

Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library
Date: Monday 16th April 2018

Present: Douglas Lawson (DL- Chair), Jack Powell (JP), Jim McCann (JMCC), Maureen Powell (MP), Janey Floyd (JF), Bill Crawford (BC), Ian Lang (IL), Richard Loudon (RL)

In Attendance: Cllr Jim Fletcher, Cllr Gordon Wallace

Apologies for absence: Caroline Wilkinson, Cllr Colm Merrick

Police Report

A crime statistics report for the period 15th March to 11th April had been previously circulated. The incidences of housebreaking were noted. The report stressed the need for continuing vigilance and for reporting any incidences of suspicious behaviour

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th March were approved.

Proposed: Bill Crawford Seconded: Ian Lang

Chair's Report

Issues would be covered under specific headings later in the agenda.

Secretary's Report

2 people have expressed interest in joining the community council – JP to follow up.

Treasurer's Report

Nothing further to the report in the AGM

Matters arising from minutes

Roads

A paper from the ERC Cabinet meeting held on 23rd March outlining the proposed expenditure on maintenance and improvement of roads had previously been circulated. This included a list of suggested locations for revenue expenditure on improvements, the total estimated value being approximately £2.5million. However, only 600K is available.

JP asked how decisions about which roads would be done would be made. Cllr Wallace stated that a public consultation similar to the one conducted in the previous year would be used. DL stated that concerns about this kind of process had been raised at previous meetings, as the decision on a very subjective issue was being made on extremely low voting

It was generally felt that any public consultation needed to be properly publicised.

VA-ER Conversation Café

No communication had been received from VA-ER about a follow up meeting.

Report on meeting with J Sneddon

DL, JP and JMCC had attended a meeting with Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic & Partnership Services, on 9th April to discuss the possibility of having a community information facility in Giffnock Library.

It was felt that the meeting had been constructive. Mr Sneddon had agreed to send out an email on behalf of GCC to all voluntary and third sector organisations active in Giffnock to ask for information about their activities and to seek their co-operation in developing links within the community. Andy McReavy, Head of the Leisure Trust would need to be consulted about having facilities in Giffnock Library, possibly based in the Local History section of the library. Mr Sneddon also confirmed that ERC Staff can support training to

expand the use of social media and undertook that an appropriate officer will contact the community council to progress.

JP to follow up by sending J Sneddon information for circulation to all active groups – also contact Andy McReavy.

The idea of establishing a sub-group to progress this initiative was mooted.

Plans for the year ahead

An informal meeting had been held on 6th April to discuss what things GCC should focus on in the coming year. There was general agreement that the perceived lack of co-operation from ERC is proving extremely frustrating – unwillingness to provide information when requested – parrying complaints etc.

There was also general agreement that GCC needs to select issues/activities where some positive result can be achieved. Possible areas to focus on:-

- Neighbourhood watch – invite them to do a presentation to the community council – advertise this to the local community – possibly do the same with other agencies e.g. trading standards, citizens advice bureau, etc.
- Liaising with other community councils to seek out areas of common interest, and to see if, by operating jointly, we can exert more leverage on ERC.
- Seeking out projects that are manageable and can bring about positive benefits to the community (as per defibrillator project last year – one suggestion is provision of dog park areas at Woodfarm and possibly Huntly Park – other suggestions welcome from members.)
- Simply keeping a watching brief on major local issues – Braidbar Quarry/Local business closures.

BC raised the idea of creating dog park areas in both Woodfarm and Huntly Park. Cllr Fletcher stated that dog fouling in such areas could be an issue, ERC does not provide bins specifically for this purpose. The issue would need to be raised with the parks department. BC to follow up on this.

DL asked for any other ideas to be forwarded to the secretary.

It was agreed that GCC would not have a presence at this year's vintage car rally.

Questions from the floor

RL asked about the capacity of schools, particularly St Ninians, to cope with increasing demand for places. Cllr Fletcher stated that pupil numbers are monitored and can be dealt with in the short term. Any 'spike' in pupil numbers would likely be dealt with by providing huts. Rumours regarding transporting pupils to other schools were entirely without foundation. Should any issues arise, e.g. through house building programmes, that would significantly increase pupil numbers, then ERC would go to the Scottish Government.

There is no word, as yet, concerning the consultation process regarding the options for the swimming pool.

AOCB

JP raised the issue of the new rules concerning data protection that come into force on 25th May. The facility that GCC uses to maintain its mailing list (hootsuite) does not have an option for people to opt-in to the list. If a solution can't be found GCC might have to delete its list of contacts.

Date of next meeting

Monday 21st May 2018