

IRVINE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING 3RD MAY 2023
REDBURN COMMUNITY HUB

Attendees: *D. Dunlop (Chair), D. Phillips (Vice Chair), T. Doyle (Secretary), R. Walker, T. Lindsay, J. Neil, E. Walker, AM. Hunter, J. Jones, Sgt. Fisher, I. Wallace, A. Small*

Apologies: *J. Walker (Treasurer), W. Anderson*

Minutes from previous meeting approved by D. Phillips, seconded by R. Walker.

Chairs' Address

The chair wanted to remind Community Councillors and those who attend the meeting of the conduct required from them. He explained that everyone around the table will get a chance to speak and that they will be required to speak through the chair. He expressed that those who are not CC's will get the opportunity to speak but at his discretion and at appropriate times. AM Hunter asked if it was okay for non-members to ask questions related to the topics being discussed, the Chair agreed this would be acceptable as long as the question was relevant.

Community Development Worker

E. Walker informed the CC that youth groups have now started back since the Easter break. The summer programme will be going ahead for school age children to receive lunches throughout the holidays. She also suggested that there is a new discovery group for the over 50's which some members of the CC may be interested in. Both D. Phillips and R. Walker attended the first meeting for the new group. No other updates.

Chair asked if anyone had questions for E. Walker or AM. Hunter while they were in attendance. T. Lindsay enquired about what was happening with the tennis courts. AM. Hunter explained that an asset transfer had taken place for the courts last year and that they now belonged to Irvine Tennis Club. They work that he can see going on at the moment is part of the renovation as they are currently being resurfaced. She noted that it has been great to see them getting used so often and also wanted to highlight that they are very accessible for families as it does not incur a great cost to use. She also suggested getting some information passed to the public through the CC.

Police Report

1131 incidents reported, 276 of which were crime related.

Sgt. Fisher would like to clarify minutes from last month. In relation to vapes, although it is not illegal for anyone to smoke vapes with 0% nicotine it is illegal for them to be sold to anyone under the age of 18, whether they contain nicotine or not.

He also stated that they have had numerous calls regarding the quad bikes in the area. The local officers have been out on motorbikes and seized some of the bikes. He also explained that just recently it has been more so primary school aged children on electric bikes that have risen which they are trying to address by sending an officer into schools to speak with youngsters and to also try and identify the individuals.

Chair asked if E-Scooters were under the same category as quads etc. Sgt. Fisher explained that technically it would fall under being a mechanically propelled vehicle and if it is on the road it would have to follow all the procedures required by law to make it road worthy, e.g. MOT, insurance, road tax. He explained that they would seize these vehicles as they won't be insured (unattainable for these vehicles) and the owner would never be able to claim the item back without insurance. That being said he does recognise that they are a good alternative transport and can be very convenient. J. Neil asked if they are allowed on the pavements? Sgt. Fisher explained that they should follow the same laws as pedal bikes and would not be permitted on the pavement.

Chair also asked if Sgt. Fisher was aware of the arranged car cruise at Irvine Harbour on the 28th May? Sgt. Fisher is aware of this event taking place. Chair asked if they had permission? Sgt. Fisher explained that they wouldn't need permission as it is a public carpark. J. Nail expressed that they do not stick to the carpark and make use of the grass/hills. Sgt. Fisher agrees this is a nuisance but when it happened the last time they felt that the best way to deal with it was to contain it and not allow it to spill out further rather than try and tackle it head on or shut it down as the numbers were so large. J. Neil asked who allowed it to go ahead? Both Sgt. Fisher and AM. Hunter explained that nobody has okayed the event. They haven't had to apply for any permission to use the space as it is a public area therefore an events license does not need to be applied for. Sgt. Fisher also explained that they can't stop people from attending the beach park and that the problem is they advertise their events on social media platforms. D. Phillips asked why they can shut down raves and not the cruise? Sgt. Fisher explained that they would most likely be more effective at shutting down a sound system than moving the amount of cars that visit the beach park which can reach over a thousand.

T. Lindsay asked if Sgt. Fisher was aware that new legislation had been passed today give police more powers? Sgt. Fisher asked if this was in relation to the coronation? T. Lindsay explained that the legislation suggested they can stop anyone at anytime for any reason, so why are you unable to stop this event? Sgt. Fisher explained that there are often powers the police can invoke, like disorder and dispersal orders for groups but they generally need a lot of scrutiny before those powers can be invoked.

D. Philips raised the issue of Castlepark Community Garden being targeted again. He also expressed that he is aware the police have obtained the CCTV. He asked if they had identified the persons responsible and what they intended to do about it? He suggested that the police linking up with J. Jones to tackle this could be something to consider. E. Walker explained that she had spoken to a colleague who is working with the officer dealing with the case to identify the individuals and work with them from a youth aspect as that is their expertise. Sgt. Fisher explained that the persons concerned are under the age of consent so he would not disclose their details and they would try to deal with these issues out with the courts/criminal record route.

I. Wallace added that he heard on the news that Australia banned vaping. J. Neil expressed that she is led to believe it will move to being prescribed in the UK. Sgt. Fisher doesn't think it is a bad thing in Australia and he wouldn't argue with it being implemented here either.

Sgt. Fisher was excused.

Matters Arising

Chair explained he has emailed the Marymass Committee three times regarding having a representee from CC. He has had no answer so he will approach them personally.

Chair also asked C. McLellan to attend to discuss his visit to the font and his correspondence with the Heritage Society however he was unavailable to attend so he has been invited to next month's meeting.

T. Doyle has emailed Cllr McLean to extend a personal invitation but not yet had a response.

D. Phillips is still in the process of writing a letter to the bus companies.

T. Lindsay has almost finished his Heritage Tour of Irvine.

D. Phillips noted that in previous minutes Sgt. Fisher had been referred to as PC and would like this amended.

Chair asked for clarification on the previous minutes – Paragraph 4 of the last page – T. Lindsay suggested a new community group to tackle some of the issues raised at tonight's meeting and D. Dunlop suggested that perhaps I. Wallace and A. Small would be beneficial members to have. – Chair would just like to clarify that this suggestion was in relation to the new group and not for them to be members of the Community Council as that is not permitted.

Chair then address written questions issued by T. Lindsay.

The CC informed the Locality Partnership that it was organising a public meeting on an incinerator. Can you give us a progress report? Chair explained this was given to our Planning and Licensing Committee and asked for an update? T. Doyle explained that W. Anderson was heading this issue and he was not in attendance.

D. Phillips expressed that he is still researching and finalising dates for the public meeting we plan to hold for the National Care Service.

Can you tell the CC where our minutes are posted for public viewing? Chair advised our minutes are posted on the Irvine Locality Community Planning Website and a copy is also sent to Committee Services. D. Phillips explained that he discovered the Library are no longer receiving a copy. AM. Hunter explained this is an easy fix and T. Doyle agreed to arrange monthly submission.

How many members does CC have and how many do we need for a quorum? Chair explained we currently have 10 members registered which is the minimum we require. The Scheme of Establishment states you need 25% of members for a quorum. AM. Hunter confirmed the quorum would be 5.

If you are a North Ayrshire Council employee should you declare an interest? Chair asked for AM. Hunter to clarify this. She explained that 'declaring an interest' would be similar to Councillors declaring an interest, so if at any point it could be deemed that a decision your making or voting on be of a personal or financial interest to them. So if there was something that his service specifically or him personally would benefit from then yes he would have to declare an interest, does he need to declare an interest at every meeting? I suppose that depends on what he has access to and what the discussions are. The chair would like to add that he deems his role with NAC and his role with CC as completely separate roles, there is no affiliation between them. T. Lindsay expressed that it doesn't sit well with a few people as most of the business that we deal with is concerning the council and he thinks there is a clash there. AM. Hunter explained that there is nothing in the Scheme of Establishment or the Constitution that states that an employee of NAC cannot be a Community Councillor. T. Lindsay expressed that there are certain people who believe that there is a clash between the Chair and the work of the council and there have been elements influenced in certain directions, possibly. T. Doyle asked for clarification as she is unable to see where there is a clash and

if there is something she has maybe missed in the Chairs' conduct that has made it seem that way. T. Lindsay said it's the issue that when you work for an organisation and you are chairing an organisation which is supposed to be totally detached and mutual. You have the head office bearer who actually works for the organisation which is being sometimes constructively criticised, there's something there and it needs to be looked at. AM. Hunter explained that the choices are a Vote of No Confidence in the Chair that needs to come from CC's and that there is a process for that in the scheme and the toolkit. The Chair was happy to allow D. Phillips to take over the meeting and excuse himself if CC's wished to discuss this and take a vote. D. Phillips suggested everyone have a say therefor T. Doyle or himself should collate votes from all members. T. Lindsay stated he did not want this to go ahead tonight. AM. Hunter reiterated that there is nothing in the Scheme of Establishment to suggest a NAC employee cannot be a Community Councillor but a Vote of No Confidence is an option we have. She also stated that she thinks the group have to look at the current Chairs conduct and whether we have concerns over that to follow the process and her advice would be from CLD that unless we have concerns, we just keep an eye on the matter and keep the status quo. However in future if there is anything we think David as Chair should be declaring an interest in she believes he is an open enough Chair to take that discussion.

At a previous meeting the Chair stated that a member of the public was wearing a t-shirt which could have potentially offended others, was anybody offended? Chair addressed this question and explained that nobody was offended by the garment however the CC needs to be a politically neutral and religiously neutral group and he only wanted to address the matter before it did become an issue. T. Lindsay pointed out that he wears political badges and asked if anyone was offended by those? T. Lindsay asked to be enlightened on what the t-shirt said. Chair explained wording on shirt. AM. Hunter confirmed that the Chair is right and that CC must be politically neutral and it has been brought up previously by an elected member that there had been comments made at this CC before that had been deemed inappropriate and it had been dealt with at the time however the Chair was just bringing it up as it had already been raised.

T. Lindsay also requested a written financial statement and expenditure. Chair advised that J. Walker stated she was happy to provide this although she is not in attendance this evening.

T. Lindsay would like to know the date of the AGM? Chair asked AM. Hunter to clarify. She stated that our Constitution suggests it should be around September/October time however there was a discussion about changing the Constitution but it was never signed off at a meeting. AM. Hunters suggestion is that the Constitution and Standing Orders be sent to every CC and it can be signed off at the next meeting. If we want changes made it needs to be 14 days' notice. We should be able to hold our AGM as previously stated. D. Phillips asked if we could not change the date of the AGM to tie in with the end of the financial year. AM. Hunter confirmed we can change this in the Constitution.

The Chair raised a motion for a special Adhoc Forum set up to examine the expansion or enlargement augmentation of boundaries regarding the feasibility of extending Irvine Community Council. The suggested name is Irvine and District Grand Community Forum. AM. Hunter asked to come in and explained that a change of boundary has to mean a complete change of the scheme so by all means set up a working group to discuss it but it would need to come in to the Council as a request to do a complete change of the scheme. She is aware that the discussion has happened with a few elected members also. The last time they changed the Scheme of Establishment was to be inline with the community empowerment act so that those 16 and above could become members. At that time (2016/17) there was a proposal to change the boundaries but the community council at the time rejected the proposal. She suggested it would need to go to cabinet but that there was no

issues with setting up a working group to question this. T. Lindsay explained it has been an ongoing issue for a while. D. Phillips advised that on previous minutes we were going to contact NAC about inviting members of the public from other areas of Irvine to sit in on our meetings and give their views. Chair advised that this is not allowed. This motion has been deferred to the next meeting.

J. Neil was excused.

Treasurers Report

J. Walker not in attendance. Chair updated that there are no changes to accounts as they are still submitted for auditing. He will chase this up.

Correspondences

Nothing to report.

Buses

Deferred to next meeting as no response as yet.

Water Font

Deferred to next meeting as awaiting C. McLellan's attendance.

Legacy Hub

J. Jones gave an update. The current groups running from the Legacy Hub are running from strength to strength. The Easter programmes seemed to attract steady numbers and they have recently started some new groups to target more youth. Currently they are working with youth from 12 schools over North Ayrshire.

They are looking at sending some members on a trip to Arran to participate in LGBTQ events. The girls group are progressing and they are also working alongside Men's Shed in Irvine to provide a programme for their young participants.

They have also started a new group for primary 7 age group, this group will be led by the young people but they have struggled to bring in numbers for this. They have been engaging with primary schools to encourage this. T. Doyle stated that she is happy to take information on this for the youth group she works with.

They are currently re-evaluating some services to suit their service users better. Some groups may need to change structure slightly and they are always researching and welcoming feedback from everyone to improve on this.

Their 'Food, Chat & Chill' group is coming on leaps and bounds and seeing numbers increase week on week.

The Legacy Hub itself is coming on amazingly and have been supporting groups out with the youth sector including 'Café Solace' and 'ESOL'. J. Jones feels these partnerships have been very successful. AM. Hunter also confirmed that its due to the Legacy Hub that these groups are able to flourish as they have been attempted these groups before with little success.

J. Jones hopes to provide another programme in the summer as like Easter. They are hoping to work with Locality Partnership on this again as the service provided previously was enjoyed by all.

The breakfast club is going from strength to strength. So much so that they are looking at the structural aspect of the programme and how it can work best for the large increase in numbers since they started providing a take-away service.

J. Jones asked if the CC felt it was worthwhile for him to continue attending the meetings. He stated that he is happy to do so but would understand if we felt it wasn't relevant. Chair expressed that he feels it is a partnership we need to keep as they provide a like to CC consulting with youth and it has been a worthwhile partnership thus far. T. Doyle expressed that at the moment this group is our only connection to the voice of the youth in the community and its very valuable to CC.

T. Lindsay explained that himself and others at Irvine Senior Forum has previously looked into working alongside youth in an intergenerational project. He asked Justin if there was any scope for this and J. Jones agreed he was more than happy to take some details and start discussions around this. He also stated that they have worked well with Irvine Senior Forum previously.

Community Councillors

Chair expressed that our current Insurance Policy expires next week and that the new process would be that we pay for this and approach NAC for reimbursement. He did explain that the insurance is not mandatory but it is advised to have it. No objections were raised for the renewal of the insurance. D. Dunlop explained that the cost would be £90.00. Chair agreed to deal with this.

Chair explained that the rep we currently have to oversee our social media has not been attending meetings. He asked if there was anyone willing to take on the role? D. Phillips suggested giving a young person the opportunity to manage this. AM. Hunter explained that we are able to have an appointed advisor to work with the group on many things. J. Jones expressed concerns at giving a young person the responsibility of something like that. CC agreed to look at this further at another date.

R. Walker asked if there were any planning updates? None to report.

T. Lindsay suggested that we could possibly look into doing something to tackle the high street been boarded up. He has recently visited Ayr and realised that they had photos of how Ayr looked years ago printed on the shop windows that were long term closed and suggested that maybe we could do something similar to make Irvine look more appealing. D. Phillips agrees this would be a great project to look at after Marymass. CC agreed this.

Elected Members

None in attendance.

Events

T. Doyle expressed that as a group we need to agree on what we are doing for Marymass and what we will be applying for funding for. She is very keen to tackle food poverty in some way and would like feedback from the group.

Chair expressed that we only have 3 months left to plan and apply for any funding. An update will be required from the events committee at the next meeting. If we are unable to agree on what to apply for funding for then we will need to scrap the event all together. T. Lindsay suggested that we hire an ice cream van or something? Chair explained that we would need to apply for a license fee for something like that. D. Phillips suggested having a food stall and giving away free burger, hotdogs etc. T. Doyle expressed concerns about doing everything completely free as we ran at a loss for the last

event. Chair suggested a small charge of £1. J. Jones expressed that the area they provide for Marymass is usually the free area and suggested that if that was something we wanted to tie in with he would be happy to have discussions. Chair is happy for Events to discuss this and report back at the next meeting.

Any Other Business

D. Phillips had a question from W. Anderson regarding the garden competition. W. Anderson would like an agreement on his remit and how we would like him to convey the garden competition in regards to prizes, judging etc. CC agreed to put it to discussion in the group chat.

D. Phillips suggested inviting Andrea to the next meeting as she is dealing with the new over 50's group and would be able to give us more details and insight. E. Walker agreed to take this as an action.

R. Walker stated he will try to attend the next Marymass Committee Meeting.

MEETING END