

Ayton Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 via Zoom

Present:	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 June. An update from the Community Sergeant highlighted

- the impact of Covid on young people and the introduction of advice pages aimed at young people aged between 5 and 19. These pages can be accessed at scotland.police.uk/youth-hub/
- the introduction of two new health and wellbeing services: kooth.com is an online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service for young people; togetherall.com provides a supportive, online community for all Scottish Borders residents aged 16 +
- the likely increase in anti-social behaviour and driving issues during the holiday period.

Local Policing Priorities

- Protecting most vulnerable - East Berwickshire had 9 mental health related calls and 7 missing person enquiries in June.
- Reducing violence and anti-social behaviour - there had been 4 reports of assaults in Eyemouth and 7 reports of ASB. An assault had been reported at an address in Applin Cross, Coldingham. Two reports of ASB related to incidents in Coldstream and one in Chirnside.
- Vandalism - no reports of vandalism were recorded in East Berwickshire in June.
- Reducing acquisitive crime - three incidents of theft by housebreaking in Eyemouth and one in Chirnside were reported; in addition, there had been three reports of theft in Eyemouth.
- Improving road safety - excluding parking tickets, four episodes relating to road safety were reported
- Tackling serious and organised crime - five reports received in June concerned incidents (drug related) in Hawick (2), Peebles, Kelso and Galashiels. The execution of a stolen property search warrant in Kelso resulted in the arrest of a male occupant.

Current Campaigns

- National Water Safety Campaign
- Divisional Domestic Abuse Campaign
- Rural Crime Prevention Activity.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Carey (**MC**) and Catherine Chisholm (**CC**).

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Item 6 - Ayton Resilience Group. **CC** had asked that the amount of the donation made by Hart Construction to the Big Garden Project at Ayton Primary School be removed from the Minutes. As the amount minuted (£2000) was accurate, it was agreed to ask CC in the first instance why she felt disclosure of this amount to be inappropriate.

KC

In the meantime, the Minutes of the Meeting held via Zoom on 3 June 2021 were approved - proposed by **PW** and seconded by **RW**.

4. Matters Arising

- **50 Houses Development (Beanburn/Lawfield Drive)** - the houses to the LHS of the Summerhill Park entrance were due to be handed over to BHA on Wednesday 7 July. Ground works were still ongoing at the remainder of the houses whose handover would likely take place at the end of July. Following discussion about the developer's financial contribution to the village (est £25,000 for 50 houses built), it had been confirmed that this money would be ringfenced at SBC for Ayton. 10 years were allowed for expenditure. In the meantime, **HL** had contacted Craig Blackie (SBC) regarding the current playground upgrading programme to find out where Ayton was placed. **HL**
- **Building of 4 Houses B6355 (Line of Sight)** - feedback from a meeting of interested parties on this matter indicated no progress had been made on reinstating improvements to the line of sight. It was felt that the developer/SBC planners should be reminded that NO direct contact had yet been made with the owner of the land involved. **HL**
- **Christmas Lights** - a separate account had been set up. Current insurance would still cover this year's installation etc. **GD**
- **Dunclutha** - no progress had been made by SBC to tidy up the barrier mess outside Dunclutha. **HL**
- **Ayton Flood Risk** - a report had been received following investigative works carried out by the British Geological Survey. A number of recommendations had been presented to Duncan Morrison (SBC) and had been forwarded to the Ayton resident who had first raised concerns. This item would be kept on the CC agenda.
- **Trees on High Street** - **HL** advised that a small schemes application for funding the removal of the trees might get favourable consideration by SBC. It was suggested that this be made by Ayton Enhancement Group. **GD**
- **Royal Jubilee Oak Trees** - the area identified in the Castle Grounds was not yet ready for planting.
- **Dog Fouling** - **HL** had reported the Ayton Primary School initiative to Rose Hogg (SBC) and also the growing concern in the village about the increase in dog fouling. Ms Hogg had responded positively to an invitation to attend APS to meet with P6/7 and was also taking steps to obtain more signage and an additional bin.
- **Ayton Primary School - Proposed Changes in Leadership** - **SW** advised that a new grouping of Ayton, Cockburnspath and Coldingham Primary Schools under the interim leadership of Melanie Knox would take effect from the start of the new school year.
- **Community Council Elections 2021** - confirmation had now been received that this year's recruitment/election process for Community Councillors would go ahead. Details were awaited from Louise McGeoch (SBC).

5. Planning Applications

- Journey's End, High Street, Ayton - alterations and dormer extension. Supported. **GD**
- Land East of and Incorporating The Old Glebe, Ayton - erection of stable block with vehicle storage and garage with studio within garden ground. Supported. **GD**

6. Ayton Resilience Group

Nothing to report.

7. Area Councillor's Report

HL advised

- that a meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership had taken place the previous week when the concept of 'place making' had been introduced - essentially, maintaining the same level of services but with fewer buildings through, for example, streamlining existing stock, digitalisation of services, community asset transfers;

- comments would be invited shortly on proposals outlining a review of Community Councils;
- of the adoption of a climate change route map for the Scottish Borders;
- that a 10 year Regional (South of Scotland) Economic Plan was available online for comment.

KC asked if any progress had been made on proposals for the old Eyemouth High School site. It was noted that nothing had yet been agreed, but consultation was now taking place on a proposal which would see Primary classes 6/7 transferred to the new High School, leaving a potential new build adjacent to the High School for younger pupils.

10. Treasurer's Report

GD reported no change to last month's balance on the Treasurer's (working account) of £155.81, pending the annual SBC grant of £630. Following the establishment of the Christmas Lights Fund, £440.78 remained in the ringfenced Project account.

11. Correspondence - all previously circulated.

12. Ayton Community Council

As confirmation had now been received that Community Council elections/recruitment could proceed this summer, it was likely that a majority of the current membership would be standing down. Thanks were given to Kenny Combe for his exemplary and open Chairmanship over the past three years. Kenny thanked all members of the Community Council together with our three SB Councillors (Jim Fullarton, Carol Hamilton and Helen Laing) for their support over the years.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The first meeting of the new term would be held at 7pm on Tuesday 7 September 2021. There is no meeting in August.