

Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council.

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 16th October 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Douglas Lawson (Chair), Jack Powell (JP), Jim McCann (JMcC), Bill Crawford (BC), Maureen Powell (MP), Janey Floyd (JF), Ian Leifer (IL), 8 members of the public

In Attendance: Cllr Jim Fletcher, Cllr Colm Merrick

Apologies: Ian Lang, Caroline Wilkinson, Cllr Gordon Wallace

Police report:

Constable David McLean attended the meeting and provided a crime statistics report for the period 1st - 30th September, the contents of which were noted.

Concern was expressed regarding incidents of youths getting into the Braidbar Quarry area.

Thefts from commercial properties – young youths looking for petty cash – have been identified on CCTV.

Police consultation – would be useful to put up link on GCC's social media.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 19th June 2017 were presented for approval.

Proposed – Jim McCann Seconded – Bill Crawford

Chair's Report

As a result of recent resignations, particularly that of Jim Martin as chair, chair proposed that the remaining officers would continue in post and that the community council would continue to operate. He also indicated that the various committees should be discontinued. Instead individual members are encouraged to submit issues of concern for inclusion on future agendas.

Secretary's Report

JP reported that Jim Martin and Hammad Khalid had both resigned from the community council. The membership currently consists of 9 people, 4 of whom are elected and 5 co-opted. Under the rules of establishment, this means that an interim election needs to be held. This however, is unlikely to take place before the new year.

Treasurer's Report

JMcC submitted the undernoted report:

Bank of Scotland Fundraising account has 3 signatories, JimMcCann, Jack Powell, William Crawford and each payment or withdrawal requires 2 signatures.

There are outstanding payments to be made and these are as follows :-

JimMcCann Website registration	£88.00
Jim Martin Printing	£46.00
Jack Powell Data Protection	£35.00
Jack Powell Cartridges	£23.25
TOTAL ACCRUALS	£192.25

Receipts have been provided

The current balances have been confirmed by the Bank on 13/10/2017 and are as follows :-

GCC, current account balance	£1451.10
Fundraising account balance	£233.04
Total balance	£1684.14
Less accruals	£192.25
funds available	£1258.85

There have been no further deposits from outside sources.

Matters arising from minutes

Disabled access to Williamwood Station – only possibilities are – install a lift, or provide access along viaduct on other side. Is there a legal requirement to provide disabled access? Can councils enforce such a requirement? Cllr Fletcher stated that the Council can't force Scotrail to comply with the law. The Health Centre has conducted a survey on how people get to the health centre and where they come from (how many people come by train or bus).

Application for hot food outlet (BRGR) – not granted.

Grenfell tower – concerns regarding cladding – there are no high rise housing blocks in Giffnock.

Playing Fields at Woodfarm – part playing surface has been burnt – result of open access. Regarding drainage - cricket club has been asked to submit proposals – no development.

BRAIDBAR QUARRY/Huntly park

A member of the public, Paul Drury reported that he had submitted a freedom of information request in February which had revealed the extent of the work that Advance Construction (Scotland) had done in producing a plan to develop Braidbar Quarry/Huntly Park. In it, Huntly Park would be used as a drain for the development. Further FOI requests have yielded nothing.

Cllr Fletcher, who is on the planning committee, stated that no planning application has been lodged to date. He was not privy to any discussions regarding development of the quarry/Huntly Park area. Any application would lead to a full public consultation.

Questions were asked, why isn't the council doing something to make the area safe? Cllr Fletcher stated that the area can only be made safe by infilling the Quarry which would need to be part of a development. The Council own the quarry and have fenced off the area and put up warning notices.

JP reported that GCC had been approached in May by a consultant acting on behalf of Advance Construction (Scotland) to come and speak to the community council. However, when he tried to contact this consultant he got no reply. It was agreed that ACS should be approached directly to see if they would speak to the community council (**Action - JP**).

It was agreed that the report by Advance Construction (Scotland) should be put up on the GCC website. (**Action - JP**)

Defibrillator Project

Over the summer a successful fundraising campaign, run by a sub-group (BC, JP, JMCC), had been conducted to install a public access defibrillator on the wall just outside Giffnock Library. This had culminated in a ceremony to unveil a plaque beside the defibrillator on 18th August.

ERC have agreed that library staff will do basic operational checks on the defibrillator. BC reported that he had asked if ERC would be willing to take over the long term maintenance. Cllr Merrick stated that currently there are no defibrillators in ERC premises.

Other defibrillators in Giffnock are held by Giffnock Dental Centre; The Chemists, and Morrisons. However, none of these are available 24/7.

There are sufficient funds available to purchase replacement pads, which must be replaced either after use, or if they are more than 1 year old. (replacement costs £40). Also, the battery will need to be replaced after about 3 years (cost £170).

The idea of achieving economies of scale for replacement parts by co-operating with other users was mooted.

Community Hub – Feasibility Study

Over the summer, Mainstream Consulting had produced a feasibility study regarding the establishing a community hub in Giffnock. Copies of the remit of the study and the main recommendations had been previously circulated.

In discussion it was generally felt that bidding to acquire/take over a building to establish a hub was too ambitious and unlikely to be successful.

Over the summer meetings had taken place with a group representing the four churches in Giffnock, and also with Jim Sneddon of ERC and Andrew McGreavy of the Leisure Trust. These had established that the church group were interested in working collaboratively to see what steps could be taken towards the establishment of a hub, and that ERC and the Leisure Trust recognised that the library was under utilised and that alternative uses of the building could be considered.

It was agreed that further dialogue with the church group, ERC and the Leisure Trust should be continued, and that the possibility of establishing a community information point should be pursued.

Roads/Pavements – Budget Commitments

JP referred to the budget presentation produced by the previous ERC administration, in which the £4.1 million raised by the increases in Council Tax had been allocated to various projects, including £1.6 million committed to improving local roads in this financial year. He asked for confirmation that this money would be spent on improving local roads in this financial year. Cllr Fletcher confirmed that the monies would be spent before the end of the financial year.

Community Engagement – Social Media

A recent report issued by Napier University, entitled *Community Councils in Scotland – Information Literacy for Democratic Engagement* has identified that ‘there is a high demand for training in use of social media and surveys, planning, and general community council duties.’

Can ERC help with social media development? – Cllr Merrick to speak to Jim Sneddon to see what can be done.

JP reported that he had spoken to Vincent McCulloch regarding this issue, and the possibility of assistance from ERC staff had been mooted.

Chair also stated that the church group were interested in developing social media. JP will contact Garry Crosbie.

Could schools also offer assistance? BC has contacts with Woodfarm School – as school is in Thornliebank perhaps contact should be made with Thornliebank Community Council and the possibility of a joint initiative mooted.

(Action – Cllr Merrick; JP; BC)

Questions from the Floor

Road repairs/improvements.

Questions were asked by members of the public on what roads are going to be done. Cllr Fletcher replied that ERC now has a policy of community participation in the allocation of budgets, and that the results of the recent consultation would be published soon.

Concerns were also expressed regarding the amount of time that workers actually spent working on site, and the quality of work that was carried out, particularly with regard to repairing potholes. It was explained that starting time and finishing time is at depot. (8 hour day with 1 hour for lunch) and that time needed be spent in preparing/loading materials and carrying out vehicle safety checks. Regarding the quality of work, it was felt that quality control/supervision of work were issues that needed to be looked at.

Dog litter bins – There is a lack of bins for disposing of dog litter. As a consequence, dog owners are putting bags containing litter in refuse bins or leaving bags by the wayside and putting them in water drains. Cllr Fletcher stated that there is no actual requirement for specialised litter bins. Dog owners should take litter home. Still it was felt that insufficient litter bins are available.

Inconsiderate parking issues - This is a perennial problem with vehicles obstructing driveways or causing congestion on roads. Community wardens do patrol areas around schools, but there are insufficient numbers for them to patrol other areas. There is a licencing procedure for skips but it is not very effective. JMcC asked about ERC policy regarding traffic calming measures. Cllr Fletcher stated that installing speed bumps was both expensive and can damage cars.

Armed Forces Day – BC asked about ERC not funding armed forces day? How much does event cost? Could local businesses be encouraged to sponsor the event?

Date of next Meeting

Monday 20th November 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in Giffnock Library