

Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 20th February 2017

Present: Jim Martin (Chair), Maureen Powell (MP), Jack Powell (JP), Douglas Lawson (DL), Janey Floyd (JF), Ian Lang (IL), Ian Leifer (IL)

In Attendance: Cllr. Jim Fletcher, Cllr. Vincent Waters, Cllr. Gordon Wallace, Constable McLean Police Scotland, Anne McAleer and Alan Robertson ER Economic Development and Regeneration, and four residents.

ITEM ISSUE			ACTION
	POLICE REPORT:	<p>Chair welcomed Constable McLean to his first meeting and commended the prior release of the Police Report which had been circulated to members for review before the meeting. He advised that only key aspects would therefore be raised by members. Concern was expressed at the increased incidence of persons found in possession of controlled drugs (herbal cannabis) at various times and places in the Giffnock area. PC McLean advised that underage persons are spoken to while over 18's are charged. MP recommended greater effort to deal with the source of supply. Members of the public are encouraged to provide Police Scotland with information relating to drug supply by telephoning the '101' number or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.</p> <p>PC McLean advised that resources continue to be focused on drunk and disorderly behaviour and a targeted operation (Operation Griller) had been implemented on a number of occasions over recent weeks in the Giffnock area. Notable quantities of alcohol had been seized from persons under 18 years of age. There has been no evidence of illegal supply. Vandalism to cars is a recurring problem with 7 incidents in Giffnock and proactive measures are being adopted. PC McLean encouraged greater use of the Immobilise and CheckMEND information sites.</p> <p>The situation about the potential closure of Giffnock Police Station was raised and PC McLean advised that he had no available information other than there would be full consultation in the event of a decision.</p>	
	PRESENTATION	<p>Chair gave a warm welcome to Anne McAleer (AMcA) and Alan Robertson of Invest East Renfrewshire who presented on the key local aspects of the Glasgow City Deal. Discussion followed about the scale of development mainly in other areas except Giffnock where there appeared to be minimal provision / benefit. It was pointed out there was some provision of affordable housing in the Burnfield road area.</p> <p>AMcA then provided copies of the Giffnock – your town Audit 2016 Report and commented that Giffnock scored well in it. Chair commented that while this was commendable Giffnock appeared to be disadvantaged when</p>	

		<p>it came to a fair distribution of development support funding compared to other ER areas because of its relative prosperity, and illustrated the recent substantial Clarkston Town Centre funding proposals.</p> <p>Cllr. Fletcher stated that this was a very parochial viewpoint and referred to the Giffnock Streetscape improvement works undertaken in recent years. Chair refuted this view and for clarification reminded him that the main street improvement works mentioned were in fact funded out of the Morrison's Site planning gain settlement monies.</p> <p>AMcA then outlined the Thornliebank Regeneration Fund application to develop Thorntree Hall as a Community Hub incorporating the local Library, where a decision was imminent. Chair responded and wished the application success and advised of the disappointment of the members and residents at the recent unsuccessful Giffnock Community Council Community Hub Feasibility Study Funding application to the Energy Regeneration Fund. Anne McAleer volunteered to provide information / support on other funding sources, which was welcomed.</p> <p>Chair expressed a sincere appreciation to Anne and Alan for taking the time to provide a very informative presentation / discussion.</p>	
1.	CHAIRS OPENING:	Chair opened the meeting promptly and extended a warm welcome to everyone present including residents who were present.	
2.	APOLOGIES:	Caroline Wilkinson, Bill Crawford, Jim McCann, Hammad Khalid, Charlie Dexter, Mark Hamilton	
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th January 2017 were agreed and accepted with minor amendments and these are to be forwarded for publication on the ERC website.</p> <p>Proposed: Douglas Lawson Seconded: Ian Lang</p>	
4.	CHAIR'S REPORT:	<p>Chair stated that the meeting marked the first anniversary of the reconstituted Giffnock Community Council and acknowledged with gratitude all of the support and hard work of the members. He expressed frustration about the low level of positive involvement / support and consultation received from ERC. He considered it disappointing that Giffnock was treated as a 'Cinderella' referring to the absence of development funding, the disposal of Rhuallan House followed by the poor support of Giffnock Hub Initiative. Notwithstanding he reiterated GCC has a voice and is prepared and determined to use it on behalf of the community</p> <p>Chair went on to advise that other community councils within East Renfrewshire have requested to have clause 9.3 of the Constitution substantially changed, particularly that the part which refers to the term in office of the Chair and</p>	

		Officers should be removed. After discussion it was agreed that to ensure continuity in respect of the current Chair and Officers a similar request should now be submitted to ERC on behalf of Giffnock Community Council.	Chair
5.	SECRETARY'S REPORT:	In the absence of the Secretary there was nothing raised.	
6.	TREASURER'S REPORT:	JP outlined the current bank balance also that the refund in respect of data Registration remains outstanding from ERC. Chair advised that ERC held Public Indemnity insurance cover for community councils and advised scrutiny of the cover detail.	Treasurer
7.	COMMITTEE REPORTS:	<p>Health The future of the subsidised 375 Bus Service to the new Health Centre beyond the end of February 2017 was a matter of concern. Suggestions were offered to improve the leaflet promoting increased usage of the service. Cllr Fletcher stated that health money is being used to subsidise the service and concern has been expressed by IJB. He considered that this should be a matter for SPT rather than ERC who have lobbied them on this issue. Chair asked if ERC had sent a formal complaint yet to ScotRail about the non-compliant DDA access at Williamwood Station. Cllr Fletcher advised that this will be raised through the IJB. Chair reported no response from ERC about the lack of provision of defibrillators in central Giffnock. Cllr. Wallace undertook to progress this issue.</p> <p>Education Concern was expressed that OLM Primary school still remains without a Head Teacher since the start of the school year. Discussion followed about this prolonged unacceptable issue involving one of the largest primary schools in Scotland. Cllr Fletcher stated that the objective remained to recruit the right person for the position. Asked about HMI inspection reporting he advised that the last one was good and while the Deputy Head Teacher cover remains ongoing the school continues to function. He advised that Giffnock schools will benefit from the Scottish direct funding provision to schools (based on the number of free meals)</p> <p>Library and Leisure Services Concern was expressed about the scale of water penetration at the Library due to the Roof works in progress, and the decision to delay the start of the works until January this year was questioned. Concern has been also been expressed by Library users about the escalating scale / inadequate supervision of small children / parent group events causing noise and disturbance. Cllr Fletcher advised that the immediate future of the Eastwood Leisure Centre was secure with the provision in the ERC budget. Consideration is underway regarding major</p>	<p>Cllr Fletcher</p> <p>Cllr Fletcher</p> <p>Cllr Wallace</p> <p>Ward Councillor</p>

		<p>refurbishment, new building options.</p> <p>Environment, Roads and Planning Cllr Waters reported that the new refuse bins collection service was operating well with fewer problems than anticipated. DL stated that in his area emptied bins were often not returned back to households. Cllr Waters encouraged all such complaints are timeously reported direct to the Cleansing Depot.</p> <p>Roads Chair reported no progress / action about hazard signage or on the installation of the proposed traffic counting measures to be positioned at the top of the hill / school entrance on Berryhill Road, or in respect of the further deterioration of the road surface on adjacent Berryhill Drive due to the continuing use of this road as an uncontrolled / unrestricted commuter route, with resulting progressive increased levels of safety hazards. He illustrated by comparison the commendable recent urgent action taken by ERC in installing road marking outside Giffnock Synagogue on both Berryhill Road and Fenwick Road.</p> <p>Planning and Licensing Chair reported that the planning group continued to closely monitor / review all planning applications. MP highlighted the potential blight risk in the ongoing trend of 2 storey extensions of domestic premises applications some often to accommodate business use. She questioned why some consequent appeals were being allowed. The closure of the Clydesdale Bank was raised together with the need to review any potential development of this prestige building. Residents concern has been expressed at the current extended licensing hours application for licensed premises at the Eastwood Toll area.</p> <p>Community Engagement Chair reported on further progress with our Outreach activity including a recent positive meeting held with Rabbi Rubin attended by Ian Leifer. Contact / liaison is also progressing with local Churches. He outlined the ongoing liaison with the BID team who are working hard behind the scenes with several initiatives also now gearing up preparations for the annual Car Rally event.</p>	<p>Cllr Water</p> <p>Planning Group</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p>
8.	WORKPLAN:	Chair announced the very disappointing recent news that the Giffnock Community Council application to the Renewable Energy Fund operated by ERC for funding support to undertake a Giffnock Community Hub feasibility study was unsuccessful. This was very discouraging in view of the	

		<p>considerable effort in undertaking the Residents Survey which received over 1800 residents support responses. There followed extensive discussion about progressing alternative funding etc. options available including the support offered earlier by Invest East Renfrewshire.</p> <p>At this point Cllr Fletcher intervened and advised the Chair that he had discussed the situation earlier with Andy Cahill the Director of Environment and ERC and it was decided that ERC would now provide the funding / support for the feasibility study.</p> <p>Chair stated this was unexpected good news and offered some encouragement for this initiative.</p> <p>GCC officers will now arrange an early meeting with ERC to progress this matter.</p>	Chair
9.	COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROFILE:	<p>JP reported that he had not yet managed to arrange a meeting between Hammad (due to his work commitments) and the website adviser about the further development of the website, but he hoped to do so shortly.</p>	JP
10.	STATEMENT/ QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR	<p>Cllr Fletcher provided an overview of the agreed Budget proposals. He stated ER residents are set to benefit from the budget which protects front line services and jobs. There will be a £4.1m programme of key investments for services together with £1.6m for roads and £ 1.1 m for schools. The budget includes a 3% increase in council tax (in addition to the separate Scottish Government increase in bands E to H). He advised that the Council will balance the budget in 2017 /18 and more than 70% of the savings needed from council budgets had been achieved through being more efficient.</p> <p>Cllr Wallace advised that 6% proposed savings were achievable by increased local accounting which despite the freeze has been managed for 10 years.</p> <p>Cllr Waters forecast that the budget situation would deteriorate significantly beyond 2018 with no money available for anything.</p> <p>Resident David Jesner advised that First Responders already operated in Newton Mearns also that local banks branches may have some funds available for defibrillators – contact Stewart McClellan for further information.</p> <p>In regard to the Glasgow City Deal he advised that the Scottish Government is providing £38m and it not being used as intended e.g. Barrhead is getting £1.9m extra.</p>	Chair Ward Councillors
11.	AOCB:	<p>GCC have been advised that the Giffnock Police Station premises are owned by Police Scotland.</p>	
12.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING:	Monday 20 th March 2017	All

Note 1.	
Note 2.	