

Ayton Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 3 June 2021 via Zoom

Present:	Margaret Carey	MC	Catherine Chisholm	CC
	Kenny Combe	KC	Graham Dolan	GD
	Isabel Kellie	IK	Helen Laing	HL
	Paul Priestman	PP	Rob Weatherston	RW
	Sarah Woodbury	SW		

The Meeting was Chaired by Kenny Combe.

Items

Action

1. Multi Member (Police) Report

KC outlined the main issues presented in the East Berwickshire report for May. An update from the Community Sergeant highlighted

- key prevention points to consider if leaving a vehicle unattended
- advice and information for safe nights out as lockdown restrictions ease
- rural crime prevention - fitting trackers to quad bikes.

Local Policing Priorities

- Protecting most vulnerable - East Berwickshire had 8 mental health related calls and 2 missing person enquiries in May
- Reducing violence and anti-social behaviour - there had been 3 reports of assaults in Eyemouth and 14 reports of ASB. Two further ASB reports related to a beach party in Burnmouth (no persons found) and to a hate crime in St Abbs
- Vandalism - 6 reports were received, relating to incidents in Eyemouth (3), Coldingham (2) and Reston (1)
- Reducing acquisitive crime - an incident of attempted theft by housebreaking in Acredale Industrial Estate, Eyemouth was noted, together with 5 incidents of theft in Eyemouth, Coldingham, Cockburnspath, Auchencrow and Chirnside
- Improving road safety - excluding parking tickets, two episodes related to road safety were reported
- Tackling serious and organised crime - all reports received in May concerned incidents (drug related) in Hawick, Galashiels and Innerleithen.

Current Campaigns

- National Shut Out Scammers Campaign
- Divisional Domestic Abuse Campaign
- Rural Crime Prevention Activity.

2. Apologies for Absence

None received.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held via Zoom on 4 May were approved - proposed by **GD** and seconded by **MC**.

4. Matters Arising

- **50 Houses Development (Beanburn/Lawfield Drive)** - handover of the development to BHA was still expected around the end of June/beginning of July. There was discussion about the developer's financial contribution to the village (est £15,000) which had been earmarked for the playpark. **HL** would ascertain from David Parker (SBC) where Ayton

stood in the programme of playground upgrades as the existing equipment was now outdated and its replacement would require more than an investment of £15k. **HL**

- **Building of 4 Houses B6355 (Line of Sight)** - feedback was awaited from a meeting of interested parties on this matter. **HL**
- **Playing Field Access Path (Shearlaw Road)** - repairs to the access path had been carried out.
- **Christmas Lights** - the setting up of a separate account was in hand. **GD**
- **Potholes** - the largest of the potholes in Lawfield Drive had been filled in.
- **Dunclutha** - the Community Council had been frustrated time and time again in its efforts to have this unsightly and, at times, hazardous water nuisance resolved. SBC would be asked to tidy up the barrier mess. **HL**
- **Ayton Flood Risk** - further information was awaited from Duncan Morrison (SBC) on advice received following an external referral.
- **Trees on High Street** - **HL** reported on advice received from Neil Pringle (SBC Parks & Environment Ops Manager). Although SBC had given permission for the trees to be removed, the actual removal would only be undertaken by SBC if the trees were diseased or dangerous, which they were deemed not to be. It was therefore up to the residents to fund or find funding for these works.
- **Royal Jubilee Oak Trees** - the area identified in the Castle Grounds was not yet ready for planting.

5. Planning Applications

None noted.

6. Ayton Resilience Group

CC advised

- that a joint approach had been made by representatives of Ayton Enhancement and Resilience Groups to Hart Construction for funding to assist with enhanced gardening projects in the school playground. A sum of £2000 had been gifted by the Contractor;
- that the distribution of food boxes to identified families had now stopped, following two weeks' notice;
- that equipment (snow shovels etc) distributed by the previous Resilience Group was now being collected. It was noted that volunteers to help in the event of an emergency/bad weather were needed from residents of the Crofts and Lawfield Drive.

7. Dog Fouling

A letter had been received from the pupils of P6/7 Ayton Primary School highlighting concerns about a perceived increase in the amount of dog waste left in public places by irresponsible owners in the village. The letter described a project initiated by the children to raise awareness of the health hazards associated with dog 'poo' and asked for support by publicising their efforts.

Coincidentally, some residents had also voiced concerns about the same problem. A police warning had been issued to one offending dog owner. Walkers using the Ayton Law path had also noted persistent early morning fouling along the top end of the Beanburn road. It was felt that an additional dog poo bin at the foot of the Ayton Law concrete path might encourage more owners to pick up. **HL** would pursue this with SBC because of the implications for the refuse collection vehicle. **IK** would respond positively to the school letter. **HL/IK**

8. Ayton Primary School - Proposed Changes in Leadership

SW reported on on-going discussions about leadership proposals for the current 4 campus arrangement (Ayton, Cockburnspath, Coldingham and Coldstream) following the appointment of the joint Head Teacher, Chris Reid, to the substantive Head post at Eyemouth Primary School. Despite the unpopularity of the current arrangement, it was felt

that the consultation process with SBC was negative - no proposals had yet been tabled for the next school session. **SW** would discuss concerns with **CH** in the first instance. **SW**

9. Area Councillor's Report

HL advised that the Community Fund (£50k) was open for bids, including smaller schemes against an additional £40k allocation. Similar funding had been allocated for Covid related recovery proposals, focusing particularly on sport and culture.

A review of Community Council arrangements was underway, to include issues relating to funding, role of the returning officers at CC elections, handbook for new Councillors etc. All comments to Logan Inglis, Reston and Auchencrow CC.

10. Treasurer's Report

GD reported no change to last month's balances ie Treasurer's (working account) £155.81 and £1240.78 in the ringfenced Project account.

Notification had been received that the annual Code of Conduct affirmation was due. The document would be circulated amongst members for signature. **GD**

11. Correspondence - all previously circulated.

12. Community Council Elections 2021

Although no details had yet been received of the arrangements for elections at the end of the current term, the Officers of Ayton Community Council, together with some of the members gave notice that they would not be standing for re-election. Reasons given ranged from length of tenure, need for new, younger blood on the CC, and frustration at the perceived lip service often given to 'consultation' exercises involving SBC.

13 Date of Next Meeting

The final meeting of the current term would be held via Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 6 July 2021. There is no meeting in August.