

PRESTWICK SOUTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of 28 February 2019

Sederunt:

PSCC Community Councillors:

M. Evans, N. Smith, A. Quinn, J. Riach, T. Piper, J. Park, L. Bowman,
M. Dorans

PNCC Community Councillors:

Chair Cllr D. Hart

South Ayrshire Council:

Cllrs I. Cochrane, H. Hunter and H. Moonie

Police Scotland

PC Coulter

Prestwick BID

D. Read

Members of the Public

W. Hogg, R. Miller, W. Mook, L. Paterson, C. Scott, B. Smith, M. Sturgeon

Apologies:

J. Whittaker, L. White, SAC Cllr M. Toner

Welcome: The Chair, Cllr Evans, welcomed those present.

Cllr Smith requested permission for the meeting to be recorded for accuracy of the minute. Cllr Evans re-iterated the request. There were no objections.

Police Report: PC Coulter reported:

A number of road traffic matters e.g. cars blocked in driveways; an increase in shoplifting offences by the same individuals; the theft of a catalytic converter and warned the public to be vigilant for noises around their vehicles or anything else unusual; drug use in the town centre was being addressed and a number of drug warrants had been issued, therefore an increased number of drug dealer arrests; speed checks had been carried out in local areas e.g. Adamton Road, East Road and parking at the schools. Some issues were raised by Cllrs and members of the public:

Police were asked to speak to companies at Heathfield as they seem to be parking on double yellow lines at Hunter Ave; M. Sturgeon raised the issue about HGV's redirected from Crandleyhill Road, vehicles parked at Mansefield Road, road markings on Whinfield Ave, legal distances re obstructions, is it 3 feet? Cllr Smith advised the distance should be enough for a double pram to pass; L. Paterson advised of a car causing an obstruction parked 10 feet from a corner and thought the limit was 16 feet; Cllr Park advised it was illegal to drive on the pavement but not illegal to park on the pavement, although the legislation was under review.

Hearing / Open Form 2:

Presentation by Donna Read regarding Prestwick Proposal for a Business Improvement District (BID)

A presentation was given to the group by Ms Donna Read, Manager of the proposed Prestwick BID appointed by the Prestwick Business Association (PBA), followed by a Q & A session. Ms Read reported that:

All businesses in the BID District would contribute to the 'kitty' for the better of Prestwick; a summary business plan is to be issued covering the next 3 years; all businesses to pay a 1% levy of their rateable value (RV), estimated from £40 - £100 per business for the majority; there must be a majority vote when the ballot is held on 13th June 2019 for the BID to be successful; the biggest contributor would be Sainsbury's; the levy could raise funds of £55k per year and £165k over 3 years: some of the ideas proposed with the money raised from the levy would fund: a placemaking website as the PBA digital study suggests Prestwick has low digital footprint and there is not a Prestwick website where Businesses can be found easily; the VisitScotland website is very out of date & PBA are looking to get that updated; networking events and introduce a business to business trader's card as it is more difficult for businesses to be seen on Facebook; £10k allocated for marketing Prestwick as a seaside town; the PBA entry won 2nd place in the Great British High Street Awards and one judge did not know that the beach could be accessed from the High Street; PBA has been running for 10 years with a lack of funding; there is a high level of support for the BID; there are over 40 BIDs in Scotland, some very good and some not so good; Cllr Cochrane is the SAC Liason assigned to the BID supporting the steering group of eight local business owners who make all the key; it's ultimate aim is to improve business for businesses in the area; PBA has already got lights for the Toll area and a 24 hour defibrillator; encourage a Prestwick First principle;

Q – is the levy compulsory? A – yes for every business in the Levy zone supported by SAC invoicing the businesses. When the money comes in, it will be transferred to the BID company. The BID is not for profit.

Q – what about companies like Fisher? A – not in the BID levy area, which is from Monkton Road to the Carlton Hotel then West to the shoreline and East to...

The boundaries of the proposed BID levy area were questioned as businesses North of Heathfield Road are in Prestwick but not on the BID levy map provided; Prestwick Airport & it's individual businesses were excluded from the proposed levy area – the steering group had decided that the RV would be huge due to the Airport's acreage; Ms Read advised that the steering group of 8 local businesses sat with maps and decided what they felt was a reasonable boundary but if businesses are classed as Prestwick outwith that boundary, then then they will be welcomed to join; Ms Read also advised that she will be working to encourage home based businesses and crafters to join.

Q – what if you work from home? A – Yes you pay the levy e.g. £50.

Depends on size of premises

Q – Children's Nurseries – do they have to pay? A – Yes

Excluded are the Airport, Free Port Area, Schools, Burial Grounds, ATMs, Car parks and properties with RV less than £2k

Q – How many businesses in the levy zone? A – Approx 252 Premises, not including the new St Quivox Road Development. Businesses from home cannot be assessed - at the moment BID can only look at businesses with a commercial RV attached. Links to the Scottish Assessor's site are checked on a weekly basis.

Q - Will SAC be charged a levy for building car parks within the levy zone?

A- Through ARA, identify good signage for a long stay car park

Q – Who do we write to with Questions? A – Steering Group at 1@propelprestwickbid.co.uk

Q – Nothing set in stone except for boundary and numbers of businesses, can people still contribute at the moment?

A - The summary business plan was delivered to all the businesses and the BID group have been asking for feedback since 8th January. The consultation period closes on 4th March when a final business plan will be drawn up.

Through email, FB & Meetings at Parkstone that have taken place, nobody has raised any specific objections to anything raised in the summary business plan. It has been fairly well received and a given that it represents a good decision for Prestwick; no one has come forward with any specifics.

Q – there was concern raised about smaller businesses, sole traders, etc at the Toll and how they felt about it? – A – Some businesses are supportive and the smaller business will probably pay about £60

Q – Can the levy rate increase? A – No, set at 1% for 3 years

Q – Can the RV increase, especially with Brexit uncertainty? A – Unsure.

Cllr Evans advised RV set in 2017 for next 3 years and this is controlled by Scottish Government

Q – Concern for smaller businesses like hairdressers, barbers etc – can you cap the levy? A – No, it is 1% for everyone

Q – What is in it for the smaller businesses at the Toll – A - Christmas lights.

Q –Who gathers the fee for those who don't pay? A – it's a legal process and SAC will gather the fee on behalf of the BID

Q – So if business don't pay they can be prosecuted? A – Its one of the things about it that makes it fair. On Lighting Up day there are a collection of Businesses who contribute every single year and another collection of businesses who will open on the day but not put a penny into the kitty and its about bringing a fairness to the town.

Q – Who controls the BID? A – the BID Company, it's unfair if some businesses don't contribute.

Q - Concerns about the voting process and if there was a 'weight' attached to a larger business, e.g. if they are a larger business, will they have more weight/influence than a smaller business? A – it's a two part vote - the BID need to win by numbers, a majority of votes and by majority of RV. E.g. if a big retailer says no, it could have a detrimental effect on vote. 1 vote per business and some have abstained.

Q – So the Hairdresser(e.g.) and Large Supermarket (e.g.) have 1 vote each?

A – Yes

Q – Is there an annual report? A – Yes the steering group are in place for 6 months then a board will be appointed with SAC Liason officers, and they have an Accountant

Q – SAC are the administrators so what is the legal enforcement, eg if the Hairdresser doesn't pay, will SAC actually enforce? – A – Yes they will be given 90 days notice to pay their invoice. If someone has problems they can be dealt with in SAC as Collections

Q – What about the strategy and priorities - is it at Draft stage? A – No, it's at the Final Business Plan

Q - What is there for Community Councils? A - Cllr Cochrane suggested that Ms Read engaged with the community and that is why the presentation was arranged. Cllr Hunter noted that there needs to be Community Representation.

Ms Read left the meeting at 750pm and the discussion continued.

Cllr Hart expressed serious concerns as it is strictly a business proposal and the community as a whole should have a say in what happens in the Prestwick area; Cllr Cochrane informed us that he had suggested to Ms Read to go out to the Community Councils (CC) to discuss this; Cllr Evans agreed with Cllr Hart adding that he would have preferred to have worked in tandem with them and that CCs also have an interest in economic development in the town.

Cllr Park advised it should be up to the businesses if they want to take part. Cllr Evans asked what is the role for C.C. as we want to be involved in the decisions. The PSCC website is emerging nicely and the PB make out that nothing has happened. Cllr Smith read out a statement he had received about social media and proposals for the town wifi. This was firm representation from the community that was being ignored.

Cllr Evans suggested a formal proposal that one person from PNCC & PSCC be on the Steering Committee as he felt that the C.C.'s were being 'elbowed out'. Cllr Park advised he didn't think it was appropriate. Cllr Riach agreed. Cllr Quinn raised that the Town Twinning group are already doing a discount card and the BID group seem to be suggesting doing the same thing. It felt like the PBA are looking for money for things that are already done voluntarily. Cllr Bowman queried if it was appropriate for PSCC to vote on the behalf of PNCC and PSCC and Cllr Evans advised 'yes' as we had been working closely with PNCC and PNCC Chair Cllr Hart was present. Chair proposed to vote in the first instance that we write to seek representation on the board and the result was Yes – 5, No – 3. Cllr Evans will write to request consideration be given to both Prestwick Community Councils having a seat on the board.

Cllr Piper left the meeting approx. 830pm

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the January meeting were proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Park.

Matters Arising:

Re Bruce's Well, Cllr Evans advised he had emailed SAC about restoring the rails rather than replacing as initially they did want new ones but some of their team were happy with a refurb. Cllr Hunter offered to speak to GE on PSCC behalf as they have a Community Enhancement Fund. Cllrs Smith and Hart also offered to assist with the refurb. Cllr Hart suggested asking firms for an estimate for portable sandblasting as a test. Cllr Evans re-iterated that it was a Listed Structure and we are restricted by Historic Scotland.

Cllr Moonie left the meeting at 815pm

South Ayrshire Councillors Reports:

Cllr Hunter reported:

Fairtrade Town Big Breakfast will be held on Saturday 9th March from 10am – 12 noon at Kingcase Church Hall; Prestwick Participatory Budgeting (PB) day is on the same day at Prestwick Academy; Christmas Lights for the Toll have been approved confirmed by G. Johnstone PBA and will be taken forward by ARA; Prestwick Film Festival to be held 14th – 18th March.

Cllr I Cochrane reported:

Re Mansefield Road, he had contacted Kevin Braidwood from ARA about road markings, volumes of traffic and signage and they were working through it – Cllr Cochrane confirmed he would email residents with estimated times and copy in info@prestwicksouth.co.uk; confirmed SAC commitment to 20mph roads in South Ayrshire; there was a discussion about speed bumps – vibration and HGV - and parking at Mansefield Road and some of the vehicles parked are not residents but passengers using the X77 bus service; (Cllr Evans suggested that Cllr Cochrane look at the wider area and Cllr Smith suggested that Cllr Dorans, as the Transport spokesman, to champion this area and be the main contact for the residents group and to liase with ARA). Re Kingsmeadow Water issue, SW confirmed the source was water from Loch Bradan and that he had made two or three attempts to contact SW. Cllr Smith asked if SW had answered the question of is this our water sample, when they became aware as some folk were still getting water; had been contacted by members of the public about traffic lights at Heathfield Road requesting a filter to turn right onto Prestwick Road, Cllr Quinn mentioned the increase was possibly from the new housing estate at Heathfield – Cllr Smith requested that we write formally to ARA about the issue; small plots for housing had been investigated at Glenburn House but it had been decided that it is a flood risk area due the history of underground coal mines – the issue about mines in the area was challenged by Cllrs Hart and Piper who are familiar with the area; a litter pick will take place at Semple Drive, Heathfield Sunday 3rd March at 10am to be published on PSCC Twitter page. Cllr Evans was keen to take part; issues about potholes on ...Road had been raised on

FB; SAC passed the council budget with an increase of 4.7% raising an extra £1m, which will keep swimming pools, libraries etc open.

Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's Report; Cllr Evans confirmed that the current Treasurer, Cllr White, had retired and PSCC would need to recruit a new person to take over the role. Cllr Quinn offered her services as Treasurer, if someone else would take the role of Secretary. No one from the group came forward at the meeting.

Planning Report: Cllr Evans submitted a written report on recent planning applications and decisions; he noted that the application numbers were down and suggested this was possibly the 'Brexit Effect'; two proposals highlighted are 43 Main St, application for a restaurant and Ingrams Garage had been refused signage.

Licencing Report: Cllr Bowman attended the recently formed licencing Forum and would share the report by email with PSCC.

Prestwick Airport Report: No Airport Report as the group meets next week.

Citizen Science: A topic introduced by Cllr Smith when he requested to add a new section to the PSCC website to highlight scientific projects at a local level; he proposed to include items such as academic papers, research and surveys; Cllr Hunter thought this would tie in well with the STEM theme (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths); Cllr Cochrane suggested including the Provost's Carbon Challenge on the site. Cllr Cochrane advised he heard a phrase at a recent event called the 'referendum effect' where it was recognised that we have a 'most sophisticated young electorate'; Cllr Hart reminded us that PNCC hold an award event to recognise achievements and advised Craig Ross is the School Liason Officer who might help Cllr Smith; Cllr Quinn reminded the group about Kingcase Primary School competition winners on the PSCC website. The group were happy for Cllr Smith to take this item forward.

Correspondence: Cllr Quinn reported that all current correspondence had been emailed to members; Discussed CC elections and the dates for end of process will be 1st April.

A.O.C.B:

Parking: Prestwick resident Mr Hook requested assistance to deal with parking issues, in particular parking from passengers of the X77 bus service. Cllr Dorans will liase with Mr Hook. Cllr Evans advised there were parking issues throughout Prestwick and reminded PSCC about the LDP area for a 'Park & Ride' and the issues that had stopped this project. Cllr Quinn reminded the group that the Airport could be used as a Park & Ride facility – some were concerned about additional fares/costs but it was hoped that the suggestion could be put to the Airport in some way.

Town Twinning: Cllr Park requested a contribution from PSCC for an annual corporate subscription of £20. Cllr Evans advised he would check the bank balance first so could not confirm the group's commitment yet.

ARA Winter Road's Presentation: Cllr Dorans informed the group about the recent ARA roadshow. ARA can supply equipment to groups eg shovels, gravel, high visibility jackets. The public can access information on where gritters are deployed on the website. Cllr Park advised that Kingcase Primary have their own bins for gritting.

SAC Information Advice Day: Cllr Dorans attended the event which informed the public about the services that SAC can provide, e.g. help for the elderly, how to apply for benefits.

PNCC Report: PNCC Chair Cllr Hart advised he had met with Kenny Dalrymple and Fiona Ross from SAC at Boydfield Gardens. SAC have decided that some of the large trees are dangerous and will be removed and replaced by lights. There was a discussion about the previous threat to the trees and the decision that had been made was that there was no threat/danger to the public. (Cllr Bowman asked if they could instead be pruned and questioned the danger the trees posed. Cllr Bowman was concerned about how/when this would be communicated to the public); Cllr Hart reported that the issue about the Gym Equipment and ongoing maintenance costs had been resolved. SAC have agreed to pay the annual maintenance fee of £650 from the Common Good Fund. (PSCC Chair Cllr Evans commented that the group should take heed as there can be maintenance implications on any capital project); Cllr Hart advised he had heard McCarthy & Stone had pulled out of their Prestwick Project at the former Malcolm Sargent House. Cllr Evans advised we need an evidence based report.

Cllr Riach raised the issue about the dates for the recent Community Council Elections and when the AGM should be held. Some thought this should be discussed at March's meeting; some said May as it had always been in May. Chair Cllr Evans advised that this year, the AGM and the process for the election of Office Bearers could be held at the April Meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 25th March 2019