

KIRKMABRECK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on 13th March 2023 commencing 7.00 pm at the Quarrymen's Art Centre

1. Present:

Martin Armstrong (Chair), Sandra Sainty (Secretary), Peter Lupton (Treasurer), Peter Sainty, Agnes Heron, Isobel Campbell, Roger Cope, David Wright, Jim McDowall

Attending: Councillors Katie Hagmann, Richard Marsh, David Inglis

Apologies: None

The Chair opened the meeting welcoming the new Councillor Richard Marsh to his first meeting.

2. LOCAL REPORTS

(a) POLICE

This was the first report written by PC David Broadfoot, was distributed by email and is attached to these Minutes: no matters arising.

(b) ELECTED MEMBERS

Councillor Richard Marsh had been elected to the Council on the 10th December 2022.

The Council administration had now changed with the Conservatives and Independents now heading up the administration.

Councillor David Inglis is now Vice Chair of Economy & Resources Committee and Councillor Richard Marsh is Vice Chair for Finance, Procurement and Transformation

Richard Marsh informed the meeting that the Coastal Benefit Fund is now open for applications until the end of March.

David Inglis said that the Council was in a transitional period with the first meeting tomorrow of the Economy & Resources Committee.

Councillor Katie Hagmann informed the meeting that the teachers dispute was close to settlement.

The Economy & Resources Committee would be discussing Place Plans and Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

Council Funding for Economic Regeneration Projects is now available.

The Head Teacher at Douglas Ewart School will be going on Secondment, though he will not be going until a temporary replacement can be found.

Martin Armstrong asked how long secondments could last for. Councillors replied that Secondments should be for 2 years but can be extended for a further 2.

(c) PLANNING

Whisky Broker had put in a planning application for their premises.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting on 13th February 2023 were proposed by Isabel Campbell and seconded by Peter Lupton, approved by the meeting.

ISSUES ARISING

- (a) **Website** – Martin and Sandra are attending a training course on Wednesday. It is progressing and a remainder was made for everyone to provide a profile.
- (b) **Awards** – it was agreed that this should be advertised on Facebook and the Website, Martin agreed to organise this.
- (c) **Holiday Project** – Sandra had put together draft costings for providing holiday accommodation. The criteria for deciding who should qualify was discussed and Martin said he would draft a prospectus. It was decided that we could go no further until we knew whether funding would be available. Sandra said she would contact Kilgallioch for their input before putting in an application for funding.
- (d) **Coronation Weekend** – The Quarrymen's Art Centre are planning a Big Lunch for the Sunday with the Creetown Silver Band, Face Painting, children's games, etc. People would bring their own food to share but Tea and Coffee would be provided. It was agreed that the Community Council would contribute £400.00 towards the cost of this event. It was also decided that a commemorative item be given to all the children and young people in the parish.
- (e) **Band Stand** – The Council had responded that the band stand was not their responsibility but they had sent a team to clean and inspect. The Council further stated that they would look into what needed to be done and would get back to us. The Councillors asked for the email correspondence to be sent to them so that they can follow it up.
- (f) **Resilience** – a resident of Carsluith, having read the Minutes, raised the question whether the "Resilience Co-Ordinator" would be for Carsluith as well as Creetown or would Carsluith have their own "Co-Ordinator". The Meeting agreed that there was no reason why Carsluith should not have its own Resilience team but it would need volunteers to be registered who were able to do the actual work. Peter S commented that in his experience the young working men of Carsluith tended to help out when there was a need (e.g. to clear roads); while they would not currently be insured under the Council's scheme, they might not be able to commit to giving the necessary time as an obligation.
- (g) **Youth Hall** – Martin raised the question of a legal lease being given for the Youth Club to occupy the Hall. He had contacted the Council legal department and they had said that they couldn't help. Katie Hagmann suggested that we contact Third Section D & G who specialise in helping Charities. Sandra said she would look into this.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Ward 2 Federation of Community Councils held its first meeting, Martin had attended, he would let us have copies of the Minutes when they become available. The basis for this Federation is the sharing of information that would be beneficial to all Community Councils.

Model Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in Scotland 2023. This draft document had been received and circulated to the Community Councillors. It was noted that there were potentially significant changes to the current Scheme and members were asked to make comments as appropriate.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David Wright informed the meeting that he would be leaving the area at the end of April and therefore would resign from the Community Council. Martin expressed regrets that we would be losing a valuable member, thanked him for all his work, especially with the wonderful flowers and Christmas decorations he had organised over the years. We wished him well for the future.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10th April 2023 commencing at 7.00 pm at the Quarrymen's Art Centre.

The AGM has been set for Tuesday 9th May 2023, venue to be decided as the Quarrymen's Art Centre would not be available.

APPENDIX 1 - POLICE REPORT ATTACHMENT



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| <p>POLICE SCOTLAND</p> <p>DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT</p> |
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| Community Council – Kirkmabreck |
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| Date of Meeting - 13/03/2023 |
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| Officer Attending / Report Prepared By - PC Broadfoot, V436 |
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| <u>Updates Required / Requested From Previous Meeting</u> |
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First of all I will introduce myself. My name is David Broadfoot. Until recently I worked in the Response Policing Department at Newton Stewart Police Station, I was in that role for just under 6 years.

I have now started in my new role in the Community Policing Department at Newton Stewart and look forward to meeting you all in person in the near future.

Crime Update (cover Performance / Issues / Trends)

A cross section of incidents (not all) in the Kirkmabreck CC area reported to Police since 13/02/2022. Other reported incidents in the Mid Galloway area attended on a month to month basis by Newton Stewart section officers are contained within each respective Community Council report for the area each incident has occurred.

The incidents reported each month are an accurate representation of what's reported to ourselves via our crime recording platforms on a monthly basis which is in turn shared with yourselves at each CC meeting.

It is respectfully requested that members and attendees of the Community Council **do not** report personal and private non CC issues during the meeting, or wait until the monthly CC meeting to report any community related incidents or concerns that they have or reported to themselves. Please report same as and when they occur throughout the month to Police Scotland, and encourage others to do likewise in the normal manner via attendance at Newton Stewart Police Station, via the 101 system, the 'Contact Us' forum on the Police Scotland website, or in an emergency by the 999 system. This in turn creates an official record of the report, allowing it to be accurately graded/allocated, providing accountability, and prevents unnecessary delay giving the best opportunity for any timely investigation required. Avoid contacting individual officers to report crimes/incidents in the first instance as this could also create undue delay should an officer not be on duty due to weekly rest days, a period of annual leave, course/court attendance, training or sickness etc, and the matter not recorded.

1. 24/02/2023 – Fireraising, enquiries ongoing
2. 23/02/2023 – 2 vehicle road traffic collision, one driver arrested and charged with multiple offences

Significant Incidents / Occurrences - (Local / Divisional / National)

Community Issues

Doorstep Crime

What is Doorstep Crime?

Doorstep crime is principally committed against the elderly and vulnerable in their own homes by individuals or organised groups. These criminals systematically target their victims and adapt their criminal method to exploit their victim's individual vulnerabilities.

The impact of this type of crime has devastating effects on victims and our communities. Against the background of an increasingly ageing and diverse population the threat from doorstep crime is set to continue.

Perpetration of the crime may involve distraction, deceit, threats and violence. Some offenders will alter their method of perpetration to gain the confidence of the victim and share this information with other criminals engaged in doorstep crimes. Many offenders are organised, well networked and will travel significant distances to commit crime, and view their criminal activity as a lifetime occupation. This is supported by the level of repeat victimisation experienced throughout the country.

Offenders may often appear extremely professional and have professionally presented business cards, flyers and advertising materials that are well designed and give the impression of a legitimate business.

For clarification purposes, doorstep crimes can be divided into four distinct categories.

- **Bogus Worker:** Individuals who carry out work, often unnecessarily, which is of a substandard quality, charging an excessive fee. This includes individuals who obtain a deposit for material for work they do not thereafter undertake. These individuals are often referred to as Rogue Traders.
- **Bogus Official:** Individuals who purport to be from a utility company, such as Water, Gas or Electricity companies etc, or use any other false story, designed to gain access to the property and distract the victim in order to steal from within. Often referred to as distraction thefts.
- **Bogus Representative:** Individuals who falsely claim to represent an organisation, such as insurance companies, local companies, charities or banks etc, and induce the victim to give money or supply their bank details. This is more-often conducted over the phone and is commonly described as vishing.
- **Bogus Impersonator:** Individuals who assume to be employed as a recognised professional, such as a Social Worker, Nurse, Doctor or Police Officer etc, in order to gain access to the property for other gain. Again often referred to as distraction thefts.

How can I spot a rogue trader?

They tell you the work needs to be done immediately.

They will ask to be paid there and then. They may offer to go to the bank with you if you don't have the cash at hand.

How can I protect myself from doorstep crime?

Here are some tips to follow to protect yourself.

- Be on guard if someone turns up unexpectedly
- Keep front and back doors locked
- Use the door viewer or nearby window when answering the door
- Fit a door chain or bar – use it and keep it on when talking to callers at the door
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door
- Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment - confirm they are genuine
- Always ask for identification badges, but don't rely on them
- Identity cards can be faked – phone the company to verify their identity
- Some companies offer a password system - ask if this can be used
- If you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it
- Never let people persuade you to let them into your home – they may not be genuine.
- If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and get a friend or family member to be with you
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home
- Remember, it's your home, there's no reason why anyone should ever enter your home against your wishes
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.

What else can I do to stop being defrauded by a rogue trader?

Trading Standards advice is:

- Don't feel pressurised into agreeing to immediate work or buying a product or service
- Don't agree to buy from the first person who calls
- Don't pay cash up front. Don't offer to go and get money
- Shop around if you decide you need work done
- Ask what your cancellation rights are
- Report them.

What action should I take if someone visits me and I think they're a doorstep criminal?

Here are some tips if you think someone is a doorstep criminal.

Keep the caller out of your house. Ask them to leave and call the police immediately on 101.

You might also want to try to alert a family member or attract a neighbour's attention. You should always contact the police first by dialling 101.

The police would much rather attend a false alarm than have someone fall victim to a doorstep criminal.

If the person refuses to leave your door, or you feel threatened or scared - call 999 and ask for the police.

Note down their description and the description of any vehicle they're using, including make, model, colour and registration number.

How can I protect my family, friend and neighbours?

Discuss the advice on this page with family, friends or neighbours who are older or vulnerable.

There are also other things you can do to help protect them. Everyone has a part to play to keep the community safe.

- Keep an eye out for strange vans in your neighbour's driveway
- Make sure your relatives are not regularly taking large amounts of cash out of the bank
- Make arrangements to ensure your relative's house looks well maintained
- Make it less obvious that an older person lives alone
- Doorstep criminals will often target the same victim more than once. Be alert if someone has been a victim before
- Police Scotland has a 'Nominated Neighbour Scheme' which can assist those who prefer not to answer the door to those they don't know.
- Report any suspicious activity in your community immediately to Police Scotland on 101 or to your local authority Trading Standards
- For more information on doorstep crime or assistance regarding home security contact your local Community Policing Team on 101.

Bogus phone calls

Bogus callers can also make contact with you by phone.

Identity Theft

Identity theft is when criminals get access to someone's personal information. They then use it to steal their identity.

They could then pretend to open bank accounts, get credit cards, loans and mortgages or to claim benefits. They could even take over someone's accounts and change the address.

They can steal someone's name and reputation. Then can use this to make money.

How the fraudsters operate

Here are a few ways which these criminals work:

- They search through rubbish to find bills or bank statements
- They target flats where shared mail boxes make theft easier
- They bribe or rob postal workers or purchase the information from other criminals
- They search through unattended bags.

Warning signs

There are a number of warning signs to look out for:

- If you get bills or invoices for goods you have not ordered
- If you get collection letters for debt that isn't yours or
- There are transactions on your bank or credit card statements that you do not recognise
- Important documents such as your passport or driving licence may have been stolen.

Take action

There are a number of steps you can take to avoid falling victim to identity theft:

- Keep all your important documents safe and secure
- When using a credit or debit card, make sure it's never out of your sight
- Cash machines may have been tampered with. Your cards could be skimmed and cloned
- Never give out your personal details when you're contacted by phone, fax, post or email
- Always offer to ring back any suspicious callers but check the phone number you are given
- When throwing out documents which contain personal information try to shred them so that nobody could read your personal details
- Always check your bank and credit card statements. Report any transactions you don't recognise, even small amounts
- Close all accounts you no longer need
- Move your mail when moving home by arranging with the post office to forward your mail to your new address
- Get organisations to send to your new address.

If you think you're a victim

If you think you might be a victim of identity theft, don't delay:

- Contact your bank or building society
- Keep a record of all communication
- Report the matter to the police
- Request a copy of your credit report (such as Equifax or Experian) - you can ask for incorrect information to be removed.

Further information can be obtained on Police Scotland's website - www.scotland.police.uk

If you require further information please email StewartryCPT@Scotland.police.uk or attend at Newton Stewart Police Station and ask to speak to a member of Newton Stewart Community Policing Team.

Scottish Health Survey

- A Scottish Health Survey is to be conducted on behalf of the Scottish Government to collect information from children and adults which the Government cannot get in any other way, by means of an in person interview.
- The study has been given ethical approval by the Research and Ethics Committee for Wales, all interviewers will undertake Disclosure Scotland Vetting.
- The survey will take place from March 2023 until February 2024.
- There will be approximately 11,228 homes surveyed across Scotland.
- **Letters will be sent to sampled addresses in advance of an interviewer attending, permission will be sought to interview including taking measurements such as height, weight and blood pressures, co-operation is entirely on a voluntary basis.**
- Children will also be interviewed following consent of a responsible adult and only in the presence of a responsible adult in the household at all times.
- More information can be found here:

[Scottish Health Survey - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://gov.scot)

Matters brought to Police attention by Council

Response given to above points at the meeting

Further action to be taken regarding above points

Section Sergeant (Comments)

Area Inspector (Comments)

Use overleaf if necessary