

Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council.

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 18th December 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), Caroline Wilkinson (CW).

In Attendance: Cllr Jim Fletcher, Cllr Colm Merrick, 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Ian Leifer, Cllr Gordon Wallace

Police report:

Constable James McGoldrick attended the meeting and provided a crime statistics report for the period 8th November to 7th December, the contents of which were noted.

The incidences of property being removed from cars that were unlocked highlighted the importance of not leaving cars unattended while defrosting – a particular problem during the current cold weather.

The issue of burglar alarms sounding off for long periods and not being investigated was raised. Police do not have details of who the alarms belong to.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 20th November 2017 were presented for approval.

Proposed – Bill Crawford Seconded – Caroline Wilkinson

Chair's Report

Following from the Voluntary Action, East Renfrewshire (VAER) notification of a meeting regarding the community hub initiative which was received just before the meeting on 20th November, DL reported that he made contact with VAER seeking information on why they were involved in organising such an initiative using the feasibility study that had been commissioned by the community council. As a result of this contact VAER had cancelled the meeting, though a private meeting was then hastily rearranged at Orchardhill Church involving some local groups.

A subsequent meeting had then been arranged with the CEO and Depute CEO of VAER, involving DL and JP. This had been both informative and constructive and it was felt that VAER could play a valuable role in the first stage of bringing various groups together and seeking to clarify objectives. VAER intend to hold a 'conversation' meeting early in the new year, and it was generally agreed that the community council should be strongly represented at this event.

Secretary's Report

JP reported on the current membership position. ERC intend holding an interim election early in the new year to try and attract more members. Current co-opted members can apply to become fully elected members. This, though not a requirement, would allow GCC more freedom to co-opt other members. Would co-opted members be required to resign in order to do this – JP to seek clarification.

Treasurer's Report

GCC, current account balance £1369.97

Fundraising account balance £174.04

No change since previous meeting.

Matters arising from minutes

Roads/Pavements – budget commitments

At an ERC cabinet meeting on 7th December, approval had been given to seek tenders to repair the top 2 roads (voted for in a recent community poll) in each of 4 areas. In Giffnock, this applies to Berryhill Drive and Belmont Drive.

DL queried the validity of the poll results – were the roads which had received the most votes actually the ones that were in most need of repair? The ward councillors stated that lessons had been learned from the polling exercise. Longer term plans are to seek more community involvement in decision making, which could involve amounts up to 1 percent of the ERC budget.

Braidbar Quarry/Huntly Park

JP had made contact with the office of Paul Masteron MP regarding the survey of residents' views on the development that had recently been conducted. Results of the survey are still being processed and will be made available early in the new year.

Planning Applications

MP reported on the recent applications that have been received. There continues to be a significant number of applications involving extensive developments of private properties. Planning regulations give considerable freedom to property owners to develop their homes. However, concerns were expressed that this trend could result in changing the character of the housing stock within the area, resulting in insufficient suitable properties being available for people e.g. with young families, seeking to move into the area.

Closure of Wholefoods Store and Bank of Scotland

Following the recent closure of the Wholefoods Store, JP reported that the store itself and the adjoining car park are classed as areas for housing development in the local development plan. What implications does this classification have for any potential planning applications? Cllr Fletcher stated that ERC would be open to any applications from potential developers.

The recent announcement that the Bank of Scotland branch is to close in February is yet another blow to the area, causing problems for both more elderly clients and for local businesses. While the RBS branch in Giffnock remains open (for now), the problems of people and businesses having to change banking arrangements can be considerable.

Eastwood Swimming Pool – Proposals regarding development of a new leisure complex.

At an ERC Cabinet meeting on 7th December, a paper outlining a number of options with regard to leisure facilities in the area was considered. These range from doing only basic care and maintenance of the existing facilities in Eastwood Park to building a complete new complex on another site. The Cabinet has approved both a feasibility study regarding a new development, and a public consultation regarding the various options – no time scales for these are currently available.

Questions from the Floor

Alex Mackie again raised the matter of the condition of Broomlea Lane. The surface is in very poor condition with a lot of puddling. Cost of re-surfacing is estimated at £5k. Is there a possibility of grant funding? JP has investigated possible sources, and will contact Mr Mackie regarding these.

The meeting ended at 8.15 P.m.

Date of next Meeting

Monday 15th January 2018 at 7.00 p.m. in Giffnock Library