

Ordinary Meeting of Crookfur, Greenfarm & Mearns Village Community Council - Thursday 8 December 2016 - Draft Minutes

1. **Present** - Bryson McNeil, John O'Brien, Karen Armstrong, Councillors O'Kane, McAlpine and Gilbert, and Vincent McCulloch (CC Liaison Officer)
2. **Apologies** - David Pearson, Lee Teh , Azra Saleem, Councillor Buchanan.
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes** - These were approved with one correction in relation to the Biogas plant.
4. **Police Report** - This report covers progress the Police have made in dealing with police matters in the Community Council area for the period 1st to 30th November. A brief summary is below:
 - Assault and Violent Crime - No serious assaults in the area during the above mentioned period.
 - Drug Dealing and Drug Use - During the month two persons were charged with possession of controlled drugs.
 - Drunk or Disorderly Behaviour - Early November saw a seasonal increase in the number of calls relating to misuse of fireworks. There has also been a decrease in the number of reports of disorder in the Harvie Avenue area. This area, however remains within the current festive action plan.
 - Housebreaking and theft - Three housebreakings were recorded during November. A car was also stolen and the police raised awareness of leaving your car unattended when de-icing during the cold weather.
 - Road Safety remains high on the police agenda especially during the Christmas and New Year period with important messages in relation to the "Don't Drink and Drive" campaign being highlighted.

Across East Renfrewshire violent crime remains low. Acquisitive crime does occur and much of this is opportunistic.

5. **Matters arising from previous minutes** - There were no matters arising from the previous minutes other than that raised under approval of previous minutes (see above No 3)
6. **Treasurers Report** - Due to resignations John O'Brien has agreed to act as Treasurer - This was noted approved by Bryson McNeil and seconded by Karen Armstrong.
7. **Correspondence** - Bryson updated on the following issues:
 - **Re-routing of the number 4 bus.** SPT have responded that the route is not commercially viable. Cllr Gilbert stated that he has a meeting with SPT tomorrow (9 December) and he will raise this issue again and feedback accordingly. Bryson mentioned "MyBus" could be an alternative for residents. MyBus is a bookable bus service which offers door-to-door transport. It can be used for shopping, GP appointments and much more. You can contact MyBus at 0141 333 4584 or 0845 128 4025 for more information.

It was brought to the attention of the Community Council that other communities throughout the route had pulled together a petition and had changes made to the SPT plans. **John O'Brien** will pursue further with both SPT and other Community Councils.

Action 1 - Cllr Gilbert to raise the issue of the re-routing of the number 4 bus at the meeting with SPT

Action 2 - John O'Brien to pursue with both SPT and other Community Councils the re-routing of the number 4.

- **Pedestrian Crossings at Aldi and McArthur Stone development** - After 5 years of pursuing information had been received in relation to new crossings at Greenlaw Village. The first will connect the new Aldi to the McArthur Stone development, the other will be on the approach to Tesco connecting to the Waitrose side. Concerns were raised over this as the traffic is already heavily congested at these points. This work does not start until February. It was suggested that the Council have not kept pace with the road infrastructure at the pace of the building that it has undertaken.

8. **Any Other Business**

- **Planning approval for additional housing at Greenlaw Road** - Concerns were raised in relation to a temporary sewage connection into Greenlaw Road for 400 houses at Maidenhill. This would cause flooding in an area (Greenlaw Road) which has suffered flooding in the past. Any developments in relation to this will be closely watched by the Community Council.
- **Transport to new Eastwood Health Centre** - This bus is only funded to cover the Giffnock and Clarkston area and does not provide a service for those living in Newton Mearns. As the Council made the decision to close several GP practices across the region and move them to the new facility it was felt that the decision for the bus to cover only certain areas of the regions should be challenged. Cllr Gilbert agreed to bring this issue up when meeting SPT on 9 December.

Action 3 - Cllr Gilbert raise the issue of the bus service to the new health facility be looked at to include the Newton Mearns and surrounding areas so that all those affected by GP surgery closures can have easy access to the new facility.

A further discussion took place about a wide range of issues in relation to:

- East Renfrewshire Council's attitude to Community Councils
- East Renfrewshire Council's lack of support for adequate training for new Community Councillors.
- Various issues around Crookfur, Greenfarm & Mearns Village membership.
- A series of other issues were raised too.

It was agreed that East Renfrewshire Council, Crookfur, Greenfarm & Mearns Village Community Council and members of the public should consider:

- How all parties can work together for the local community, ensuring that real issues of concern are raised and that the Community Council are valued by the Council and that issues raised by the public are adequately dealt with.
- This Community Council and others across the region should be given the adequate backing by East Renfrewshire Council in order for them to flourish and be able to raise and address issues being raised by residents across the region.
- A fresh start and approach should be taken in relation to how meetings are conducted and run with respect and dignity for all taking part being at the fore.
- Karen Armstrong suggested that she would pull together suggestions for how we can increase participation, how correspondence and how queries can be dealt with speedily and how the Community Council can become more effective, she stressed however that this would involve all parties with a vested interest.

Action 4 - Karen pull together a paper for the way forward for 2017.

9. Date of Next Meeting - The next meeting will take place on 12 January 2017, Fairweather Hall, Newton Mearns.

Karen Armstrong
20 December 2016