

**GALSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING 13/09/16**

**Present**

**Apologies**

**In Attendance** EAC G Mair, E Whitham, Elaine Millar,

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

**Matters arising** none

\_\_\_\_\_ proposed a new member – \_\_\_\_\_, who was welcomed to the committee and co-opted on to the committee in accordance with the rules.

\_\_\_\_\_ then introduced Elaine Millar from East Ayrshire Council, the federation and community development officer. Em had been invited to attend the meeting to explain the role of 'Vibrant Communities' and to answer questions relating to the booklet **Good Practice Guidelines for Community Councils**.

E Millar commenced her talk about Community Councils, the police arrived; she suggested halting her presentation and continuing when they departed.

**Police** Presented their report.

\_\_\_\_\_ asked about the 'cannabis factory' at 19 – 21 Bridge Street, which they said they would investigate.

\_\_\_\_\_ asked about the bus access at St Sophia's Primary school as parked cars currently inhibit access on a regular basis.

\_\_\_\_\_ asked about the requirement for stewards at the remembrance parade. It was agreed that 4 stewards would be nominated but may not be required.

The police departed and Elaine Millar recommenced.

She briefly described the Community council workshop that had taken place on 10 September and explained that Fiona Lees and Gwen Barber had been the key note speakers, after which the day was a combined training and networking day. Another similar event is to be held in Auhinleck on 1/ 10.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are to attend.

It is intended that training days for treasurers and secretaries are to be introduced.

EM then went on to talk about the Good Practice Guidelines book. This book was issued to all CC members about a year ago. EM explained that although the book may seem extensive, it is in reality a compilation of a number of documents that have already been issued.

EM reminded the committee that the minutes once sent to EA are then recorded on the council's website.

\_\_\_\_\_ asked about the regulation of Community Councils, discussion followed, after clarification (including post meeting) the position is as follows: Community Councils are regulated by documentation provided by the Scottish Government and adopted by EAC. These documents include

The Guide, the Constitution and Standing Orders. There is not a specific body that regulates Community Councils (for example in the way that the Standards Commission is responsible for encouraging high standards of behaviour by elected members and those appointed to boards of devolved public bodies).

asked where this initiative had come from. EM explained that this was a formalisation of what was already happening.

asked about the blank forms in the book, and pointed out that if they were available to download – this would be more efficient.

Discussion followed about the role of Community councils in terms of representing their communities. And what a community council needs to do to be seen as being representative? It was pointed out that the same could be applied to elected councillors. Within the book there are a number of suggested mechanisms through which communication / consultation can take place.

enquired as to whether other community councils were similarly questioning – yes

drew attention to the planning section of the book; he pointed out an apparent anomaly on pages 56 / 57 in relation to material considerations for an objection. The position is as follows: An objection would be unlikely to be considered if it was from a business saying that the competition would damage the business. However, if the community felt that there already sufficient numbers of that type of business in the area and it could not sustain any more, then that may be considered.

thanked Elaine Millar on behalf of the committee.

## **EAC**

Heartbreak hotel is due to be demolished as it is dangerous.

The Principal Café is the next building to be repaired under the CARS scheme. It is anticipated that there will be NO disruption to traffic.

The Hedge on Cemetery Lane has been cut.

The river pathway continues to be eroded; a fence has been constructed for safety reasons, though as many members of the committee pointed out, this will no doubt be in the river shortly.

pointed out that the parking outside the scout hut caused obstructions but that she will visit to ask for cooperation.

pointed out that the hedge on cabbage lane needs attention.

added the same comment about the hedges on the side of the A71. replied that hedge cutting is only allowed post beginning of September – to protect the wild life.

pointed out that in the children's play park in Portland Park the roundabout has been damaged and is dangerous.

Advised that the house on Catherine Drive is derelict

That the old school is not secure and is dangerous. She added that the council should impose restrictions / conditions on purchasers of listed buildings.

pointed out a discrepancy in the lighting bill for the Christmas lights – it was suggested that this should be taken up with / by the treasurer.

pointed out that the Garden of should be looked at. The garden is full of dog dirt and the inhabitants own 5 Rottweilers.

queried the state of the post office and the town chambers, asking what is happening. replied that the council (further to the meeting in August) had agreed to have information for the committee about the future plans of Galston by this meeting. They have not - to chase up.

**Finance** report presented by

### **Secretary**

Correspondence has been received from Ayrshire Roads Alliance re Road grit. to reply.

### **Events**

reminded the committee members that we are holding the bottle stall and we NEED bottles, please;  
Bring them to the next meeting  
Leave at Rachel's boutique  
Leave at house

### **AOCB**

The Remembrance Day parade will depart from the police station at 10 45  
will be laying the wreath on behalf of the queen  
has asked for more volunteers to join the IVRP  
informed all about the Clean and Green Vibrant Communities initiative and asked that all committee members should reply to the survey which will be distributed after the meeting.  
also suggested that we should be taking a driving role in whatever changes are taking place to the Coop; also refer to comment above, to write to the council.  
read out Colin McKee's email:

'We are currently in receipt of a CARS application for the Principal Café, and are in the process of trying to negotiate the use of a couple of car parking spaces as a temporary site compound at the new housing development backing onto the church at Loudoun Blair Place to avoid any issues with storage etc, there is no requirement for any road closure. We have also today received a CARS application for the Barr Castle so these should be the next two on site. Neither should cause any traffic disruption.'

Next meeting 18/10/16