

Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 16th January 2017

Present: Jim Martin (Chair), Caroline Wilkinson (CW), Bill Crawford (BC), James McCann (JMC), Douglas Lawson (DL), Janey Floyd, Ian Leifer, Ian Lang,

In Attendance: Cllr. Jim Fletcher, Cllr. Gordon Wallace, Constable Vere Berne, Police Scotland , Candy Millard CHCP and two local residents.

ITEM ISSUE		ACTION
	<p>POLICE REPORT:</p> <p>Chair welcomed Constable Vere Berne to his fist meeting and commended the prior release of the Police Report for December 2016 which had since been circulated to members. He advised him that GCC policy is to focus only on key matters of the report followed by review of any other relevant additional issues that might be raised at the meeting.</p> <p>Crime Prevention – Constable Vere Berne stated that crime in the area is low but highlighted the dangers involved in leaving cars unattended with their engines running while they ‘defrost’ also for householders to be constantly vigilant about securing premises.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the recurring cases of drug dealing and drug abuse locally particularly possession of cannabis. Members questioned if this was linked to the increased incidences of public drinking, youth disorder and vandalism/graffiti and the reported large gatherings of teenagers from other areas around the rail station and in the Huntly area at weekends.</p> <p>Chair asked about the effect of the proposed new code to curb stop and search powers which is to be rolled out in May. Constable Vere Berne advised that it will involve procedures to ensure that stop and search is carried out with fairness, integrity, respect and accountability.</p> <p>He went on to say that he was unaware of any plans to close Giffnock Police station. Cllr Fletcher agreed to find out about the ownership of the building.</p> <p>Chair expressed disappointment about the increased scale of cars parked on pavements obstructing access to bus stops particularly at the shops at Orchard Park Avenue.</p> <p>Appreciation was expressed to the Constable for his participation / input in the discussions.</p>	<p>Cllr Fletcher</p> <p>Police Scotland</p>
	<p>PRESENTATION</p> <p>Chair welcomed Candy Millard of CHCP. She said that she was primarily responding to concerns of elderly local residents about the future of the bus service to the new Health Centre. She started by outlining the main premise that in the relocation of medical practices to the new Centre it was considered that the majority of end users had access to their own transport. In response to concerns of some elderly residents and to help facilitate during the early ‘bedding – in’ stage using some temporary funding that became available</p>	

		<p>to provide a trial bus service serving the location points of the former medical practices up to the new Health Centre. The take up of this service has been low and due to the high costs involved the future of the service is now under review. There followed wide discussion about the need to increase publicity of the service with a wide range of suggestions which Candy agreed to consider before a final decision is made about the future of the service.</p> <p>Chair raised the current ‘crisis’ in the health service exacerbated by bed – blocking relating to problems with the provision of available community care. Candy was very assuring in advising that CHCP were able to respond to all requests arising in East Renfrewshire.</p> <p>Chair thanked Candy for coming along to the meeting and addressing the issues raised.</p>	
1.	CHAIRS OPENING:	Chair opened the meeting promptly and extended his best wishes to everyone for the New Year ahead. He welcomed the two local residents present.	
2.	APOLOGIES:	Jack Powell, Maureen Powell, Hammad Khalid, Charlie Dexter, Mark Hamilton and Cllr. Vincent Waters	
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 th December 2016 were agreed and accepted with minor amendments and these are to be forwarded for publication on the ER website. Proposed: Douglas Lawson Accepted: Bill Crawford	Secretary
4.	CHAIR’S REPORT:	<p>Chair referred to his closing report of 2016 about more involvement of the members. He was now proposing to get ‘organised’ for the year ahead in relation to our key objectives of; Health, Education, Environment and Community Engagement and to form the undernoted specific committee groups to help closer focus and to spread the load;</p> <p>Education – Jim McCann, Bill Crawford Environment, Roads & Planning – Maureen Powell, Ian Lang, Jack Powell Community Engagement – Douglas Lawson, Ian Leifer, Hammad Khalid, Janey Floyd and Caroline Wilkinson Website Development – Jack Powell, Hammad Khalid.</p>	ALL
5.	SECRETARY’S REPORT:	Updating of GCC contact information has been completed.	
6.	TREASURER’S REPORT:	Reimbursement of the Data Protection Registration fee is awaited from ERC,	
7.	COMMITTEE REPORTS:	<p>Health Updated information about outcomes of the CHCP steering group reviewing the provision of local community centres is awaited.</p> <p>The prolonged situation of the unacceptable DDA non-compliant access to Williamwood Rail Station was raised again and Cllr. Jim Fletcher agreed to enquire if a formal complaint to ScotRail by ERC could be urgently progressed. We await a response from ERC about the inadequate level of</p>	Cllr. Fletcher

		<p>provision of defibrillators in the Giffnock area.</p> <p>Education The situation about the outstanding appointment of replacement of School Head Teachers in the area particularly at OLM primary school led to considerable discussion with contributions including local resident Karen Kelly who is a parent of a child at the school. Cllr Jim Fletcher outlined the various difficulties involved in selecting a suitable candidate. Suggestions including consideration of enhanced responsibility grades /reimbursement of relocation expenses etc. inducements were put forward to help resolve the very unacceptable situation at OLM (900 pupils) which has been without a Head Teacher since May 2016. The provision by the Scottish Government of specific additional funding also direct governance powers to school Head Teacher was held over pending further information.</p> <p>Environment, Roads & Planning</p> <p>Roads There has been no progress on the start of traffic flow survey installation on Berryhill Road. Local resident Karen Kelly highlighted the alarm and concern of parents in adjacent streets of the increased scale of unrestricted traffic speeding through the area, exacerbated by deteriorating road conditions and creating unacceptable safety risk particularly to young children in the area. The proposed street parking charges scheme was held over until the next meeting.</p> <p>Planning & Licensing Chair referred to the scale of unsuitable extension of domestic property applications raised at the last meeting and mentioned the Planning Review Body Meeting on November 3 when an appeal was heard about the refusal of such an application. This might be an option available to GCC in respect of potential challenges of future applications.</p> <p>ER Local Development Plan 2 It was disappointing that there had been no responses submitted by members with the final deadline of 8th February. There followed wide discussion on the interpretation of the Plan with no provision for affordable housing/ commercial development etc in Giffnock. Chair pointed out that ERC had recently finalised plans/proposals to build 120 new homes but only in Newton Mearns and Barrhead in the next 3-5 years on land already acquired. Chair stated that further information/ explanation was required and advised that a Planning Forum on the subject has been organised by Graham Shankland on 30th January and GCC Officers will be attending to raise these issues. He expressed concern and disappointment that in the EXTRA last week Cllr Buchanan Convenor for</p>	<p>Ward Councillors</p> <p>Ward Councillors</p> <p>Cllr. Waters</p> <p>Planning & Licensing Group</p> <p>GCC Officers / Licensing Group</p>
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8.	WORKPLAN:	GCC is awaiting the outcome of the application for a feasibility study on the provision of a Giffnock Community Centre /Hub.	
9.	COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROFILE:	The working group on the website development would be reporting back at the next meeting. He reiterated the pressing need to help promote / make more use of it also to contribute articles, messages, suggestions etc.	Website D'ment Group
10.	STATEMENT/ QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR	Chair had previously accepted that while the Scottish Government had still to have their proposed budget accepted / finalised it remained difficult for ERC to finalise their budget. Notwithstanding ERC had since pre-empted this on 12 January and announced it will begin charging higher fees for dozens of services in an effort presumably to close funding gaps in their current budget provisions. This was alarming news.	Ward Councillors
11.	AOCB:	There was no other business raised.	
12.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING:	Monday 20 th February	

Note 1.	
Note 2.	