

Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 18th March 2019

Present: Douglas Lawson (DL – Chair), Jack Powell (JP), Maureen Powell (MP), Bill Crawford (BC), Janey Floyd (JF), Alex Mackie (AM), Ian Lang (IL), Richard Louden (RL), Cindy Berry (CB)

In attendance: Cllr Gordon Wallace, Cllr Jim Fletcher, Cllr Com Merrick. One member of the public.

Apologies for absence: Jim McCann, Caroline Wilkinson

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 18th February 2019 were approved with a couple of minor amendments by Richard Louden and Alex Mackie.

Chair's opening

DL welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

Police report

Officer Raymond Jeffries (RJ) attended the meeting. A police report for the period 11th February to 10th March had previously been circulated.

The incident of attempted car theft occurred on 11th February, not 11th March.

RJ stated that car thieves tended to be active in the early morning hours, looking for cars that have been left unlocked, a practice that is surprisingly common on the part of car owners.

JP referred to an earlier police alert, published by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, concerning car thieves using electronic devices to read the details of electronic car keys. A method of preventing this is to keep such keys in a Faraday Bag, which can be purchased from various sources.

Membership matters

The meeting formally agreed to accept Cindy Berry as a co-opted member of the community council.

Chair, Secretary and Treasurer's Reports

There were no reports under these headings .

Matters arising from Minutes

Braidbar Quarry – Letters to MSPs

A reply had been received from Jackson Carlaw, applauding the community council 'for seeking and progressing imaginative solutions for the potential future use of the site.' No reply as yet from Aileen Campbell – reminder letter to be sent.

Community Council Profile

JP is still working on the questionnaire regarding Braidbar Quarry and Eastwood Leisure Centre – hoping to have it ready for sending out via Facebook/Twitter Etc. in the near future.

Traffic monitoring on local roads

Cllr Wallace reported that he had been informed by the roads department that the traffic monitoring currently taking place was part of a periodic process and had nothing to do with any moves to develop the quarry.

Community Councils Network Meeting

BC, CB and JF attended the Network Meeting. The Youth Forum presentation was interesting and consideration could possibly be given to inviting them to give a presentation to GCC.

The elections for community councils will take place from 1st – 28th August and existing community councils will be disbanded on 28th August.

There was rumbling frustration on the part of attendees at the meeting regarding ERC's lack of engagement with community councils. Vincent McCulloch is to produce a paper regarding this issue.

ERC procedure for making participation requests

JP reported that he had become aware of a procedure, instituted by the Scottish Government, whereby local groups could formally make a participation request to ERC. He had extracted information from the ERC Website and circulated this previously. It was agreed that a sub-group should be formed to look into this process further. JP CB RL agreed to form the sub-group. Kirsty Duncan from Friends of Huntly Park also agreed to take part.

Eastwood Leisure Centre

Questions were asked whether there had been any progress regarding a new consultation process concerning the leisure centre. Councillors responded that there were no developments. JP reported that an email had been received from Edward Cahill in response to a question about whether the community council would be consulted regarding the leisure centre. In it, he stated that, in engaging new consultants *'it is not a consultation process. The consultants will simply provide me with their recommendations.'*

Emails to councillors

Further to the issue raised at the previous meeting, Cllr Fletcher stated that Councillors are not obliged to respond to emails sent to them personally. The proper channel for making complaints is via the facility for this purpose on the Council's website.

Planning/Licensing Issues

Giffnock Tennis Club - Major licensing variation application

MP reported that a major licensing application had been submitted by Giffnock Tennis Club. It was agreed to publicise the application on social media, to give residents the information in case they wished to make any comments/objections.

ERC Budget 2019/20

The details of ERC's proposed budget had recently been published. Concerns were expressed that the details of major capital expenditure over the next 8 years made no mention of Giffnock. Cllr Fletcher stated that Giffnock already had sufficient nursery facilities, with nurseries in both Giffnock and Braidbar Primary schools.

DL asked about the proposed spending on improved digital services, expressing concern that more elderly residents could be disadvantaged through being denied more traditional methods of communicating/ making payments etc. The Councillors stated that the improvements, aimed at both staff and residents, did not preclude existing methods of dealing with the council.

DL also asked about the £100k Community Choices programme – how would this be operated? The Councillors stated that community groups would need to apply for funding, but that groups did not need to be formally constituted.

Questions from the floor

AM raised the issue of potholes on Broomley Lane. When these were filled with water they were hazardous to both pedestrians and cyclists. In raising the issue with ERC, the Council had accepted responsibility for repairing a wooden footbridge, but as the lane is privately owned, responsibility rested with the residents responsible.

It was agreed to investigate the possibility of applying for a grant from appropriate charities as a means of facilitating repairing the potholes.

AOCB

In the light of the forthcoming community council elections, it was agreed to postpone the AGM until the June meeting, which would be the last meeting of the existing community council. JP to consult with Vincent McCulloch regarding this.

Date of next meeting

Monday April 15th at 7.00p.m. in Giffnock Library

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.