

South Cowal Community Council

AGM 2022 held on 8 June 2022

Innellan Hall

1 Present

Michael Breslin, Eleanor Stevenson, Dot Braham, Joyce McEwan, Martin Anstess, Linda Payne, Alistair Lennie, Alan Stewart, Cathy Fagan, Jan McCormack

2 In attendance

Cllr Daniel Hampsey, Liz Seabrook

3 Apologies

Cllrs Forrest and Moreland, Gillian Judd, Linda Murry, Claire Hendry, Lisa Marle

4 Declarations of interest

None

5 Minutes of 2021 AGM

The minute was approved, proposed by LP and seconded by MA

6 Matters Arising

Litter bin eventually were emptied. Rat issue seems to have improved. Benches have been installed. Motor home bays have been moved.

7 Adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

These were approved, proposed by JMcC and seconded by AS

8 Convener's Report

I'll begin my report by welcoming everyone here tonight and thanking you all for your commitment to SCCC.

Reading over my report from last year, I noted that we seemed to have finished with Zoom meetings and that we were enjoying a bit more freedom. I will say the same thing again this year but this time I hope that I am right. Hopefully, we can move forwards now and stop using Covid as an excuse for not getting things done.

I will start on a negative note by mentioning Eleanor Lane, the War Memorial and dropped kerbs. These have been issues which have just dragged on and on and on and are becoming quite ridiculous. Eleanor Lane was a busy link between the high road and the shore road and it is time to get it re-opened. The War Memorial is once again a disgrace with even the artificial grass looking as if it is dying. Buttercups are thriving along with the dock but that is not how it should be. We did try our best to come to some sort of agreement with the Council on taking care of this area but were met with so many ridiculous conditions that it was eventually declared a non starter. The dropped kerbs really make me angry because we have been waiting for these to come into operation since before Audrey became a councillor last time round. Goodness knows what is being done about them now but I would like to ask, once again, for some movement on all of these issues.

I will also mention the bus service as a negative issue and one which will be pursued again over the next few months. The Pingo bus is no doubt useful to some but continues to run around empty and does not replace the bus service to the high road no matter how much the Council thinks it does or wants it to. It would be a simple step to reinstate the two buses a day which use the high road so we will keep this on our radar.

There have been positive results though as well this year. The Pier was eventually repaired and we finally managed to do something with the Trim Trail Money by funding various projects run by Toward Sea Sports Club, the Tennis Club and Inspiring Innellan. The Police Reports consistently show that South Cowal is a safe place in which to live so long may that continue.

With the Burnamakiman Hydro money this year we opted to buy an air purifier for use in the Village Hall. The Hall is used by a large number of groups and the air purifier added an extra layer of protection. We hoped this would encourage people to come along and join in with activities. We will never know just how successful it was but it was welcomed and gave some confidence to Hall users. The remainder of the money from this source benefitted several projects and is a welcome annual source of income.

The SCCC website needed to be updated and good progress has been made with this although there are still some issues to be dealt with. Thank you to all who have helped to progress this.

Something which has taken up a lot of time recently involves proposed changes to the education system. This is still on-going but I would like to thank Michael and others involved for the amount of work he has done to simplify and clarify the amount of paperwork. This is an on-going issue which looks set to drag on for a while yet.

Elections for a new Community Council will take place later this year so perhaps this is a good time to thank all who have been involved with SCCC for the last few years. It is good to hear that so many will stand again for re-election but we are still looking for new people so keep asking around and encouraging people to stand for election. It's not party political and can even be interesting at times!!!

9 Co-option of members

None

10 Election of Office Bearers

Convener Eleanor Stevenson, proposed by MB and seconded by AS.

Treasurer Joyce McEwan proposed by ES and seconded by LP.

Secretary Michael Breslin proposed by ES and seconded by JMCc.

The office bearers are in from this AGM to the elections in Autumn 2022.

11 AOCB

MB referred to the convener's report and the fact roads and amenity services came up so often. It was clear this was a very badly managed department. AL suggested a coordinated approach by all

community councils was needed. MB to ask Melissa in the council for caucus groups to be reinstated.

End of AGM

Items 1 to 4 above extended to the business meeting.

5 Minutes of last meeting held on 13 April 2022

Proposed by AL and seconded by JMcE

6 Matters arising

Pupil standing on school bus not progressed. Talk of recycling yard being told to take more material, ie to accept materials they have in the past rejected. **Bus stop at foot of Royal Brae, sign not yet installed. Eleanor Lane not attended to.** Chippings on road have been swept. Manhole cover at Knockamillie has been fixed. 1st aid kits have been checked. Inspiring Innellan events for the jubilee were well attended. Abandoned car near Gill Judd's house has been removed.

7 Police Report

Noted

8 Community Council Elections

Each member needs to consider who they could encourage to be a community councillor and it was agreed to advertise and ask the paper for some editorial space. A big push was needed to ensure we get enough members for the elections.

9 Planning, plus Holiday Homes issue.

MB and AS explained some of the issues round holiday lets. The council figure of c 2,300 was almost certainly an underestimate. There may well be people letting properties where they pay council tax, unlike a registered holiday let, but that raises questions over insurance and other matters. More work will be done and a brief paper sent to the CC for the August meeting.

10 Investing in Communities Funds

No proposals were forthcoming.

11 Bus Services

MB to write to public transport officer asking some further questions on the issues which have been raised for a year, none of which have been addressed. He will be asked to attend the August meeting unless progress is made before then.

12 AOCB

1. It was agreed to give a donation to the hall for meetings. Amount agreed as £250.
2. Agreed to donate £100 to each of the 2 schools and the nursery for outdoor education purposes.
3. Agreed £250 would be put in annually to a reserved fund for the purchase and maintenance of defibrillators. MA agreed to check all defibrillators in the area.
4. Management of schools. AS updated the meeting on what had been gleaned from the FOI. The meeting noted its disappointment at the manner in which this new information has appeared and why it was not public in the first place. Both Councillors Hampsey and Moreland have made their positions clear on this issue.
5. Gates damaged at Inverchoalain Church have not yet been repaired but damage was caused by a grass cutter.
6. AL proposed a vote of thanks to MB and AS for work done on the schools issue.
7. Gate at Innellan Primary School does not close posing a potential risk to children.
8. Planning. Little of concern but rumour was that Inverchaolain Church was to be put back on the market.

13 Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 August at 1930.

Note: items highlighted in yellow are for the attention of councillors.