

AYTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 11 November 2017
at 7.00 pm in Ayton Community Hall

Present:	Maureen Anton	MA	Graham Dolan	GD
	Jim Fullarton (SBC)	JF	Carol Hamilton (SBC)	CH
	Isabel Kellie	IK	Helen Laing (SBC)	HL
	Dick Noble	DN	John Slater	JS
	Trevor Smith	TS	Rob Weatherston	RW

In Attendance (Item 2): Charles Johnston (Planning) and Keith Patterson (Roads), SBC

Eight members of the public were also present. The Meeting was Chaired by John Slater (**JS**).

ITEMS

ACTION

1. Open Forum

Mr and Mrs M attended the meeting to voice concern about the continued absence of a footpath/pavement outside their property in the Crofts, Ayton. The lack of a pavement caused a marked height difference between the end of their access path and the external road. Mr M's infirmity meant that this drop in levels was making it very difficult for him to safely leave their house. They had been in contact with SBC to have the public path extended to pass their house for some time now but without success. **KP** advised that there were no monies available in the roads budget to undertake the work. However, it was suggested that the problem was of a social care nature and should be taken up with SBC Social Services. **JF** agreed to pursue the matter on their behalf. **JF**

2. Beanburn Development

JS welcomed Messrs Johnston (**CJ**) and Patterson (**KP**) from SBC to discuss issues relating to the proposed housing development off Summerhill Park and Lawfield Drive on land owned by Berwickshire Housing Association. It was recognised that there was a dearth of affordable housing for people in the area and, in this regard, the development was welcomed and supported. Taking into account the recent development at Peelwalls Meadow and confirmation of approval in principle to build 6 houses on an empty site to the north of the village, the proposed 50+ dwellings considered for the Beanburn site could give rise to an increase in the population of Ayton of some 30%. It was important, therefore, to take into account any underlying issues which, if not addressed, might compromise the success of any future development:

- **Access** – the CC had real concerns about any increase in the number of vehicles using the Beanburn. Large farm vehicles and HGVs already struggled to travel safely along this historic road. Their movement was also compromised at certain times by school traffic which was made worse by poor access on to the Beanburn from the school car park. **KP** agreed to commission a survey of traffic movement, having regard to the busiest periods for school and farm traffic;
- **Drainage** – it was understood that drainage continued to present problems for some Lawfield Drive residents. Limited remedial work had been undertaken over the years but had not achieved a satisfactory resolution for all. Reassurance was sought on the efficacy of the new drainage scheme proposed for the development. **CJ** undertook to take advice from Scottish Water and to report back.
- **Education and Health** – **CJ** acknowledged that Ayton Primary School was close to capacity and listened to concerns regarding access to NHS Primary Care and Dental Services. The importance of 'joined up' thinking to inform and support this significant proposed population increase in the village was accepted.

The CC looked forward to advising on future matters relating to this welcome development and hoped to comment shortly on a Rural Housing report on the proposed housing mix. **ALL**

3. Treasurer's Report

MA presented the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Account stood at £921.26. Two significant donations had been received to counter the deficit to the Project Account following the aborted

Summer Concert: £500 from Mrs Patricia Payne, to whom a letter of thanks had been sent by **MA** on behalf of the CC; and £200 from Ayton Castle. **GD** would write to the Castle owners expressing thanks for this generous donation. **JS** asked that CC members also consider proposals for Mrs Payne's donation as it seemed appropriate to use this substantial sum for a specific purpose. **ALL**

4. Police Report

The CPO was unable to attend but had submitted a report which had been circulated previously to members. Campaigns referred to in the report included Your View Counts (to take part in the survey, visit the Police Scotland website); and Operation Border Reiver – a major counter-terrorism exercise which had taken place on 3 October 2017. Ward Priorities remained unchanged: road safety (speeding) – a hand held radar speed check was carried out at two locations in Ayton on 23 October with one warning issued; rural thefts; misuse of drugs; and antisocial behaviour. Several reports had been received on 12 October about mud on the B6355 road at Peelwalls. Potato harvesting was ongoing and assurances given that the mud would be cleared.

5. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Ian Logan, Rob Boyd, Margaret Carey and Kenny Combe.

6. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2017 were approved as a true record. Proposed by **RW** and seconded by **DN**.

7. Matters Arising

- **Cocklaw Farm Pig Arks** – Mr C, a resident at Cocklaw Farm, reported that pigs were now less than 40m from his kitchen door. A recent fly invasion had been attributed to the proximity of the animals to human habitation. No advice had yet been received from Peter Green, SBC. **HL** volunteered to refer the matter direct to Environmental Health. **HL**
- **Defibrillator** – **IK** was awaiting possible trainer contact details from SAS. **IK**
- **Clock Tower Flagpole** – an email received today (7/11/17) from **RB** indicated that, following receipt of updated costs from the fabricator, installation should take place in early to mid December 2017. It was noted that a new finial was needed for the top of the flagpole. **JS**
- **War Memorial Information Board** – a planning decision was awaited following submission of all necessary documentation.
- **Peelwalls Meadow** – it was understood that improvements to the footpath at the bottom of the Chirnside road were scheduled to be undertaken early in the new year.
- **Summer Concert** – the nominated sub group of the CC had yet to meet. A report would be made to the next meeting following the group's deliberations. **TS/DN/KC**
- **Old Town Speeding** – nothing further to report.
- **3 and 8 Old Town** – nothing further to report. However, it was noted that further installations (solar panels and satellite dishes) had recently appeared in the Crofts, apparently without planning permission.
- **Bleachfield Water Meadow** – nothing to report. **CH**
- **School Bus Service** – the CC was pleased to hear reports that the bus service was now much improved.
- **Rothsglen, 1 Beanburn Ayton** – nothing to report.
- **Camper Van Parking** – the CC was concerned to learn of an incident relating to the camper van (now rehoused) which had been temporarily parked in the High Street. The unilateral action taken by a member(s) of the public was completely unacceptable.

8. Planning Application

- **Parish Church, Ayton** - it was inappropriate that the CC comment on its application for the erection of 2 No Information Boards.

9. Area Councillors' Report

HL reminded the meeting that bids against the Localities Fund had to be submitted by 1 December 2017. It was noted that the fund was aligned to the themes of the Community Plan to support community projects and initiatives across the Borders. Any proposals should be submitted to **JS** in the first instance. **ALL**

HL advised that good feedback had been received to Health Locality Plans – transport to BGH had been highlighted as an area of particular concern.

10. Any Other Competent Business

- **History Society Project: St Dionysius Church** – support was given to a project, initiated by Bill Black under the auspices of Ayton Local History Society, to improve the condition of the ruin of St Dionysius Church which was currently overrun by ivy. An initial approach would be made through HES Archaeology Scotland 'Adopt a Monument' scheme.
- **Cocklaw Farm Loaning** – it was reported that the entrance to this public walkway had recently been gated off. **HL** agreed to take advice from Mike Marsh, SBC Ranger, in the first instance. **HL**

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 5 December 2017 in Ayton Community Hall.