Wildflower Project continues, led by Dave Houfe with considerable support and guidance from Lynne Bates, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Irvine to Girvan Nectar Network. The east verge along Symington Road South is being managed by cutting and collecting the arising at appropriate times. Last year saw an abundance of yellow rattle which was sown to reduce the amount of grass growing, and to encourage the establishment of the wildflowers sown last Autumn. The project is developing to encourage residents to sign up to become a partner of Pollinator-friendly Symington. The enormous value of private gardens and growing spaces contributing to pollinator corridors is being recognised. Information is available on posters, flyers, and Symington Facebook pages, or by contacting to Dave Houfe.
- Again the village had an impressive Christmas tree. Disappointingly we were not given notice that this would happen so plans could not be made for a 'lighting up' celebration.
- Grants were allocated to local organisations. This year the Friendship Group, Youth Group, and the Scout Hut each benefitted from £50 grants.
- Ayrshire Roads Alliance met with Community Council members to discuss traffic calming initiatives and 20mph speed limit outlined previously on prepared maps. We await further information from ARA and details of the public consultation process. Speeding on Main Street continues to be a major traffic concern.
- Public consultation was undertaken by Thriving Communities Team to inform the Place Plan for Symington. The Report has not yet been prepared due to staff

shortages and there are concerns that it will not now be valid, and may need to be repeated. Further information is awaited.

- In response to concerns from residents, and pursued by Community Council, areas in the village were tidied up and repairs to kerbing undertaken by South Ayrshire Council.
- The project funded by the Mental Health and Well-being Fund has progressed. Two dementia awareness sessions, facilitated by Rachel McLeod (Specialist Dementia Mental Health Nurse) were held in October with twenty five people attending. It is hoped that Symington will be a dementia aware community.

The Community Fun Day was successful with around 200 people taking part. Local organisations took stalls and organised activities, and Thriving Communities took the opportunity to consult with members of the public for the Place Plan. A litter pick, organised by Stuart Pike, preceded the event. It was encouraging that there was no litter left in Shaw Park after the Fun Day.

A picnic bench financed through the MHWF has been installed in the children's play area of Shaw Park. It is hoped that this will encourage people to sit and chat.

A community growing space is being established at the rear of the Community Hall. Raised beds have been built and filled, and people have taken seeds to grow and nurture with a plan to plant them up in the community garden in a few weeks time.

We should like to thank SAC ground maintenance staff for their help in installing the bench, and providing and delivering compost.

Due to donations and generosity we have an underspend with the project and have permission to use this to further develop the Pollinator friendly project which is bringing together an enthusiastic group of gardeners, and to renovate another public garden area in the village.

I should like to say 'thank you' to all Symington Community Council members during this period: Dave Houfe (Vice Chair), John Mulholland (Treasurer), Julie Howie (Secretary and Planning contact), Ailsa Paterson (Minutes Secretary), Paul McCluskey, Jillian Mulholland, Sheila Murray, and Stuart Pike.

Paul resigned from the Community Council prior to the AGM, and Stuart this week due to work commitments. I should like to record our thanks to them both for their time and contributions which have been appreciated.

It has been a pleasure being Chair of the Community Council with a very supportive group of enthusiastic members. Also, thanks to our local councillors: Julie Dettbarn, Stephen Ferry, and Duncan Townson, Jan McGarry our Link Officer, and to members of the public who attended our meetings.

Liz Kelly, Chair – Symington Community Council May 2023