

KILWINNING COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Monthly meeting held on
Thursday 21st January 2016
Kilwinning Academy

Present	Jim Watson(JW) - Chair Stephanie Krus(SK) - Treasurer Jim Kennedy(JK) Ted Somerville(TS) Jackie Hamilton(JaH) Jim Miller (JM)	Bill Taylor (BT) – Vice Chair Nairn McDonald(NM) Andy Robb(AR) John Harrison(JH) Councillor Donald Reid(DR) Councillor Robert Steel(RS) Councillor John Ferguson(JF)
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Visiting Police - Inspector Jim McMillan Blair Kerr
 Alison Telfer Parent Council Kilwinning Academy
 John Butcher – Executive Director of Education NAC
 Stephen Quinn – Head of Schools NAC
 Tom Stewart(TS)

ACTION

1.0 **WELCOME** The meeting was opened with a welcome from JW.

APOLOGIES

Janey Grier (JG) Councillor Joe Cullinane(JC) Tim Swan – Kilwinning Academy

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 17th December 2015

Agreed by meeting

2.0 **POLICE REPORT**

Inspector McMillan gave his report.

Youth disorder in the Main Street continues to be a problem, with Tesco having to close for a few hours – Inspector McMillan has visited with the manager, and some youths have been identified – they have been spoken to. Action Plans are in place and continue to help the situation. Inspector McMillan is keen to visit with The Traders' Association.

North Ayrshire continues to have a severe problem with wheelie bin thefts. Meeting has taken place with Police and Waste Management. The Fire Service is also attempting to help with the situation. Apart from the safety concerns this is also proving very expensive for NAC – they cost around £40 each. JW asked about the pick-up of bins, could re-scheduling help?

Overall, crimes are down 1% on the same time last year – however, domestic abuse continues to rise and is causing concern.

JH asked about the graffiti in the town, and in particularly on the War Memorial, over the Christmas period. Inspector McMillan was aware of this and it is linked with youth disorder in the town – keen to identify those involved, Campus Officers are investigating.

JK asked about a teenage boy being assaulted in the Main Street in early January. Someone has been charged in connection with this.

3.0

PRESENTATION ABOUT EDUCATION IN NORTH AYRSHIRE & KILWINNING ACADEMY from John Butcher & Stephen Quinn

Mr Butcher acknowledged the petition that had been presented to NAC requesting additional funding for Kilwinning Academy, which is now 30 years old. At present NAC is in the final stages of budget setting. Priorities are also being agreed. Mr Butcher is unable, at this time, to inform what is proposed in the budget. He did inform meeting that he has a statutory duty to do two main things 1) ensure there are enough places for every child needing schooling 2) ensure the required facilities are in place to deliver the curriculum to all school children.

Both Mr Butcher & Mr Quinn are ambitious for North Ayrshire to have an excellent Education Authority. Funding for schools comes from both central Government and local Authorities. Funding is very tight right now, but determined to protect 'front line' spending within education. Spending on new builds & infrastructure is very expensive.

There has been recent investment in secondary education in North Ayrshire; however 4 secondary schools have not received significant investment for a number of years, Kilwinning Academy being one. There has been around 7 million spent over a period to maintain the school, including upgrade of windows. Overall there is a huge financial commitment needed to maintain and support all the schools, primary & secondary, at a time when budgets are tight. Everything is being done to ensure the best is achieved with the available budgets and long term planning is in process. Education results continue to improve in North Ayrshire – with young people leaving school with better qualifications than ever before – 3rd best performing schools in Scotland. Additional resources have been made available as North Ayrshire has large areas of poverty. Significant investment in Early Years.

Mr Quinn brought the meeting up to date with some local changes to personnel in the schools. He also commented on the new national qualifications and the changes that have resulted in subjects, subject choice and how young people develop through their education. Very confident that they are working hard to ensure that young people in North Ayrshire are getting excellent opportunities with their education pathway.

JaH raised the issue of the diversity in Kilwinning, and the needs & wants of Kilwinning Academy in terms of facilities being available to all.

Mr Quinn stated that he saw this diversity as a positive thing for Kilwinning. Mr Butcher commented on the attainment of school children being very much down to good teaching.

NM stated that the same issue have been discussed for years. As a recent former pupil he is very aware of the lack of facilities within the school – he also compared the opportunities available to pupils at Kilwinning as opposed to those at Largs Academy.

Mr Butcher stated that he would like to see improvements, but there are difficult decisions to be made. Very committed to making our schools the best they can be, they will do the very best they can with the money that is provided.

JW spoke about the age of Kilwinning Academy, and reiterated that investment is needed.

RS thanked Mr Butcher & Mr Quinn for their input at the meeting, and stated that he will always voice the concerns of his constituents.

Mr Quinn stated that our elected members spend a good deal of time in our schools, far more than in other areas.

Mr Butcher praised his team and the work they are doing.

JK commented on the good work being done in North Ayrshire education.

JW thanked both gentlemen for attending and for delivering their report.

4.0	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES</u>
4.1	<u>Weir on River Garnock</u> Not discussed
4.2	<u>Cemetery</u> Not discussed
4.3	<u>Sun clock in McGavin Park</u> Not discussed
4.4	<u>Crossing on Dalry Road at entrance to school</u> Not discussed
4.5	<u>Library Consultation</u> Not discussed
5.0	<u>REVIEW of the Establishment of Community Councils in North Ayrshire</u> Have until the 5 th February to make any on-line representations.
6.0	<u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u> Balances Admin. Account £744.36 & Project Account £199.80
7.0	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>
7.1	Letter from Post Office about proposed changes to Pennyburn Post Office – circulated.
7.2	JaH has agreed to attend meeting on 28 th January on locality budgets & funding.
7.3	JW attending presentation on Community Empowerment Act 26 th January.
7.4	Locality Partnership Meeting on 10 th February – JW will attend.
8.0	<u>VISITORS</u>
8.1	TS - Concerned about speeding drivers in North Acre area. Can traffic calming systems be put in place? Discussion ensued. RS will put in request to traffic for review of the area.
9.0	<u>COUNCILLORS</u>
9.1	RS – commented on complaints of pot holes and street lighting. JM stated many street lights out in Underwood. JaH stated that you can get an app. to report any street lights out. DR stated that January is not a great month to be fixing pot holes – however is concerned about regular maintenance.
9.2	DR informed members that 17 th February is budget day, and will have more information at next meeting.
9.3	DR – Scottish Water not yet certain on plans for upgrade later this year

10.0 **AOB**

10.1 JH informed meeting that there is a new person in charge of the War Memorial – on going.

10.2 JW asked for members to distribute KCC leaflets in accessible areas. DR commented that there are lots of KCC leaflets around the town.

10.3 JK commented on bin lorries causing damage to grass areas and cars– is this reported? DR stated that sometimes this is caused by poor parking – has also raised problems for gritters. Bin lorries can have missed collections because of cars badly parked.

DATE, TIME & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

Thursday 18th February 2016, 7.15pm – Kilwinning Academy

Minutes compiled by JG