

# AYTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 4 October 2016  
at 7.00 pm in Ayton Community Hall

<b>Present</b>	Michael Cook (SBC)	<b>MC</b>	Graham Dolan	<b>GD</b>
	Jim Fullarton (SBC)	<b>JF</b>	Isabel Kellie	<b>IK</b>
	Ian Logan	<b>IL</b>	Dick Noble	<b>DN</b>
	Helen Postle	<b>HP</b>	John Slater	<b>JS</b>
	Trevor Smith	<b>TS</b>	Rob Weatherston	<b>RW</b>
	Paul Wilson	<b>PW</b>		

The Meeting was Chaired by John Slater (JS).

## ITEMS

### 1. Police Report

The CPO was unable to attend but had submitted a report. Current campaigns included one on Student Safety (partying, identity safety, online activity and looking after their property); and Road Safety Scotland's Country Roads campaign in which the recently launched Safety Camera motorcycle was introduced. Ward Priorities remained unchanged: road safety (speeding), misuse of drugs, rural thefts and antisocial behaviour. One incident of note was reported – a Gatso static speed camera on the A1 between Ayton and Reston was damaged by wilful fire raising; other incidents created for the Ayton area referred to concerns for others welfare, incidents created for police information purposes and requests for advice.

In future, GD agreed to circulate the Police Report to all members of the Community Council. **GD**

### 2. Open Forum

Nothing to report.

### 3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Rob Boyd (RB), Margaret Carey (MCa) and Kenny Combe (KC).

### 4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 September 2016 were approved, subject to the following amendment: **Police Report** (line 2) Amend "Quarter 1 should" to read "Quarter 1 showed". Proposed by HP and seconded by DN.

### 5. Matters Arising

- **Community Garden Project** – noted that the project was still in the early stages of Development.
- **Community Council Website** – GD had updated the website. A record had been made of the former Treasurer although, in accordance with advice, only current serving councillors were identified.
- **School Transport** – no further developments.
- **Defibrillator** - arrangements for training were being progressed. **GD**
- **Clock Tower Flagpole** – JS would ask RB for up to date information on progress. **JS**
- **A1 Action Group** – Barrie Forrest (Reston) had attended the last meeting. Work was still outstanding in some areas (directional signs, white lines). It was noted, however, that IL had had unsolicited contact with AMEY regarding directional signage needs relating to Alemill.
- **War Memorial Information Board** – it was confirmed that a planning application would have to be submitted for the board, once an exact location had been agreed with the Church. RB would be asked to assist with completion of the application. **JS/RB**
- **Peelwalls Meadow** – a site meeting had been attended by five members of the CC,

- representatives of the Police and SBC. The situation regarding the footpath was clarified:
- \* following the refusal of Ayton Castle Estates to sell the tract of land required for the additional footpath and bridge into the village via Bleachfield, SBC had agreed to revoke the agreement made between the developer and the CC in favour of a £20,000 gift from the developer to fund repairs to the footpath on the B6355;
  - \* there was little likelihood of any reduction of the speed limit on that section of the road in the foreseeable future;
  - \* an approach to the developer now for further funding was unrealistic;
  - \* the existing path had been reviewed and deemed safe under the Safer Routes to School initiative. There could be a reassessment if a resident wrote to SBC expressing concerns with the safety of this pedestrian route to Ayton school.

Since the meeting, the overgrown hedge on the footpath had been cut back and an assurance given that SBC would have surface vegetation scraped back through local works schemes; redundant signage would be removed; IL agreed to contact David Liddell-Granger direct regarding the tract of land whose sale had previously been refused; MC would ask for clarification on the £20k pathway improvements. IL/MC

- **Hedge Plants** – no further progress. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**
- **Bottle Bank** – GD agreed to contact David Allan again regarding the area at the Cattery. **GD**
- **Ayton Castle Summer Concert** – JS and TS would meet to discuss. **JS/TS**
- **Play Park** – reinstatement of the ground at the goal posts had been undertaken.
- **Solar Panels** – JS was awaiting a response from Lucy Hoad to the CC's query about retrospective planning approval for the solar panels at 3 Old Town.
- **Mini Market** – it was understood that any planning approval for additional storage was obviated by the ground ownership issues.
- **BT Phone Box** – JS had written to the co-ordinator of the Borders' response to BT's proposed removal of underused phone boxes, outlining the CC's support of retaining the facility in Ayton, especially in an emergency.
- **Bus Timetables** – had now been updated at village bus stops.
- **Christmas Lights** – JS advised that Reston Band was booked for the switch on of the lights on Sunday 27 November. It was agreed to progress discussions with Ayton Primary School for their 'choir' to sing in the hall that afternoon. Small gifts would be purchased for the children. IL kindly confirmed the provision of the tree and its erection. It was noted that the base for the tree needed to be concreted in – Rob Blaikie would be asked to assist. Any changes to the current lights provision would be reviewed next year. JS/IL/RB

## 6. Planning Applications

Three planning applications were noted, discussed and supported:

- Ayton Castle – works to trees
- Ayton Castle – extension to existing workshop/store
- Peelwalls House – erection of new entrance gates and piers within existing north driveway.

## 7. Area Councillor's Report

JF reported on a review of waste routes which would see numbers fall from 6 to 5 in Berwickshire. It was not yet known if Ayton would be affected.

It was noted that the statue on the Bantry in Eyemouth, commemorating the fishermen who lost their lives in the 1881 disaster, was to be officially unveiled at a ceremony on 14 October.

No conclusion had yet been reached on the siting of the Scottish Tapestry.

A primary school review would not affect Ayton which had more than the 50 pupil safe minimum.

## 8. Treasurer's Report

GD presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Maureen Anton. The Treasurer's Account stood at £1075.61, including the Annual and Enhancement Grants. The Project Account stood at £1242.12.

## 9. Correspondence

GD presented correspondence relating to expressions of interest in hosting a future Borders Walking Festival; Fallago Rig wind farm – investing in the Borders environment; improving the condition of local pathways. (IL would remind local farmers of the need to retain a footpath round the perimeter of ploughed fields.)

## 10. Any Other Competent Business

- **Ayton Bus Services** – there was concern about a reduction in the Edinburgh bus service (Perryman's Buses) which had left the village without a late afternoon/early evening request stop bus from Edinburgh. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Perryman's asking for reinstatement of the service or the introduction of request stop on a similar service. **GD**
- **Remembrance Day Wreath** – GD would investigate cost and provision of a wreath for the Remembrance Service. **GD**

## 11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 1 November 2016 in Ayton Community Hall.