

Minute of Meeting
Broom Kirkhill & Mearns Kirk Community Council
4th October 7pm at Mearns Castle High School

MEETING OF	Broom, Kirkhill, Mearns Kirk, Community Council	
HELD ON	Thursday 4 th October 2017 @ 7pm in Mearns Castle High School	
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
RECORDING OF MEMBERS PRESENT	<p>An attendance sheet was circulated.</p> <p>In attendance: Will Maxwell (Chairperson), Doug Pitt (Vice Chairperson), Janet Olverman (Secretary), Ron Gimby, Gordon Muirhead, Jane Royston</p> <p>Also present:</p> <p>Cllr Jim Swift</p> <p>The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
APOLOGIES	Cllr. Barbara Grant, Cllr. Caroline Bamforth, Zhada Robertson, Bev Brown, Cllr Jim McLean	
ITEM DISCUSSED		Action Points
MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING	<p>There were a couple of small amendments to the Minute of the BK&MCC meeting dated 14TH September:</p> <p>Page 4 Russell should have 2 l's</p> <p>Page 6 "the enquiry should be made as to who is responsible overall"</p> <p>The Minute was proposed by Will Maxwell and seconded by Doug Pitt and approved by the committee</p>	
POLICE REPORT	<p>Two Police officers addressed the meeting and gave the report for the BK&MCC area for the period 1st September to 30th September 2017:</p> <p>A copy of the full report is available on our Facebook page</p> <p>Assault & Violent Crime No serious or common assaults have been recorded in your community during September.</p> <p>Drug Dealing & Drug Use No drugs offences have been recorded in your area during September.</p> <p>Drunk or Disorderly Behaviour Vandalism to two cars has been recorded. On the 7th September, the rear window of a car was smashed in the driveway of a house in Hillcrest Drive, Newton Mearns. Then between the 9th and 11th September the wing mirror of a car, parked on Broomfield Avenue, Newton Mearns, was damaged. No perpetrators of these crimes have been identified as yet.</p>	

	<p>Housebreaking & Other Theft</p> <p>No housebreakings have been recorded in your community council area during the month of September.</p> <p>On the afternoon of 2nd September a set of ladders were stolen from a garden in Laigh Road, Newton Mearns.</p> <p>During the early hours of 7th September an attempt was made to break into a 4x4 vehicle parked in Lochbroom Drive, Newton Mearns, nothing was stolen, but damage was caused to the vehicle.</p> <p>On the evening of 29th September a resident in Erskine Road, Newton Mearns returned home and disturbed 2 males in the garden of their house. The males fled. This crime is being investigated as part of a larger enquiry into a number of housebreakings and associated crimes which have occurred in the wider East Renfrewshire area.</p> <p>The Officers advised everyone to remain vigilant as sneak in thefts remain a problem. Remember to secure doors, windows and vehicles at all times.</p> <p>Our officers continue to carry out proactive patrols in your area to prevent crime. This often involves stopping and checking details of drivers and vehicles. In September, 2 drivers in your Community Council area have been charged with driving without insurance by officers carrying out these types of checks.</p> <p>Jane Royston enquired about the reported problems with youths at the Broom Shops.</p> <p>The officers advised that every weekend police are patrolling the area. The antisocial behaviour tends to lessen over the winter with the darker evenings.</p>	
<p>RESIGNATION OF TREASURER</p>	<p>The Chairperson advised that the Treasurer, Elisabeth Jones has resigned from the Community Council and thanked her for her valuable contribution in setting up the Community Council.</p>	
<p>APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT TREASURER</p>	<p>Jane Royston put her name forward as Treasurer of the BK&MCC. This was proposed by Will Maxwell and Seconded by Doug Pitt and unanimously approved by the Committee.</p>	
<p>PUBLICITY</p>	<p>The Chairperson advised that Bev Brown was going to put notices of our meetings into the papers, but unfortunately she is unwell and had been unable to do this for the current meeting.</p> <p>Suggestions were made for alternative methods of advertising our meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's on East Renfrewshire – notices will have to be placed every month the week prior to meeting. • Mearns Library notice board • Community Council notice Board 	

	<p>An appeal was made for a volunteer to take on this responsibility.</p> <p>A notice to be placed on our Facebook page.</p> <p>Gordon Muirhead – publicity</p> <p>Regarding advertising on East Renfrewshire Council’s own vehicles.</p> <p>Gordon Muirhead advised that he has been researching other ways of funding road repairs other than from the education budget. He is going to investigate and present his findings at our next meeting.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised that The Herald suggested there is funding available for providing extra care for disabled people.</p>	
<p>SPSO REFERRAL</p>	<p>Doug Pitt highlighted sections of the complaints form:</p> <p>The SPSO say they cannot change a decision that has been made properly. If they discover the council has followed the correct procedure they cannot overturn the decision. The Ombudsman’s role is focussed on investigating maladministration, they will investigate the way the decision was made.</p> <p>Doug Pitt requested committee members to forward him their suggestions of questions we should be asking the Ombudsman and what we hope to achieve from the process. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happened? • Why are we complaining? • Why are things not resolved after complaining? • What will put things right? <p>We will be required to send them copies of the documentation submitted to ERC along with their response.</p> <p>We can complain if we feel that ERC have not behaved in a fair and correct manner.</p> <p>The Chairperson commented that ERC are obviously failing to take steps to prevent flooding.</p> <p>We do not feel they have taken a precautionary approach.</p> <p>They have not been transparent, important information was not placed on the planning website, like the objection from SEPA.</p> <p>Doug Pitt explained that any complaint cannot come directly from the BK&MCC as we are a public body. It will have to come from an individual, but there are at least 3 persons willing to put their names forward so that we can</p>	

act on their behalf.

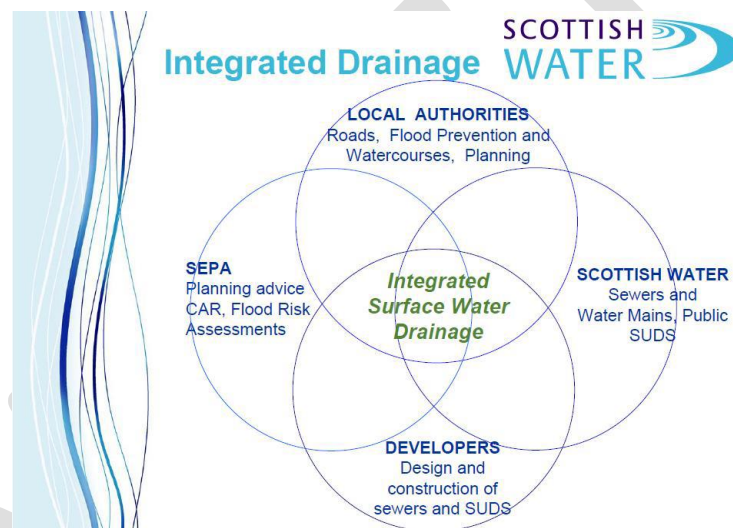
Gordon Muirhead asked if these questions could be emailed to the CC for review.

CLlr. Swift advised that the BKMCC submission to the Ombudsman should focus on detail and facts.

Ron Gimby stated it's not good for public perception that East Renfrewshire Council used the same company as the developers for the Drainage Impact Assessment.

There are a whole number of issues regarding 'the precautionary approach' which may be challenged.

In particular the multi-organisational context in which these decisions are made as indicated below (courtesy of Dr Michael Bradman) where four different bodies participate.



Stating that ERC are the flood prevention authority is correct, but in our opinion, ERC appears to delegate this responsibility to Scottish Water. It is felt that there is no single authority, whether answerable to public questions and comments or not, that has final responsibility to justify planning decisions.

It was noted that Scottish water still has to receive an application from the developers requesting permission to connect the Maidenhill development to the sewage system when each developer has to submit a planning application to Scottish Water, and where ERC has no remit.

Doug Pitt to email CC members for comments.

We were advised that the SPSO have a backlog of complaints at the moment so any response from them may take a while.

<p>PLANNING ISSUES</p>	<p>Planning issues</p> <p>Proposed 4G mast at Broom Road East Street Works (CTIL Ref 147183 VF 75816 Broom Road East Street Works)</p> <p>The Chairperson gave an overview of the site of this new proposed mast.</p> <p>The mast will be 52ft tall and sited with 2 large boxes near the Co-op in Broom Road East.</p> <p>It was proposed that we accept this application.</p> <p>The Secretary and Chair to write and confirm.</p>	
<p>NORTH DRUMBOY QUARRY</p>	<p>Letter from East Ayrshire Council to participate in site visit to North Drumboy Quarry, 1st November 2017</p> <p>In relation to the quarry being reinstated and stone being cut to be used commercially. Two members of the Community Council have been invited for a site visit.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised that the quarry will operate 7am-7pm Monday to Friday and there will be an increase in heavy vehicles using the A77 during this time. We were also asked to consider the impact of extra heavy traffic accessing the biogas plant.</p> <p>We were advised that planning permission has been granted for up to 16 years.</p> <p>Doug Pitt offered to accompany Will Maxwell on this visit.</p>	
<p>SHAWWOD GREEN SPACE</p>	<p>Report from Doug Pitt</p> <p>Doug reported that on 26th September he attended a site visit to the Shawwood Green Space with Rob Jones and John Shelton.</p> <p>He's waiting for a response from John Shelton with regard to funding suggestions in case we want to move forward with the wildlife regeneration and enhancement of this area.</p> <p>Local residents had been consulted for suggestions.</p> <p>The area between the new trees and path can be seeded with wild flowers.</p> <p>We were advised that the middle of this area is very wet and there is flooding at the northern margin which is very boggy.</p> <p>John Shelton has suggested to widen the mowing margin at the northern end to allow more growth of local, native</p>	

	<p>flora.</p> <p>There is a strong feeling that Shawwood Green Space should remain an open area so children can play football and to provide an open space for dog walkers and their animals that utilise this area.</p> <p>Planting extra trees to break up the area is though not to be a good idea.</p> <p>We were reminded that there is no funding going to be forthcoming from ERC however it would be possible to liaise with the workers who maintain this area in order to allow the biodiversity to improve.</p> <p>John Shelton has asked if the CC could act as a liaison with ERC with regard to this project. The Chairperson supports this idea.</p>	
<p>SIGNAGE FOR NEW PARKING CHARGES AT THE AVENUE</p>	<p>Zhada Robertson is unavailable tonight but requested that the inadequate signage be addressed.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised that there are now signs at the entrance to the car parks. The charges are being collected by a Private company.</p> <p>He displayed photos of the signs and demonstrated where they are displayed.</p> <p>In the main car park, by ASDA, you can stay 4 hours free. The sign at the long stay car park is obscured by railings.</p> <p>The Chairperson explained the rules of parking on private land like supermarket carparks.</p> <p>If you park on land where signs are clearly displayed you must follow the rules as stated on the notices. If one fails to do so the landowner is within their rights to issue a parking ticket and exercise a fine.</p> <p>If you receive a ticket and consider it's unfair, i.e. there is no signage you are within your rights to complain.</p> <p>Jim Swift explained that recently there has been a case where someone was taken to court for non-payment of charges and they lost. He asked everyone to bear this in mind.</p> <p>There was general concern that the parking charges may affect footfall at the Avenue as free all day parking is available at Silverburn.</p>	
<p>BROOM PARK CLEAN UP</p>	<p>The Chairperson reported that Cllr. Swift and other people assembled in Broom park for a litter-pick.</p> <p>The clean-up had been organised by Cllr. Swift who</p>	

	<p>advised that there was less litter than the last time, but even so they collected at least 12 large black bin bags of rubbish.</p> <p>A member of the public enquired about street litter bins – could the CC make a representation to the Council and ask them to address this issue. All the bins in Broom Road East are full to overflowing. More regular emptying of bins is necessary.</p> <p>Janet Olverman asked Cllr. Swift if it would be possible to organise a clean-up of the Capelrig burn.</p> <p>Cllr Swift offered to ask a Council colleague who is responsible for addressing this issue.</p>	
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	<p>Planned nurseries for Newton Mearns</p> <p>Cllr. Swift provided photos of planned locations and advised that the Scottish Government is virtually doubling the hours of nursery or pre-school care available. It will therefore be essential that more nurseries are built.</p> <p>ERC have applied to the Scottish Government for funding.</p> <p>We were advised that ERC currently provide a higher ratio of teachers than average in our nurseries which costs more.</p> <p>However, going forwards, although children may receive more hours at nursery, with a lower ratio of teachers, the time may not be as productive.</p>	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	<p>The next meeting of BK&MCC will be on Thursday 9th November at 7pm in the Mearns Castle High School Conference Centre.</p>	

With there being no further business the Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

All at 7pm in Mearns Castle High School Conference Centre unless indicated otherwise

- Thursday 9th November 2017
- Thursday 7th December 2017 (Classroom)
- Thursday 11th January 2018
- Thursday 8th February 2018
- Thursday 8th March 2018
- Thursday 19th April 2018
- Thursday 10th May 2018 (AGM), Theatre
- Wednesday 6th June 2018