

Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council.

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 20th November 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Jack Powell (JP - Acting chair), Jim McCann (JMCC), Bill Crawford (BC), Maureen Powell (MP), Janey Floyd (JF), Caroline Wilkinson (CW), Ian Leifer (IL), Ian Lang (ILng)

In Attendance: Cllr Gordon Wallace, Cllr Colm Merrick, 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Douglas Lawson, Cllr Jim Fletcher

Police report:

Constable Ryan Cannon attended the meeting and provided a crime statistics report for the period 1st October - 7th November, the contents of which were noted.

Concern was expressed By CW regarding incidents of a lit flammable liquid being placed on a doorstep and a lit firework being placed in a letterbox. These are serious incidents, not just youthful high jinks associated with bonfire night. Constable Cannon assured the meeting these incidents are being treated seriously and tracing of suspects being actively pursued.

JF raised the matter of inconsiderate parking in Hazelden Gardens during Saturday mornings when football matches were taking place in the neighbouring GHA playing fields. This was blocking entrance to the cul-de-sac, including ambulances. As the football season finishes on 24th November, it was agreed to raise this matter again at a future meeting, shortly before the season resumes in the new year. Police will then be asked to investigate.

Constable Cannon stated that the police were actively encouraging residents to consider installing burglar alarms in their homes, and also to consider becoming involved in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. JP noted that few areas in Giffnock are currently covered by Neighbourhood Watch Schemes – perhaps consider a presentation on this at a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 16th October 2017 were presented for approval.

Proposed – Bill Crawford

Seconded – Ian Leifer

Chair's Report

Douglas Lawson is on holiday – JP is acting chair for this meeting.

Secretary's Report

JP reported that some correspondence had come in subsequent to the agenda being circulated – these would be dealt with in addition to the listed agenda items.

Treasurer's Report

GCC, current account balance £1369.97

Fundraising account balance £174.04

Matters arising from minutes

Roads/Pavements – budget commitments

JP reported that at a budget consultation meeting he had met Ian McLean of ERC who had promised to let him have details of the roads etc. that are to be improved using the £1.6million that has been allocated for local roads in this financial year. Concern was expressed that there may not be enough time to carry out this work in the current financial year. Cllr Merrick stated that monies could be carried over into the following financial year.

Community Engagement/Social Media

Contact has been made with Woodfarm School regarding pupils helping to develop the use of GCC social media sites.

Meetings have also been held with Garry Crosbie of the churches group regarding collaboration, sharing of information and resources.

Contact has also been made with Vincent McCulloch of ERC regarding assistance from community engagement staff – possibility of further training sessions. JP has indicated that our needs are for development of our social media profile – seeking to make it more dynamic.

Braidbar Quarry/Huntly Park

JP reported that attempts have been made to contact Frank Kelly, the consultant who approached GCC in May, and Advance Construction (Scotland) directly – no response received from either.

Concern was expressed by members of the public that a planning application could be submitted at a quiet time, with only a minimum consultation period allowed. Both councillors present stated that such a major planning application, should one occur, would be subject to a full public consultation process.

In general discussion, concerns were expressed about the contamination; the effects of such a development on schools; doctors' surgeries; increase in traffic volume; heavy vehicles using local roads; losing Huntly Park as green space.

Cllr Wallace stated that Jackson Carlaw MSP and Paul Masteron MP have conducted a survey of residents' views on the development which demonstrates strong opposition. Results of the survey will be made public in due course.

Budget Consultation

A budget consultation meeting had been held recently – JP, MP and JMcC attended.

Savings of 26M need to be made over next 3 years on top of 37M savings made in previous 5 years. ERC saying this means real cuts to services – no more economies through efficiencies possible. Wide ranging cuts proposed. Examples are; reducing roads maintenance budget by £400K; reducing community wardens hours to 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. saving £259K. Short time left for individuals to comment on proposals.

Eastwood Care and Health Centre – survey of travel patterns of patients

A report for the Integration Joint Board meeting on 28th June had been previously circulated. It contained details of a survey of patients travel patterns to the health centre, and on the basis of this information the decision had been made to terminate the 375 bus route.

164 patients took part in the survey – vast majority came by car (79%); only 3% came by bus, 7% by taxi, 7% on foot, 3% with volunteer driver and 1% by train. 82% were satisfied with their travel arrangements.

Survey size is quite small – is it big enough to be statistically reliable?

Given the small number travelling by train, the only way of pursuing disabled access at Williamwood station is likely to be if a disability organisation took Scotrail to court.

VAER Meeting 24th November

Notification of a 'conversation café' being organised by Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire had recently been received. Concern was expressed about the late notification, about the purpose of the meeting and the role of VAER in organising it. It was agreed to seek further clarification regarding who would be attending and what the purpose of the meeting was.

Closure of Wholefoods Store

Reports of the imminent closure of Wholefoods have been received. In discussion, it was generally felt that this would be a sad loss to Giffnock. While closure is not absolutely confirmed it looks very likely that it will happen before Christmas.

Eastwood Swimming Pool

J McC asked about the future of Eastwood Swimming Pool – is closure likely? Cllr Merrick stated that there would always be a pool available for Eastwood residents. Nonetheless concern was expressed that the £6M earmarked over the next 2 years, for the whole leisure complex – not just the swimming pool, was insufficient to maintain the present pool in a viable state.

Questions from the Floor

Alex Mackie raised the matter of the condition of Broomlea Lane. The surface is in very poor condition with a lot of puddling. Estimated cost of re-surfacing is estimated at £5k. The possibility of grant funding for resurfacing was mooted. JP agreed to investigate possible sources.

The meeting ended at 8.40 P.m.

Date of next Meeting

Monday 18th December 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in Giffnock Library