

MACHARS ACTION

Minutes of Board Meeting held on Tuesday 8th February 2022

Board Members Present

Robin Richmond (Chair), Linda Wright (Garlieston Community Council), Jennifer Harkes (Sorbie Community Council), Richard Kay (Cree Valley Community Council), Jim McColm (Councillor), Linda Wright (Garlieston Community Council)

Staff Members Present

Carol Lochrie (Office Manager), Meg MacPherson (Administrator)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Robin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jennifer Hendry (Port William Community Council), Meta Maltman (Vice-Chair), Katie Hagmann (Councillor) and Kirsty Currie (Whithorn Community Council).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022 were approved by Linda Wright and seconded by Robin Richmond.

3. Matters arising

Matters arising from the previous meeting were dealt with under Office Report.

4. Office Report

It was decided to stay with iZettle for processing card transactions. In order to set this up the current address and date of birth for each board member has to be entered as a money laundering precaution. Members provided this information and Meg will email those not present to collect their details.

The application for £6,000 from DGERI to allow us to offer Tom a fixed term contract for 54 weeks on completion of his Kickstart placement has to go to the Board for approval but is likely to be approved. Tom's new position will start on 9th February 2022.

Katrina Dick, Development Officer for Kirkcowan Development Trust has resigned from her position. Until they appoint a Project Manager Machars Action have agreed to keep their social media updated, issue their newsletters

and take care of day to day issues. The Trust will pay 4 hours per week to allow Tom to take on these duties and his hours will be temporarily increased to 28 per week. This arrangement will be reviewed when the Project Manager is appointed.

Jen Hendry and Carol met to discuss the possibility of Machars Action working collectively with the Climate Action Group on the refilling/recycling station project. Further discussions will take place and the board will be updated on any progress at the next meeting.

Kirsty Currie from Whithorn Community Council will be joining the board. Unfortunately she was unable to attend this meeting but will be a welcome addition to the group.

Tree planting for the Queen's Jubilee was discussed. Wigtown Community Council intend to apply for a tree but the location is as yet undecided. Garlieston are getting 3 trees. It was felt that we could accommodate 2 trees in the Sensory Garden, one apple and one cherry tree which would bring colour with the blossom and fruit in autumn. It was queried if two apple trees would be required for pollination and advice will be sought on this point. Applications for free trees from Queens Green Canopy are currently closed but will open again in the spring for November delivery.

5. Finance Update

The income and expenditure account for January was circulated and discussed. There were two large payment to PAYE which, together with a small payment in February, brings us up to date with PAYE payments. £14,500 is due to be drawn down from Kirkcowan Development Trust and £1,500 will be due soon from the Glentroll and Bargrennan Trust for assistance with the appointment of their Project Manager.

A new memo of understanding is being drawn up for the Kirkcowan Development Trust. Previously Machars Action should have received 8% of their total grant monies but the full total has never been claimed. It was agreed that negotiations should continue on the basis of continuing with 8% but in future ensuring that all monies due are charged.

6. Community Matters

Garlieston

The playpark is progressing well, planning permission is required for a small section but this should be through later this month. 3 trees are to be planted to celebrate the Jubilee. The activity group are thriving and have made plans for activities right through to Christmas. It may be better for their group to be

independent rather than through the Community Council as this would allow them to apply for grants and funding not currently available to them but hopefully they would still be represented at the meetings. A beach/village clean has been organised for the beginning of March. Complaints are still being received re trees which have been cut back leaving higher branches untouched – Jim McColm reported that the Council are looking in to this. The Council has also set aside £20,000 to mend the sea wall which was damaged in recent storms.

Sorbie

There have been no meetings since Christmas. The Community Council have received £2,000 Kilgallioch funding and are proposing to leaflet the village to ensure inclusion in the decision of how to spend it.

Cree Valley

There is a current issue re mineral drilling at Blackcraig which has sparked facebook fury. At the moment drilling is just to find out what is there. A garden party in Minnigaff playing field is being planned for the jubilee and a tree will be planted probably in the riverside. Jim McColm reported that as far as he is aware funding is in place for the flood scheme but most of it comes from the Scottish Government rather than the Council.

Wigtown

A bike shelter is planned. The bunkhouse is due to open in April and a bike shelter will add to the facilities available for visitors. The railing around the McGuffie garden are being repainted. It was suggested that a representative from the Wigtown and Bladnoch Initiative would be a good addition to the Machars Action board and avoid a conflict of interest with the group. Robin will follow this up.

Whithorn

Kirsty Currie was unable to attend today's meeting but gave Carol a report for Whithorn. They have planted a tree for the jubilee in a ceremony attended by the Lord Lieutenant. They are also planting fruit trees in the park through the Green Canopy Campaign, and are currently looking after a wildflower meadow planted last year. Plans are in hand for the Jubilee Weekend in June. The War Memorial is being given a makeover thanks to grants from the Council and the Common Good Fund. A bridge is now in place over the Ket where it is part of the new footpath that will eventually go to St Ninian's cave. They continue to maintain 4 defibrillators in the town.

7. AOB

Robin has written to the Isle of Whithorn Community Council inviting them to nominate a representative for our Board. They may not have had any meetings recently and no response has been received.

The best time to hold meetings in order to encourage a better attendance at board meetings was discussed. It was decided to carry on with the pattern of holding them on the afternoon of the 2nd Tuesday of the month be continued meantime. The next meeting on 8th March will be at the earlier time of 2pm.

In order to promote Machars Action it was suggested that our leaflets might be circulated together with any Community Council newsletters to be issued – no-one was aware of any that are planned at present. Putting a copy in with the Free Press was also suggested and Carol will look into the legalities of this. Carol will continue with her promotional visits to Community Council meetings and would appreciate any invitations. Unfortunately her visit to Garlieston, scheduled for last week, had to be postponed. A meet-the-team feature is planned for facebook/Machars Action website.

Councillor Jim McColm reminded the group of the Consultation Event on the Active Travel Strategy 2022-2027 on-line on 9th February and at the Ryan Centre, Stranraer on 14th February. He also highlighted the South of Scotland Enterprise events in Whithorn on Wednesday 23rd February and Newton Stewart on Wednesday 8th March. Advance booking is required.

Jim also highlighted the Community Benefit Fund which opened on 12th January for 12 weeks with applications for funding up to £5,000. The Coastal Community fund have £600,000 to spend before the end of March with more money available in June for community organisations.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th March in the Machars Action Meeting Room at 2pm.