

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 20th May 2019

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

In attendance: Cllr Gordon Wallace, Cllr Jim Fletcher, Ten members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Caroline Wilkinson, Richard Loudon, , Cllr Colm Merrick

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 15th April 2019 were approved By Alex Mackie and Janey Floyd with one small amendment.

Chair's opening

DL welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

Police report

Officer Andy Wilson attended the meeting. A police report for the period 11th April to 15th May had previously been circulated.

JP asked about the increased incidence of break-ins recorded in the report. AW stated that a professional criminal gang have been operating in the area – they have also been targeting North Lanarkshire. A national arrest warrant is being issued, and arrests for vandalising business premises will take place shortly.

In response to a question about cyclists cycling abreast on public roads, AW stated that there are no rules preventing this nor limiting the number who can cycle abreast.

Re-election of community councils

Vincent McCulloch attended the meeting and gave information about the forthcoming community council elections. Nomination forms must be completed by the 28th August. JP undertook to collect completed forms from existing members who wished to be re-elected at the June meeting.

Chair's Report

DL stated that both he and JP had attended Jackson Carlaw's surgery on 17th May. JC indicated that he was investigating the possibility of national funding for remediating the quarry, and that he was also considering holding a public meeting at some point.

Secretary's Report

JP stated that the community council's website is currently down, due to a problem with the domain name. It is unlikely to be fixed for about another month.

Matters arising from Minutes

Braidbar Quarry – Letters to MSPs

A reply has finally been received from Aileen Campbell, indicating that the Scottish Government would not be able to provide assistance to East Renfrewshire Council to remediate the quarry.

Community Council Profile

JP stated that the results of the questionnaire regarding the quarry had been published in the Extra and online on the Glasgow Live site.

In conducting the online survey and publishing the results, the community council had fulfilled its role of engaging with the community and seeking their views. It was now up to ERC to take on board the findings and factor them

into their deliberations regarding the quarry.

Cllr Fletcher reiterated that ERC cannot afford to remediate the quarry, which is why they have entered into discussions with Advance Construction (Scotland). He also stated that, in order to fulfil the requirement, imposed on the Council by the Scottish Government, to build in excess of 4000 new houses, the council would likely have to look at using some areas of existing green space. An all-party committee would be formed to consider this.

JP asked if there was any idea when Advance Construction would produce a report on remediation of the quarry and if any such report would be made available to the public. Cllr Fletcher was unable to give any information regarding timescale, but did indicate that any report would be published on the ERC website.

ERC Participation Requests procedure

JP reported that it had been decided not to pursue a participation request regarding the quarry at this stage as it would almost certainly be rejected.

Extent of Huntly Park

Cllr Wallace reported that he has asked questions about the area of Huntly Park the ERC was seeking to protect and had received a verbal assurance that the area included the northern playing fields and the dog walking area.

Participatory Budgeting

DL asked about the recent participatory budgeting exercise and why organisations in Giffnock were not given the opportunity to bid. The reason given by ERC is that the scheme is aimed at more deprived areas, However, the assumption that members/parents etc. can afford to pay for the kinds of facilities that the fund covers in areas that are perceived to be more affluent is questionable.

DL also asked about Scottish Government proposals to give local communities the powers to decide on 1% of local authority spending. The Cllrs present said they were unaware of any such initiative.

Planning/Licensing Issues

Cherry Tree restaurant/Wine bar

MP reported that a retrospective planning application had been submitted by the Cherry Tree restaurant/Wine bar. regarding retractable awnings to cover the outdoors seating area; the insulation of outside heaters and speakers and the erection of fencing in an area of Orchard Park. Objections had been submitted by some Orchard Park residents concerning the sealing off of an area of Orchard Park, causing problems for wheelchair users and pedestrians and also causing issues regarding vehicles delivering and picking up materials. It was agreed that the Community Council should submit an objection supporting the residents' objections.

Questions from the floor

A number of residents from Woodvale Avenue attended the meeting, following a fatal accident on Ayr Road. Strong representations were made about the speed of traffic on Ayr Road and about the speed of cars coming along Woodvale Avenue onto Ayr Road and the threat this poses to pedestrians, particularly school age children attempting to cross Ayr Road opposite the avenue. Specifically, the residents asked for a 30mph speed limit to be introduced on the section of Ayr road, south of Eastwood Toll; for a pedestrian crossing to be installed allowing access to the bus stop on Ayr Road opposite Woodvale Avenue, and for traffic calming measures to be put in place to control the speed of traffic on Woodvale Avenue. A spokesperson for the group stated that meetings had been held with police and officers from the Roads section of ERC. However, it was felt that a four way meeting involving Police, Roads, Residents and Ward Councillors was required to work out a satisfactory solution to the problems. The Cllrs present expressed sympathy for the residents' concerns and Cllr Wallace undertook to arrange a meeting of all groups.

Pothole repairs

DL raised an issue of pothole repairs. Such repairs are felt to be of a poor quality – did roads department send out inspectors to look at the quality of repairs? Possibly invite representatives from roads to attend a future meeting.

New fencing round Braidbar Quarry

£100,000 spending was agreed for this at the full Council meeting on 31st October – when will this work be carried out? Perhaps this needs to be chased up.

AOCB

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting (including AGM)

Monday June 17th at 7.00p.m. in Giffnock Library

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.