



Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 17th February 2020

Present: Jack Powell (JP, Chair), Cindy Berry (CB), Bill Crawford (BC), Janey Floyd (JF), Shamielah Ghafar (SG), Tony Halifax (TH), Douglas Lawson (DL), Alex Mackie (AM), Morag McLaughlin (MM), Maureen Powell (MP), Allan Steele (AS), Caroline Wilson (CW)

In attendance: Cllr Jim Fletcher; Cllr Colm Merrick, Cllr Gordon Wallace, Vincent McCulloch (VMcC) 2 members of the public (MOP);

Apologies for absence: Jabbar Ghafar and Police Officer

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 20th January 2020 were approved by Douglas Lawson and seconded by Bill Crawford

Chair's opening

JP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Police report

A police report for the period 17th January 2020 to 13th February 2020 had previously been circulated. No Police Officer was in attendance, an apology having been submitted.

Chair's report -

Recent email messages – issues regarding procedures

JP referred to the exchanges of emails that have taken place since the last meeting. As Chair, he wished to address issues regarding procedures that arose out of these exchanges: -

Having informal meetings of community council members outwith the main community council meetings –

This had been suggested to try and resolve the issues in the emails. However, not only was the offer rejected – the claim was made that such meetings were not permitted under the rules of establishment. JP consequently consulted with Vincent McCulloch, ERC Community Liaison Officer, to seek guidance. VMcC attended the meeting and stated that there was nothing in the rules of establishment regarding such meetings. He saw no objection to groups of CC members meeting informally to discuss issues, as long as any significant matters were brought back to full CC meetings for decisions to be made.

JP then proposed that the CC officers (Chair, Depute Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) should be constituted as a group to consider issues arising from members, residents, ERC and other bodies, and formulate responses that would then be put to full CC meetings. This was agreed.

Matters were raised in relation to posts on social media on the topic of overflowing bins. All three Councillors responded to the email from the Chair.

VMcC – due to the sensitivity to add comments on social media, permission is to be obtained from our ward councillors prior to adding anything on social media with regards to them.

Secretary's Report

Welcome to Allan Steele on becoming an Associate member.

Treasurer's Report

£499.19 is credited into the bank account. Continuing to follow bank's process for new signatories to be registered – TH cannot obtain information. The Chair and Treasurer will be visiting the bank together as the chair is already registered with the bank. At the moment no bank statements have been received.

Matters Arising from Minutes

Eastwoodhill House – preplanning consultation

Planning application withdrawn by applicants. Consultation on revised application to be held at Orchard Park on 24th March as first stage of the planning process. Based on the papers that were presented, the original application did not go ahead due to the number of flats built and the environmental impact. Residents who are interested are welcome to attend this consultation. 3 or 4 of CC's should be attending too.

BC – traffic lights will be included in the new proposal.

Comments were made in relation to lack of paving. One of the objections made was people being able to see into neighbouring houses due to the height of the flats.

Contaminated lands Register – Braidbar Quarry (BQ)

Emails were sent to the Director of Environment as to why the quarry is not listed on the contaminated land register. All CC's had consensus that we require further clarification in relation to the response received. A thought of perhaps engaging with the Director and perhaps invite the Director of Environment to attend one of our meetings would be of avail for our community

DL - How important is it to be registered?

JP – there are funds associated with registration which can be applied for (around £18 million from Scottish Government). Cost for the remediation of the quarry is in the region of 20 plus million pounds.

AT – Council say it is contained and they should have an obligation to test that the contamination is contained.

CCLr Wallace – Director of Environment said that Advance Construction are waiting on a SEPA report. Cllr GW will obtain clarification to what extent the investigation has been completed before the planning.

CB – this is an important issue for the potential danger of the quarry – we are not serving community if we don't carry this forward.

It is agreed that ongoing dialogue should be continued in relation to the quarry.

Community Liaison

JP – subgroup was set up to look at issue of how we communicate with the public.

AT – Subgroup had a meeting for couple of hours where it was agreed that we should communicate effectively with all residents and those who are in most need. Moving on currently – we need to assess the ability; we are not trying to achieve something that is not achievable. We can be a catalyst of change, how do we become a catalyst and how we do this, especially with the finance available to us. Our options are Website, Twitter, Facebook, each one has a different source of requirement. It was agreed that we need to know who we are trying to communicate with and whom. What age group are we targeting.

AS – we have vulnerable people that don't use website. People with special needs are also to be considered. We have an obligation to communicate with all people and we are not short of manpower to produce leaflets and do presentations.

It was agreed a lot of commitment is required and that we do need to start from somewhere. It was agreed that Facebook is somewhere where we can commence to build an audience. The purpose of community engagement is to get the community together, create a community and also be a part of that community.

VMcC – will find out from the Council in relation to what training they can provide to the CC's to set source of communication.

JP – Can council assist us with setting up FB technically, then we can look at other issues of marketing and how we engage. Also, what help can ERC provide in relation to costing, can we have a grant for the set up of such forms such as Facebook and website.

VMcC – will check in relation to grants

It was agreed to find out first what ERC can assist with in terms of training and funding and then we can communicate what our next options are.

Community representation

4 planning applications submitted - all concerning extensions of private houses

Community Action

Community Hub - have an open meeting in the library room. Invite parties to just converse on what level of interest there is in the hub. Had an enquiry to look at possible dates. Should we go ahead with VAER – JP to pursue this.

Community support

Overflowing bins on Fenwick Road

Cllr Merrick – how many reports have been submitted.

BC – what is the schedule in the cleansing department. Cllr Merrick saw bins being uplifted on Saturday.

Cllr Wallace– there doesn't appear to be adequate bins, he has arranged for there to be an additional recycle bin in front of the Sainsburys area.

MP – poor design of bins.

AS – need bigger bins.

Cllr Merrick – you need to understand there is a resource issue. There are issues if food is tumbling out, will have more issues such as rat. But there is significant cost in providing a bin. Every council has significant budget issues. Not just simple to put pictures up on Twitter or Facebook. There are underlying issues of resourcing.

Cllr Wallace – the bins are uplifted twice on Friday and then on Sunday.

JP – monitor the overflowing matter now that extra bins are provided.

Community Communication

AT– were the headings helpful, whether we need all 5 headings or break it down to 3. Put this on agenda on March meeting.

JP – various ways to communicate and brainstorm on social media.

VMcC – we talk about youths a lot, young people have attended GCC to give their views.

DL –have someone from school to be a member of GCC as it may be useful.

VM – to be a voting member need to be 16 and over. There may be implications for someone under 16. People who are under 16 are not on voters' role,

AS – in terms of engaging with young people, we have head boys and head girls – how about approaching those to be a type of member so they can present thoughts from the youth.

VMcC – think we have a youth group – young folks already dealing with politics and environmental issues, there are young people already there. They may have connections in school. Can invite them when it is suitable on the agenda.

Questions from The Floor

CW – story in Herald – regarding the allotment area in Eastwood Park being used to build a parking lot.

Cllr Merrick – no decision has been finalised. There will be planning application to be submitted.

Cllr Fletcher – working group has not met. Matter is in early stages, no decision made to lose the allotment

AOCB

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting - Monday March 16th at 7.00p.m. in Giffnock Library.