

Ayton Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 2 October 2018
at 7.00pm in Ayton Community Hall

Present	Kenny Combe	KC	Graham Dolan	GD
	Jim Fullarton (SBC)	JF	Isabel Kellie	IK
	Helen Laing (SBC)	HL	Dick Noble	DN
	Paul Priestman	PP		

Three members of the public were in attendance. The Meeting was Chaired by Kenny Combe (**KC**).

Items Action

1. Police Report

The CPO was unable to attend but had submitted a report which had been circulated previously to all CC members. Operation Monarda was concerned with doorstep crime with particular focus on older and vulnerable adults who may easily fall victim to bogus traders, rogue traders or plausible sales people. Queries or particular concerns should be made through the Police non-emergency number 101. Ward priorities remained the same and no particular incidents were noted in respect of the Beat area covering Ayton.

2. Open Forum

No particular issues were raised by members of the public.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Carey, Carol Hamilton (SBC) and Rob Weatherston. Helen Laing (SBC) reiterated her apologies for missing the inaugural meeting of the CC. It was noted that Darren Hall had submitted his resignation.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The attending CPO had been incorrectly named as Suzanne Young: this should read Suzanne Jacobs. With this amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 September 2018 were approved. Proposed by **DN** and seconded by **PP**.

5. Matters Arising

- **Beanburn Housing Development** – a public meeting had been held in Ayton Primary School on 17 September 2018 when representatives of BHA and their Architect had been present to discuss the proposed development. It was noted that exploration of the possible Neolithic Burial Chambers would take place at the earliest opportunity as this may influence the final configuration and number of houses built. In the meantime, **IK** had been given the name of a Primary Care contact who would be able to provide some input on behalf of NHS Borders with regard to the impact of the development on their current contractual arrangements with GP and dental services.
One of the members of the public attending the CC meeting had been given to understand that a developer's financial contribution in lieu of children's play area might be made available: a figure of £500 for each housing unit had been mentioned. This was separate from the statutory educational contribution. The Community Council would write to SBC in this regard. **KC/GD**
- **Footpath at the Crofts** – in hand. **IK**
- **Defibrillator** – information was awaited on costs etc for the purchase and installation of a second defibrillator in the village. An electricity supply would be needed to heat the cabinet. **IK**

- **Housing Development off B6355** – it was confirmed that SBC Planning were aware of the sight line improvement requirements for this development.
- **Resilient Communities** – Rob Weatherston had not yet been able to discuss key availability etc with Susan McLuckie. **RW**
- **100 Year Commemoration of the end of WW1** – the purchase of the crosses (**KC**) and wreath (**GD**) were in hand. **KC** reported that the JustGiving page opened to fund the purchase of the WW1 soldier outline metal sculpture had raised £640 so far. The cost of the sculpture itself was £750 excluding installation. It was proposed that the CC donate £100 to this venture (subsequently reduced to £50 in accordance with the Code of Practice for CCs, Public Pound Code). Proposed by **IK** and seconded by **PP**. Consideration would be given to the site for the sculpture. **KC**
- **Speed Limit Sign** – Whitsome and Allanton both had striking yellow coloured speed signs. It was felt these might be appropriate for Ayton. **GD/HL**
- **Christmas Lights 2018** – **DN** reported on progress made with arrangements for this year's Christmas Lights. It was proposed that the switch on would take place on Sunday 2 December 2018 with installation of the lights two weeks earlier ie around 17 November, weather permitting. **DN** had already tested the lights. It was agreed that
 - a. **KC** would contact the Reston Band Leader, Dave Jones, to see if the band could be booked to play that afternoon;
 - b. Feedback would be sought from Ayton Primary School regarding children's carol singing and musical support. It was also hoped that the Parents' Council would provide refreshments as per last year's switch on event (two of the members of the public present at the meeting agreed to pursue these actions.);
 - c. **GD** would contact the residents of properties between Shearlaw Road and Lawfield Drive who had previously asked for the lights to be extended to include their houses.
 - d. **KC** would contact Simon Jones, Ayton Castle, to see if either or both of the Castle owners might be able to officiate at the switch on;
 - e. **GD** would be in charge of publicising the event.
- **Jubilee Oak Tree** – following the untimely death of the oak tree planted in 2017, enquiries would be made about two other saplings purchased around the time of the Jubilee to see whether either would be sufficiently robust to replace the dead tree. **GD**
- **Reston/Ayton Back Road** – **HL** would report back on plans to repair the road surface.

6. Planning Application

- **Garden ground of the Old School, High Street, Ayton:** erection of dwelling house with detached garage (renewal of previous planning permission).
There was considerable discussion about this application whose previous approval had been of concern. It was understood that, because of the very narrow entrance off the High Street, there had been a previous Council ruling restricting the number of dwelling houses to three. Those properties were already in place. It was hoped that Councillors might be able to visit the site to be more informed during any subsequent debate. A final decision on support or otherwise was deferred to the next meeting of the CC.

7. Area Councillors' Report

HL gave an update on the Main Issues Report (Berwickshire Area Forum) where Charles Johnson (SBC Planning) had reported on proposed Housing Developments: workshops to follow; the Bio-diversity Plan had also been presented. The current round of Locality Bids had closed: noted that Ayton Primary School had bid for £12,000 to update audio visual equipment. The Meeting was also reminded of a proposal to create a single public authority combining the local Authority and NHS boards, about which there would be significant public consultation.

8. Treasurer's Report

GD reported £922.92 in the (working) Treasurer's Account, including the SBC grant of £630. The Project Account stood at £3683.87 including ringfenced monies for Christmas lights, defibrillator batteries and the recent flagpole works.

9. Correspondence

Correspondence had been received about raising awareness of Scam Mail.

10. Any Other Competent Business

- **Union Flag** – a request had been made that the Union Flag should be flown from the Clock Tower flagpole on Remembrance Sunday. The proposal was supported by **IK** and seconded by **PP**. **GD** would see if access could be gained to the Tower that weekend (agreement was needed from the tenants) and would arrange for the subsequent purchase of the flag.
- **Floral Gateway Competition** – the CC was delighted to note that Ayton had been awarded Winner of the Small Village category for the third time. It was agreed that the £200 cash award be made available to the Enhancement Group. Proposed by **GD** and seconded by **PP**.
- **Castle View** – a request to affix a sign to the buildings known as Castle View was supported and would be taken forward by **HL**.
- **RBS Mobile Branch** – it was reported that there was a rumoured withdrawal of the weekly mobile branch of the RBS which visited Ayton each Monday morning. **IK** undertook to check the validity or otherwise of the rumoured closure.
- **20mph Limit** – a resident had asked whether a 20mph speed limit could be introduced throughout the village as is happening in some East Lothian villages. The SBC Councillors present explained that it was SBC policy to have 30mph limits in villages with a 20mph advisory limit at schools – at the moment, there was no plan to change the policy. It was noted that introduction of the lower speed limit may have caused problems in other areas. The advice was to contact the local SBC Councillors. **GD** would advise the resident accordingly.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Ayton Community Council would be held at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 6 November 2016 in Ayton Community Hall.**