

Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 15th May 2017

Present: Jim Martin (Chair), Jim McCann (JMcC), Maureen Powell (MP), Jack Powell (JP), Douglas Lawson (DL), Janey Floyd (JFlo), Ian Lang (IL), Caroline Wilkinson.(CW)

In Attendance: Cllr. Jim Fletcher (JF), PC David McLean, five members of the public.

ITEM ISSUE			ACTION
	POLICE REPORT:	<p>The police report had been received in advance. JP asked about the recent spate of burglaries reported over the last two months. PC McLean stated such spates often happened when habitual housebreakers were released from prison. With regard to the case where a housebreaker was disturbed by residents and subjected them to violence and abuse, PC McLean indicated that courts take into account whether offenders are violent when sentencing.</p> <p>The case of a 77 year old resident being assaulted was a road rage incident.</p> <p>DL asked about groups of youths being able to get round the fence and access Braidbar Quarry. JF indicated that an extended fence has recently been put up. Over Easter, groups of up to 50 youths had been accessing the quarry area.</p> <p>CHAIR highlighted the issue of cars parked on the pavement on both sides of Burnfield Road near the post office depot. PC McLean stated that police could only take action where vehicles were causing an obstruction. Definition of obstruction is unclear and open to interpretation.</p> <p>The increase in the incidence of people being apprehended for drug possession is a direct result of police pro-active action.</p> <p>The future of Giffnock Police Station is still unclear.</p>	
1.	CHAIRS OPENING:	Chair opened the meeting promptly and extended a warm welcome to everyone present.	
2.	APOLOGIES:	Hammad Khalid, Ian Leifer, Cllr Gordon Wallace	
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th April 2017 were agreed and accepted. These are to be forwarded for publication on the ERC website.</p> <p>Proposed: Maureen Powell Seconded: Ian Lang</p>	JP
4.	CHAIR'S REPORT:	<p>Chair reported that he had yet to meet the newly elected Cllr Colm Merrick</p> <p>He hoped for a better, more constructive relationship with the newly elected Council.</p> <p>The hub feasibility study was now in progress, with the Progress Initiation Document approved.. A lot of work requires to be done both by CC members and council officers</p>	

		in arranging contacts with various stakeholders. Report will hopefully completed in time for the June meeting	
5.	SECRETARY'S REPORT:	As the new secretary, JP stated that he intended to invite all members to submit agenda items for forthcoming meetings when circulating minutes for scrutiny. This would be linked to publicising the agenda on the website/facebook etc., and also to the production of newsletters.	JP
6.	TREASURER'S REPORT:	JMcC reported that he had received paperwork from JP. Setting up an account for the defibrillator appeal was in progress.. JP reported that the approved balance sheet and all the related receipts had been submitted to ERC in order to release the Administration Grant for 2017/18	JMcC
7.	COMMITTEE REPORTS:	<p>Police</p> <p>The potential closure of the police station means the future of police cover in Giffnock needs to be considered. The possibility of a combined emergency response centre involving both police and fire services has been mooted, but the future of Clarkston Fire Station is also uncertain. CW stated she had been involved in producing reports regarding police/fire co-operation, possibly in the new health centre. She felt that the closure of police and bank branches destroys the sense of community. JF indicated there was a possibility of a police presence in ERC Offices. Chair suggested that the local commander should be sounded out regarding these issues. DL agreed to investigate, but indicated that police policy was changing, with less police patrolling the streets.</p> <p>Health</p> <p><i>375 bus service</i></p> <p>The IJB are concerned about the money being spent on public bus subsidies and are surveying the ways that people get to the health centre. Some people have to take taxis as public transport is either not available or not suitable. JF stated he was not hopeful that the subsidy for the 375 bus service will continue. Newton Mearns CC are also lobbying regarding the continuation of this service, and also extending its route. It was agreed that there was a pressing need for better bus services along Eastwoodmains Road.</p> <p><i>Disabled access to Williamwood Station</i></p> <p>This is a Scotrail responsibility, not ERC. JF has raised issue through IJB – installation of a lift is costly. Chair reported that Disability Action are prepared to lobby on this issue.</p>	DL

		<p>Education</p> <p><i>Safety of school buildings</i> JMcC reported that a survey carried out in April 2017 by Professor John Coles identified a large number of Scottish PFI schools had construction defects. Since April 2017 an extra 71 schools in Scotland had been identified as having construction defects. He asked if schools in East Renfrewshire had been examined for safety. JF stated that £1million had been spent on Si Ninians and £100K on Mearns Primary to take care of structural issues. Other schools had been built by a different contractor and ERC's clerk of works had passed them as being safe. JMcC stated that, in respect of PPP schools, because of original builders going out of business, and contracts being sold on, the report had raised concerns about structural safety. It was agreed that GCC should write formally to ERC to seek written assurance that all schools in East Renfrewshire are structurally safe.</p> <p><i>School placements</i> JF reported that, while Giffnock and Braidbar primary schools were considerably under capacity, there were no proposals to close any schools. Catholic schools are operating at full capacity.</p> <p><i>Appointment of Head Teacher – OLM Primary school</i> The recent difficulty in appointing a head teacher was not due to a lack of applicants, but to the insistence on recruiting the right candidate while maintaining very high standards on the part of ERC education officers. While there are concerns about such pressures affecting staff morale, this is not reflected in absence/sickness rates, which are very good.. JF stated that the salary differential between HTs and AHTs possibly acted as a disincentive for applicants.</p> <p><i>HMI Inspections</i> No inspections have been carried out in ER schools for some considerable time. Recent education trends in Scotland are not good. JF stated that standards in ER schools are good, and he would welcome any inspections. This however is a Scottish Government responsibility.</p> <p><i>Curriculum for excellence</i> Chair stated that there are concerns that some school teachers are not carrying out the procedures that this project requires. A main objective of this initiative is to develop skills rather than simply acquire knowledge. Monitoring of this is a matter for school inspectors.</p>	
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		the Merrylee Shops. He agreed to construct a response.	
8.	WORKPLAN:	<i>Community Centre / Hub Feasibility Study</i> Covered under chairman's report	
9.	COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROFILE:	<p><i>Church Liaison</i> Chair reported that he and DL will meet with representatives of Orchardhill Parish Church on 24th May. The church is keen to work collaboratively on issues of common concern.</p> <p><i>Defibrillator Project</i> BC reported that about £1000 has been raised through crowdfunding. A separate bank account is being created to hold the funds raised for this project. Intention is to have a can collection at the Vintage Car Rally in September – BID team very supportive. Purchase of collection cans may be required for this – cost approx. £100. Nielston First Responders have considerable experience of purchasing and maintaining defibrillators, and are willing to provide assistance, also willing to provide training to local businesses. Estates staff in ERC need to be consulted re location of housing for the defibrillator – best location might be RBS site. The dental practice in Fenwick Road has a defibrillator, and both Mackies chemists and Morrison's are considering purchasing defibrillators. This however does not influence the need for a public access defibrillator, available 24/7.</p>	<p>Chair DL</p> <p>Working group</p>
10.	AOCB:	<p>BC reported that the area at the rugby pitches near the Woodfarm Playing fields had recently been fenced off and was no longer accessible for dog walkers. The access gate to the private road at Eglinton Drive also has a padlock on it. These restrictions have been initiated by local residents who are concerned about littering and dog fouling.</p> <p>The Leisure Trust is advertising for members of their board. Chair asked if a community member would be eligible? JF stated that all applicants are interviewed and that the board expects a considerable degree of expertise in relevant areas.</p>	
11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING:	Monday 19 th June 2017	All

Note 1.	
Note 2.	