

**Minute of Meeting**  
**Broom Kirkhill Mearns Kirk Community Council**  
**8th February 2017 7.30pm at Mearns Castle High School**

<b>MEETING OF</b>	Broom, Kirkhill, Mearns Kirk, Community Council	
<b>HELD ON</b>	Wednesday 8th February 2017 @ 7.30pm in Mearns Castle High School	
<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>	<p>The inaugural meeting of Broom, Kirkhill and Mearns Kirk Community Council was initially Chaired by Vincent McCulloch, Community Council Liaison Officer.</p> <p>The Community Council Liaison Officer welcomed everyone to the meeting and started by apologising that although the Council had publicised the meeting as starting at 7.30pm the Extra had stated it would start at 8pm. In order to allow any public attending time to arrive, he suggested altering the agenda to cover those items which did not require public input.</p>	
<b>RECORDING OF MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<p>An attendance sheet was circulated</p> <p>Vincent McCulloch, Community Council Liaison Officer, Syed Mahdi Hasan, John Boyle, Jane Royston, Doug Pitt, Sheila Hadfield, William Maxwell, Ron Gimby, Robert Jones, Janet Olverman, Elisabeth Jones, Zhada Robertson, Gordon Muirhead</p> <p>Also present:</p> <p>Councillor Ian McAlpine</p> <p>Councillor Barbara Grant</p> <p>Councillor Jim Swift</p>	
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	There were no apologies	
<b>ITEM DISCUSSED</b>		<b>Action Points</b>
<b>REPORT ON SIGNATURES ON THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE</b>	<p>The Community Council Liaison officer reported that all 12 members were present and had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</p>	
<b>ELECTION OF OFFICERS</b>	<p><b>Chairperson</b></p> <p>William Maxwell was proposed by Doug Pitt as Chairperson and Jane Royston seconded the nomination.</p> <p>With no other nominations or objections William Maxwell was duly elected as Chairperson</p> <p><b>Secretary</b></p> <p>Janet Olverman was proposed as Secretary by Elisabeth Jones and Zhada Robertson seconded the proposal</p> <p>With no other nominations or objections Janet Olverman was</p>	

	<p>elected Secretary.</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p>Elisabeth Jones was nominated as Treasurer by William Maxwell and Ron Gimby seconded the proposal.</p> <p>With no other nominations or objections Elisabeth Jones was duly elected as Treasurer.</p> <p><b>Vice-Chairperson</b></p> <p>Doug Pitt was proposed by Sheila Hadfield as Vice-Chairperson and was seconded by Robert Jones.</p> <p>With no other nominations or objections Doug Pitt was elected as Vice-Chairperson.</p> <p>At this point control of the meeting was passed to the newly elected Chairperson William Maxwell.</p>	
<b>ADOPTION OF MODEL CONSTITUTION AND MODEL STANDING ORDERS</b>	<p>The Chairperson proposed that the Committee adopt the formal Constitution.</p> <p>This was seconded by Gordon Muirhead and agreed by the Committee.</p> <p>A copy of the Constitution was signed by two members of the committee.</p> <p>The Chairperson proposed that the Committee accepts the Model Standing Orders.</p> <p>This was seconded by Gordon Muirhead and agreed by the Committee.</p> <p>The Chairperson advised all attending that a copy of the Model Constitution and Model Standing Orders are available to view on the Council Website.</p>	
<b>APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS</b>	<p>The Chairperson proposed to appoint Robert Kerr, retired Chairman of French Duncan as the Independent Examiner of the Community Council's Accounts, this was seconded by John Boyle.</p> <p>With no other nominations or objections Robert Kerr was duly appointed as Independent Examiner of the Community Council's Accounts.</p>	
<b>INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	<p>The Chairperson invited the members of the Community Council to introduce themselves, giving a brief summary of their background and interests in the community.</p>	
<b>INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS</b>	<p>The Chairperson apologised to the members of the public and the Councillors that the timing of the meeting had been incorrectly advertised in the Extra.</p>	

The Chairperson invited each Councillor to briefly introduce themselves to the Community Council and members of the public.

Councillor Barbara Grant introduced herself as an East Renfrewshire Councillor. She mentioned the LDP2, which was out for consultation, that the timescale for responses is short. Cllr Grant suggested that with East Renfrewshire Council elections on 4th May, there will be no decisions made about the Local Development Plan until there is a new council in place after that date.

Cllr Grant tried to put everyone's minds at rest that the new Community Council's (CC) comments on the LDP will be accepted after the deadline, as she was certain that the Council officials will understand that the new Community Council should have a say in the matter, as planning is one of the issues within the CC remit.

Cllr Grant urged all present in the room to submit their comments individually.

The Chairperson pointed out that all the members of the Community Council had agreed to submit their comments individually and he had been advised that ERC that we could submit a group comment within 14 days of the deadline.

Gordon Muirhead enquired if the Councillors could advise what stage they are at in preparation of their budget. Cllr Grant advised the meeting was tomorrow (Thurs, 9<sup>th</sup> February).

Cllr McAlpine advised that the budget meeting is at 10am on the 9th in Council Chambers everyone is welcome to attend as it's a public meeting at which the budget will be finalised. He confirmed that they are going to increase the council tax by 3% but for band E to H properties while The Scottish Government has decided to increase it by 10 (for E), 11 (for F), 15 (for G) and 20% (for H) rated properties. Thus for H rated there will be a 23% increased Council Tax Charge.

Councillor Jim Swift proposed everyone submit comments regarding LDP2. He explained it's not just about Broom Park, there are another 1000+ houses proposed for East Renfrewshire, nearly all of which are in Newton Mearns, Waterfoot and Eaglesham. Cllr Swift stated that this would exceed the present allocated student role of St Ninian's. ERC would then be faced with two options, either spend £35m on a new High School or bus local children over to Barrhead to obtain a denominational education.

Cllr Swift also commented about the proposal to build on Greenspace next to Mearns Primary. He explained this is a 'drainage sump' and if built on this site would create additional flooding problems further downstream in Mearns Village. Cllr Swift stated that one of the key objectives of the Local Development plan is to protect Urban Green Space – it is not protected if it is built upon.

	<p>Cllr Grant clarified that those proposals are submitted by developers which doesn't meant the council will approve them. She emphasised that anyone can submit a proposal for any development but that doesn't mean it will become part of the development plan.</p> <p>Cllr Grant pointed out that we are not in control of our own destiny with regard to housing development. We are dictated to by the Scottish government and we have to come up with sites for x number of houses. If we don't suggest sites for development the SNP Government will dictate to us where we should build.</p> <p>Gordon Muirhead enquired of the Councillors - "The SNP had an underspend in their budget last year which they decided to give to Local Authorities for education. Can you confirm what percentage of this is going to East Renfrewshire Council?"</p> <p>Cllr Ian McAlpine said he didn't know the exact figures but some money will be passed onto head teachers in the budget finalised on the 9th February. He stated that East Renfrewshire wouldn't be receiving as much as other Local Authorities because the percentage is calculated based on the number of students in receipt of free school meals.</p>	
<p><b>COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b></p>	<p>The Chairperson invited comments by members of the public who wish to raise matters of interest for the Broom, Kirkhill &amp; Mearnskirk Community Council.</p> <p>Mr. Jesner commented on the poor acoustics of the room and asked if we could speak up. The Chairperson advised that he would liaise with Community Services and request a more suitable venue for future meetings.</p> <p>Cllr Grant asked the CC if they expected the public present to reside in the area and advised us that Mr Jesner doesn't live within the Broom, Kirkhill, Mearnskirk neighbourhood. However, it was noted that any member of the public may attend CC meetings.</p> <p>Mr Jesner suggested as a matter of urgency the Community Council should appoint a Planning Convener. He explained that the Community Council has two statutory duties to act as a Consultee on 1) planning and 2) licencing matters, and it's therefore important to convene a Planning sub-committee. He advised we should also appoint a licencing convener, although there would not very many occasions where this would be necessary.</p> <p>The Chairperson suggested the CC discuss in more detail after the meeting but Mr Jesner stated that the Scheme specifically says all meetings of the CC had to be held in public. Mr Jesner advised that when the old Community Council considered the new scheme proposed by ERC they were absolutely opposed to the fact they were unable to hold meetings in private but ERC</p>	<p>Chairperson</p>

	<p>forced the change on them and he stated that Cllr Grant was one of the Councillors who voted for this change.</p> <p>The Community Council Liaison officer explained that the CC had to hold their official meetings in public but it would be particularly onerous for the public to attend every planning or training meeting, as well as costly with regard to venue hire etc. He stated it's important that a Community Council can openly discuss various ideas without being under a high level of scrutiny. Once a plan of action has been established they should bring that to the public at a scheduled Community Council meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Grant agreed and stated that it was right that a newly formed Community Council should be able to form sub-committees to discuss ideas. Once they have formed a proposal then it would be appropriate to take that to a public meeting.</p> <p>A member of the public suggested calling it a sub-group not a Committee because in the guidelines any committee meeting has to be held in public and minuted.</p> <p>The Chairperson proposed forming a Planning Sub-Group to discuss these issues which will report to the next Community Council meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed by the Committee to form a Planning Sub-Group.</p> <p>There was discussion about the length of extension the Community Council would receive for submitting comments to the LDP. Ron Gimby suggested writing to Director of the Environment at ERC requesting an extension of 4 weeks.</p> <p><b>The Chairperson to action.</b></p>	Chairperson
<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	There was no other competent business.	
<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	The Chairperson confirmed the date and venue of the next meeting of the Broom, Kirkhill and Mearnskirk Community Council will be Wednesday 8th March at 7.30pm in Mearns Castle High School.	

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