

South Cowal Community Council

AGM 2020 held on 9 Sep 2020

Attendance by Zoom VC

Present

Kyle Armstrong, Michael Breslin, Eleanor Stevenson, Gillian Judd, Dot Braham, Joyce McEwan, Martin Anstess, Linda Payne, Lisa Marle, Alistair Lennie, Alan Stewart, Liz Seabrook

In attendance

Cathy Fagan, Mary Fryer Stevens, Dan Perry, David McDowall, Hilary Storm, Councillors Good, Anderson and Forrest

Apologies

Claire Hendry , Linda Murry

Declarations of interest

None

Minutes of 2019 AGM

Alistair Lennie proposed and Martin Anstess seconded.

Matters Arising

None

Adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020

Michael Breslin proposed & Gill Judd seconded.

Convener's Report

Thank you to everyone who has joined us tonight via the Zoom link. In a year of strange happenings, meeting in this manner is certainly different but hopefully there will be no glitches and everything will progress smoothly tonight. I am not personally a fan of this sort of approach but it is an important tool which provides us with a way of meeting up and progressing the business of SCCC in a safe manner. Michael and Lisa deserve our thanks for getting this sorted out.

We lost Sophie Gillen, Helen Campbell and Vicki Walkinshaw as community councillors this year and I would like to thank them for what they did during their spell on SCCC. I also want to thank all the other community councillors for the work they have done. Our meetings are always interesting and conducted in a cordial atmosphere so well done to everyone for that. In addition to the community councillors, thanks should also go to our elected Councillors, Jim, Audrey and Bobby, for their unstinting help, support and encouragement throughout the year.

Although our monthly meetings have not taken place since March because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, SCCC has not been idle. Joining with other groups and individuals in the community, SCCC has played an important role in ensuring that help and advice have been available to all who

needed it during the last few months. Collecting prescriptions, delivering shopping, keeping contact with vulnerable individuals and offering advice for general health and well-being have been some of the ways in which SCCC has involved itself in community affairs and thanks are due to all who have helped in any way. Michael, Lisa, Martin, Linda and Dot have been stalwarts but I know others have been involved. The way in which this small area has rallied round to help is fantastic so thank you one and all.

In the wider area of Cowal there has also been a great response to the Pandemic with a unified approach to problems. If I had to recommend somewhere to be locked down in for several months during a global pandemic, Cowal would be high up on the list. Well done and thank you to all who have gone the extra mile to deliver food, shopping, prescriptions and friendship throughout these trying times.

Moving on to other matters, SCCC once again presented a certificate to our Young Person of the Year. This time it was Ellie Judd and we wish her well when she goes off to Canada next year as Cowal's Girl Guide representative.

It was interesting to see that our first winner, Scarlett, has continued to do great things. This time she has raised over £2500 for MND so congratulations to her for that.

The War Memorial garden has been a source of annoyance for some time now but progress is slowly being made. Just before the lockdown matters were going well but since then things have stalled. We are assured, however, that efforts to get all outstanding work completed are on-going and the area should look good for Remembrance Day. Discussions as to how the Community Council might take more of a role in the upkeep of the area are due to continue in the coming months so watch this space!

SCCC has raised concerns on other matters too over the year. The state of the Pier wall and car park is being monitored with work on repair due to start at the beginning of the year – hopefully. This matter has been on our agenda for a good while now but we will continue to agitate on it until we have a result.

Police Scotland are to be thanked for attending our meetings regularly and for sending in the reports when they cannot come in person. It's always reassuring to read the reports and see that the area is really a safe place in which to live. The Rural Watch signs which have gone up recently should encourage everyone to be vigilant.

We have made zero progress with the Trim Trail at Sandy Beach but you never know – maybe next year will be different. The dropped kerbs which were promised for the area have not materialised and nor have the new grit bins for Pier Road but we will continue to work on these.

One new scheme which benefitted many local groups came to fruition this year when money from the Burnamakiman Hydro Scheme was released to us. £2500 is not a massive amount but we were able to help several groups to improve facilities and, with even more money coming this year, we will be able to be even more generous. Setting up the method for distributing the money was problematic to start with but we got there in the end thanks mainly to the help from Lisa and Michael.

In conclusion with the help of the new community councillors coming on board this year, the experience of those who have been with SCCC for a while and with the input from our elected

Councillors we will continue to seek solutions to local concerns and make South Cowal the great place that it is.

Co-option of members

Cathy Fagan, proposed by Michael Breslin and seconded by Gill Judd

Mary Fryer Stevens, proposed by Linda Payne and seconded by Martin Anstess

Linda Murry, proposed by Michael Breslin and seconded by Alistair Lennie

These co-options were agreed unanimously and brings the total number of co-opted members to seven. The other 4 co-opted members are Lisa Marle, Alistair Lennie, Alan Stewart and Liz Seabrook.

Election of Office Bearers

Convener Eleanor Stevenson, proposed by Joyce McEwan and seconded by Martin Anstess

Treasurer Joyce McEwan proposed by Eleanor Stevenson and seconded by Alistair Lennie.

Secretary Michael Breslin proposed by Eleanor Stevenson and seconded by Dot Braham.

AOCB

None