

Crookfur Greenfarm and Mearns Village Community Council

9 August 2018

In Attendance

James Kerrigan - Chair
Bryson McNeil
John O'Brien
Karen Armstrong - Secretary
Cllr Charlie Gilbert

Apologies

Gargi Singla

Non Attendance

Various Local Councillors

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting

Although a meeting took place on 14th June 2018 - due to a lack of community council members in attendance no minutes were taken. It was noted that this was not normal practice and members would do their best to ensure this does not arise again.

2. Drug Related Deaths in Mearns Village

A group of local residents attended the meeting with a focus on recent drug related deaths in their community. Residents were extremely upset that two young local men had lost their lives, a mother had lost her sons and yet there were no local councillors (except for Cllr Gilbert) and not the usual police attendance. Local residents wanted answers to what had happened and what the Council and the Police were doing to ensure residents were kept updated on what had happened and what was being done to ensure they were safe and secure.

There were a number of issues raised:

Housing

Residents wanted to know why local people had to wait for up to 7 years to secure housing in the Village however there was an influx of anti-social residents being housed in Newton Mearns from out with the area. There were also issues with landlord practices and residents wanted to know what action the Council were taken to address anti-social and drug related issues, ERC can use enforcement powers to address this.

A dis-proportionate number of anti-social/drug users are being housed in the Village and residents would like to know both the numbers and why.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Residents gave numerous instances of anti-social behaviour throughout the day and night in Mearns Village. Residents who have lived in the area for up to 42 years have never felt so threatened, scared and un-secure in their own homes and on their own streets. Examples were given of elderly residents being asked for money on the street and in their own homes. Full scale incidents were being seen during the day and the Police were constantly having to attend various incidents.

Residents felt that these issues have been brewing for a number of years with very little input from ERC to listen to and address the issues.

It was distressing to hear from residents about the situation that they find themselves in,

Residents asked if local Councillors who were not in attendance tonight were even aware of the situation in Mearns Village. There had been very little press coverage - instead the press and elected officials were focusing on an incident which took place in Clarkston.

Policing

Residents were also upset that the Police were not in attendance at this meeting. Usual practice is that local police attend and update on police matters. No-one was in attendance and the Chair had not been updated on their non-attendance. One resident mentioned that he had visited Giffnock Police Station earlier this week and it was closed at 6.50 pm. Residents wanted to know why this was the case. Residents felt that it was now time for the Police and local Councillors to take action to protect local residents, especially the elderly and with the schools about to return and many children walking to Mearns Primary School through Mearns Village action was required urgently.

Residents also felt that the Police should have been providing local residents with up to date information to make them feel safe in their own homes and to let them know that it was safe to go about their normal business - too date nothing of this nature had happened.

The Need for Security Cameras

Those in attendance felt that it was now time for the installation of security cameras in Mearns Village. Local residents had previously asked for this but were told that it was not warranted - surely now with two young men losing their lives it was time to re-think this strategy.

Local residents have been stating the case for security cameras for a long period of time - 20 years!

Action - Cllr Gilbert to chase up the camera issue with the Police as a matter of urgency

GRIP Meeting (Greater Results in Partnership)

A resident asked when the last GRIP meeting took place - surely one should have taken place in view of this incident. Local residents would also like to see minutes of this meeting,

Call for a Special Community Council Meeting

Residents felt that it was imperative that a special meeting should be called so that local Cllrs, Police, Council Leader, local MSP and MPs, specific policy leads such as Education and Housing should be in attendance to answer questions and update residents.

The Chair stated that he would invite all of the above asap, He asked for contact details of key residents so that he could update them with information as it emerges.

Residents felt that the recent incident was a tipping point and that the issues needed to be addressed by both the Council and Police asap before any more lives are lost.

Action - Chair to invite those mentioned above to attend an additional special meeting to address the issue of Mearns Village, especially around the recent deaths, housing, education, safety and security.

Residents were also advised to invite local and national press to raise awareness of the issue.

Use Water Wisely

ERC had issued advice to residents to ensure they use water wisely - as it has been a dry summer. The weather forecast is set for rain so this may no longer be a relevant piece of advice

3. **Open Government Action Plan**

The Chair stated that he is attending a meeting on 13 August in relation to the above. He will report back with any further information.

4. **Play Park**

A request had been made by a community councillor to look into how a play park could be installed in the green space in Kintyre Crescent and Davar Place. Residents stated that there were many local parks in a state of severe disrepair and that the Council should spend money upgrading these before any consideration should be given to installing new ones..

As a community councillor who was not in attendance had made the request it was felt this item should be deferred until the next meeting.

5. **Condition 10 - deferred**

It was noted that Cllr Swift was supposed to be in attendance to update the meeting on the Biogas plant. He had however not attended the meeting therefore no update was given.

12 August 2018