

# Ayton Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on **Tuesday 1 October 2019**  
at 7.00pm in Ayton Community Hall

<b>Present:</b>	Catherine Chisholm	<b>CC</b>	Kenny Combe	<b>KC</b>
	Jim Fullarton (SBC)	<b>JF</b>	Isabel Kellie	<b>IK</b>
	Helen Laing (SBC)	<b>HL</b>	Dick Noble	<b>DN</b>
	Paul Priestman	<b>PP</b>	Rob Weatherston	<b>RW</b>
	Sarah Woodbury	<b>SW</b>		

The Meeting was Chaired by Kenny Combe.

## Items

## Action

### 1. Police Report

The September Police Report had not been received in time for the meeting. However, it was received shortly after and the main points are summarised below for information:

- 2019 Anti-rape campaign launched, aimed primarily at 19 - 35 year old men (peak age for offending)
- Do not risk it - reminder about effects of drink/drug driving
- Ward priorities - road safety (speeding), misuse of drugs, rural thefts, antisocial behaviour
- **04/09 - report received of a red Ford Transit van being driven slowly around High Street, with three males within. They were driving with the windows down and appeared to be taking an interest in property as they passed by. Look out request was passed and local areas were checked by officers with no trace of the van**
- Incident of note - **drugs recovered from car on A1**. At around 3.50pm on Saturday 31 August, officers on patrol on the A1 near to the Ayton bypass, pulled an Audi A4 over and conducted a search of the car. Around £30,000 worth of cannabis was recovered and a 29 year old man arrested and charged under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

The CC was disappointed to note that no report had been made to the Police of the alleged burglary at a property in Welltower Park.

### 2. Open Forum

No members of the public were present.

### 3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Carey, Graham Dolan, Carol Hamilton (SBC) and Tracey Dick.

### 4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2019 were approved. Proposed by **RW** and seconded by **PP**.

### 5. Matters Arising

- **Perennial Flower Beds and Scotland's Floral Gateway Competition** - a well-attended public meeting held on 17 August had generated significant interest in attracting more hands-on help with the various floral tubs, baskets and shrubbery beds in the village. Several people had signed up to join the Enhancement Group committee. It was noted that Ayton had been Highly Commended in this year's Champion of Champions Floral Gateway Competition. The CC wished to record special thanks to **Ann Dolan, Vic Swain and Camilla Bailey** for all their hard work over the years to keep Ayton looking so attractive.

- **B6355 Peelwalls Meadows - CC** advised that speed strips were now in place to monitor traffic on the stretch of road at Peelwalls Meadows. Philippa Gilhooley had also been asked to give definitive advice on acceptable pavement width down to the village. **CC**
- **Resilient Communities - HL** had brought with her supplies of the newly updated leaflet on resilient communities which, together with the questionnaire and an explanatory letter, would need to be distributed to every house in the village. **DN** advised that the contents of the shed/store would need to be checked. It was noted, however, that the local project co-ordinator and her husband were understood to be currently unavailable. A small group would meet to consider a way forward. **KC/GD/IK**
- **50 Houses Development (Beanburn/Lawfield Drive)** - no further proposals regarding the proposed cost savings (house finishes and sewerage movement) had been posted on the planning portal.
- **Defibrillator** - funding proposal still to be drawn up. **GD/IK**
- **B6355 - GD** had contacted the planning officer regarding work being undertaken on the housing site in contravention of the planning conditions but, as yet, had not received a reply. **GD**
- **Castle View Houses - HL** advised that an application for £350 to supply and affix the sign was now being fast tracked.
- **Stop, Look and Listen - IK** had reminded SBC that this work was still outstanding. **HL** would expedite. **HL**
- **Dunclutha (Paul Wheelhouse)** - other than a hole being dug and barriers erected around it, no further work appeared to have been undertaken to resolve this long-standing problem. The barriers were blocking the pavement. **HL** would ask for a status report. **HL**
- **RAGES - JF** felt that the recent AGM had been positive, especially in the face of major works planned to strengthen the East Coast rail line between Dunbar and Berwick. It was noted, however, that officers present declined to commit to a date for the reopening of Reston Station.
- **Local Area Plan** - no information had yet been received on supporting community involvement in this initiative.
- **VE Day 75th Anniversary** - discussions were still to be had with Reston & Auchencrow about the feasibility of joint celebrations. **CC** advised that Paul Hyde (Peelwalls) was in favour of Ayton hosting its own events. **KC**
- **BT Phone Boxes** - there was still interest in acquiring Lamberton's red telephone kiosk. **HL** would ascertain the current position. **HL**
- **Parking in the High Street** - it was agreed to adopt an informal approach to this matter in the first instance. **GD**
- **Falling Roof Slates** - an update was awaited from **MC**. In the meantime a High Street resident had also drawn attention to the wall at the back garden of the unoccupied property which was showing signs of bulging on to the public path. **MC**
- **Solar Speed Signs** - an update was awaited from **GD**. **GD**

## 6. Planning Applications

No new planning applications were noted.

## 7. Christmas Lights

**DN** had provided a useful check list of actions associated with the installation of the Christmas lights on the High Street:

- all lights should be checked in good time (October) to allow for replacement purchases. **KC/DN**
- an installation date of early November would allow time for rearrangement should inclement weather intervene. **GD**
- it was suggested that an extension of the lights to cover the last section between Shearlaw Road and Lawfield drive might be worth pursuing again with the residents. **KC/GD**
- was an extension to Old Town feasible? **KC/GD**

- replacement gutter hooks were required.

**GD**

Quentin Lindsay and Ian Logan would be asked again for their help and for confirmation of a mutually convenient November Saturday for installation. An email from Tracey Dick had advised that the Primary School Head Teacher felt that the busy Christmas schedule would not support practice time for the children's usual singing performance at the switch-on. Families would still be encouraged to attend the switch-on, of course.

## 8. Eyemouth Community Campus

**SW** had attended an initial consultation on the new £17.8m community campus for Eyemouth and had noted with concern a proposal to close 'small' village schools and centralise them all in the new campus. Reference had been made to schools with 15 - 20 pupils but, as there are no schools that small within the Eyemouth cluster, it was considered that Ayton Primary School should not be considered safe. As **CH** was not present, it was agreed to take advice from her on the interpretation of this proposal.

**JF**

Other proposals for the campus would involve the relocation of the existing community centre and library to the site around the current primary school which would also support 50 BHA houses, plots for private development, full care apartments and playing fields. It was appreciated that consultation was still at the very early stages.

## 9. Area Councillors' Report

Noted that

- Logan Inglis and **HL** were providing Berwickshire input to the Community Council review. Community involvement was welcomed, especially public perceptions on the role and remit of CCs. Comments to Logan and/or **HL**;
- on line consultation on the use of CCTV in Duns and Eyemouth was live until 31 October;
- management of SB Cares had been taken back in house. This had been a seamless transition with no impact on staff or services;
- SBC budget consultation was now taking place until February 2020 to allow people to have a say in how the £30m deficit facing the Council over the next 5 years might best be managed;
- £100k was currently available for expenditure through the Local Area Partnership. Applications should be submitted to Jan Pringle at SBC.

## 10. Treasurer's Report

**IK** presented the Treasurer's Report as **GD** was away. The Treasurer's Account stood at £694.99 and the ring-fenced Project Account at £1338.32.

## 11. Any Other Business

The path around the playing field is no longer kept clear of grass cuttings. Two elderly residents had slipped on the surface. **HL** would refer to the appropriate Council officer.

**HL**

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at **7.00 pm on Tuesday 5 November 2019** in Ayton Community Hall.