

**Clarkston Community Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday 1st December 2021**  
**7 – 9pm via Zoom**

| Item                              | Notes  |
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| <b>Attendance</b>                 |  |
| <b>1. Welcome &amp; Apologies</b> | <p>In attendance:</p> <p><b>PC Members:</b><br/> Rebecca Nicholson (Chair) – RN<br/> Linda Dillon - Minute taker – LD<br/> Julia Sagasti - JS<br/> Gillian Cox – GC<br/> Lise Fisher – LF<br/> Chris Kelly – CK<br/> Linda Allan – LD (online)<br/> Brian Dillon – BD (online)</p> <p><b>Visitors</b><br/> Hilary Young – HY (online)<br/> Sergeant Gordon Sweeney – GS<br/> Vincent McCulloch –VM - (online)<br/> Cllr Stewart Miller – SM - (online)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Annette Ireland, Joe Pakenham, Julie Flaherty</p> <p>November minutes: GC requested amendment - LD has actioned</p> <p><b>Action: RN to follow up with Cllr Ireland re: litter picks and gas memorial</b></p>   |
| <b>2. Police report</b>           | <p>RN introduced GS and thanked him for coming along and summarised the November report for discussion. GS confirmed that the crime rate was low during November with some social disorder during Hallowe'en and vandalism to some local shops.</p> <p>GS outlined the festive action plan, which will be to target retail areas as shoplifting and robberies can increase at this time of the year. There will also be festive road traffic action plans specifically targeting drink driving. GS expressed that usually anti-social behaviour is quieter during the winter months.</p> <p>GC asked GS what actions Police can take when coming across young people who are perhaps intimidating locals. GS advised that the approach they employ is to try and have conversations with the young people and then disperse any crowds with the emphasis on building and maintaining a positive relationship with young people of the community. There can be issues with other young people coming in from other areas, but this is dealt with as soon as possible.</p> <p>GS advised that there are a few different routes open to members of the community to report crimes, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Phone Crimestoppers to report a crime</li> <li>● Phone Police Scotland / Crimestoppers instead of confronting people</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If a member of the community witnesses' low level, sporadic crime (like local youths creating a disturbance) ignore it where possible and don't confront perpetrators as this can lead to further issues</li> <li>● Email East Renfrewshire Police directly via the Police Scotland website</li> </ul> <p>GS stressed that reporting crime helps to build a picture of repeated crimes and problematic areas and allows GS and his team to channel resources appropriately.</p> <p>RN asked if Police are using footage from doorbell recordings - GS advised that they can help piece together crime scenes and identify criminals and recommends getting them installed along with any other protective measures.</p> <p>GS stated that the Police have links to local youth services that they can tap in to. LF asked about how this worked in practice. GS stated that they put people in touch with services and link up as and when required.</p> <p><b>Key reminders:</b><br/> @EastRenPolice Twitter<br/> Crimestoppers<br/> Email address – especially about road traffic issues so they can build a picture of concerns.</p> <p>East Renfrewshire policing has a particular officer who focuses on road traffic issues and speeding offences. It is helpful if speeding issues on particular roads are reported via email as again, this builds a picture of problematic areas that can be addressed. Actions need to be intelligence led therefore officers need evidence of issues.</p> <p>LD briefly asked about vandalism and youth disorder around Carolside Primary school and told GS about some of the issues that school deals with regularly. GS urged LD to ensure the school knows to contact and report any issues and to get the local community around the school to email in with any concerns/reports.</p> <p>VM: asked if we can post the report on the ERC website – GS agreed that this was fine and the information is public domain anyway</p> <p><b>Action: LD to create a social media post re: reminder of how to contact the police</b><br/> <b>Action: LD to ensure Carolside Primary knows to email Police re any issues to do with vandalism of school property</b></p> |
| <p><b>3. Clarkston Christmas event – feedback</b></p> | <p>RN updated the CCC members on the 'A Very Merry Clarkston Christmas' event. RN stated that the event went well and it was good to get out and engage with the community. We were joined at our stall with Netherlee and Stamperland Community Council Chair and Vice Chair – which made for a joined-up approach when talking to members of the community about what they would like to see happening in the area.</p> <p>Some people had come to Clarkston purely for the fayre and didn't live locally. The raffle was well received, we covered our costs and made some money. Iain Mulholland came along and spoke to young people about what they wanted for the area. He prepared a questionnaire and has pulled together some evidence from the questionnaires for meeting with council representatives tomorrow afternoon and will share his research with us in the New Year. GC confirmed that of the young people that she engaged with, they were very clear that they just wanted somewhere to go.</p>   |

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|   | <p>The discussion then diverted to the social work building and the idea of a Community Hub to be based there. RN confirmed that a separate entity would be created to apply for funding and run the facility which could be used for various community purposes. Some of the funding would need to be used to pay for operational staff. The council would support us with a business plan to get it off the ground with a 6–12-month development period. Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● getting a letter of comfort in regard to building use</li> <li>● Insurance costs</li> <li>● Ongoing maintenance</li> <li>● Ongoing delivery</li> </ul> <p>VM advised the CC members to look into ‘Participation requests’ where community groups &amp; organisations take on the running of council buildings...this would mean that CCC have a legal right to discuss this with the council.</p> <p><b>Action: RN to meet with Ian Mulholland and a council representative on 02/12/21 to progress the ‘Community Hub’ idea.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>4. Winter Wanderland update</b></p>       | <p>The group discussed the update from JF and reviewed what needs to be done to complete the Winter Wanderland. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● JF will send the details to JP for the map / list / QR code</li> <li>● RN asked for signs from Andy Dunlop and will follow up with him</li> <li>● Selfie station – JS to follow up on this with joiner Ray. Discussion took place on the selfie station location with general consensus that it would be best on original location at Greenwood Rd</li> <li>● Santa is up at Carolside Primary</li> <li>● Decorating the Christmas tree at Williamwood Church to be finalised</li> <li>● Fence at the Sheddens roundabout for the candy canes</li> <li>● Tyre baubles at St Joseph’s Church</li> <li>● Rudolph planters on Busby Road</li> <li>● Xmas décor on the planters (LF will do this)</li> </ul> <p>RN stated that we need to remind JF that all project costs should be reclaimed.</p> <p><b>Action: RN to ask JP re: putting together the online map</b><br/> <b>Action: JS will follow up with JF about using the Seres Road planters for Rudolph if council say no, putting lights on the tree at Williamwood Church, and the selfie station at Greenwood Rd.</b></p> |
| <p><b>5. Parklets Consultation</b></p>          | <p>Parklets questionnaire was put out for community input – and lots of comments were added to the Facebook page but no official update has been provided yet.</p> <p><b>Action: RN/LD Put reminder post on Facebook pre-deadline to encourage residents to respond</b></p>  |
| <p><b>6. EREFF Park Funding Application</b></p> | <p>GC provided an update on the funding application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We are still waiting on a response but should have the decision in December</li> <li>● Community Benefits fund isn’t for huge amounts and could perhaps be used for some supplementary funding.</li> <li>● Voluntary Action East Ren – GC has emailed re: funding and is waiting on a response.</li> </ul>   |

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|                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£60 million government funding (posted on the Facebook page) released for playparks - this needs to be followed up with ERC</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: GC will change the name of the park space on Google Maps as it currently states the name of the park as 'Tinkers'.</b></p> <p><b>Action: LD to ask Cllr Ireland about the government funding of £60million that was posted about on the Facebook page.</b></p>   |
| <b>7. COP26 Eco Initiatives</b> | <p>JF provided an email update on the COP25 workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first 2 workshops had around 10 participants</li> <li>Attendees all seemed to enjoy and take something from it</li> <li>Third workshop had to be cancelled due to low numbers – it was advertised slightly late and perhaps the topic of 'Discovering renewables' did not appeal to people</li> <li>Will try final 2 workshops in the New Year</li> </ul>  |
| <b>8. Planning</b>              | <p>GC updated on recent planning applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application on 44 Seres Road for a change from hairdressers to a personal training fitness facility.</li> </ul> <p>The members discussed that this change was not going to make any significant environmental impact. Majority agreement to support the planning application for this business.</p>  |
| <b>9. Website update</b>        | <p>No update from Joe currently – to be carried forward to next meeting.</p> <p><b>Action: LD/RN to follow up with Joe on the website development</b></p>  |
| <b>10. Speeding discussion</b>  | <p>LD updated on the group on the data that was provided by Cllr Ireland. It showed that speed monitoring that was placed at the Health Centre corner evidenced that the average speed was below the speed limit, with only around 10% of cars over the speed limit. The group agreed that the traffic lights might have something to do with this.</p> <p>GC requested that LD ask Roads Dept about speeding capture beside number 29, there's the double cable across the road and bolted in – is this a speeding or counting data capture.</p> <p><b>Action: LD to request all road speed data covering the CCC boundary from the Roads Dept.</b></p> |
| <b>11. Treasurer's report</b>   | <p>£3872.08 balance<br/> £2410 for Overlee Hydro lottery funding<br/> £1462.08 true balance.</p> <p>No licensing applications currently in Clarkston area.</p>   |
| <b>12. AOB</b>                  | <p>CCC going forward into 2022</p> <p>The group agreed some CCC planning items to be tackled in the new year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion around dates for next year's meeting – no meeting on the 5th of January (possibly social drinks event), first meeting will be on the 12th Jan.</li> <li>Drop the July meeting due to school holidays</li> <li>Proposed dates and Zoom link to be sent out to the group</li> </ul>  |

- Scheduling social media posts so that the agenda goes up in a timely way for consultation with the community in advance of meetings

Eaglesham Rd changes:

Brief discussion on the changes happening to Eaglesham Rd for Williamwood High school students. We will add this item to the agenda for the January meeting and hopefully Cllr Ireland will be able to provide an update on the finished works. RN suggested that we invite Williamwood Parent Council to the next meeting to have a chat with them.

GC stressed that we could aim to be a better conduit between Roads Dept and the community in 2022, given the amount of work that is going on around the area. RN suggested that we should actively seek new members with specific skills/interests and have targeted conversations to ask the community what they would like us to focus on. It was noted that there are already priority areas, some of which are dependent on further conversations and funding applications. CCC are limited by number of members with capacity to take on project work.

LF suggested that the mini roundabout at Burnside Gardens/Seres Road needs to be looked at again due to traffic issues.

Action: RN/LD: Strategise an approach for next year placing an emphasis on Roads issues and building an action plan

CCC Constitution amendment:

The chair (RN) raised a discussion point regarding the constitution; she advised that under the constitution, she could not stand for the chairperson position at the next AGM (scheduled for April).

(The insertion of the clause below is for members information, it was not detailed at the meeting).

Clause 9.3 of the constitution currently states: "A member may not be appointed as Chair more than twice during a term of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL, nor be reappointed other than at the first AGM following an election, or at the AGM prior to an election. Without the express approval of East Renfrewshire Council, no one member shall hold more than one of the following offices at any one time: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer."

RN expressed the view that she would be quite happy for someone else was keen on taking on the role of chair, however, the CC would not want to be in the position where there was no chairperson.

Vincent McCulloch (Community Council Liaison Officer) advised that other Community Councils within East Renfrewshire had been given permission to have clause 9.3 of the Constitution substantially changed, and that the part, which refers to the Chairpersons term of office, be removed. VM further advised that the Head of Service (ERC) has delegated authority to change this clause if a community council had agreed to its change.

There was a general discussion, and it was considered that the long-term success, sustainability, and succession of the Community Council, could be potentially jeopardised by this clause.

It was unanimously agreed that Clarkston community council would seek the permission of ERC to remove the clause, which limits the appointment of the chairperson.

Vincent McCulloch will provide additional advice to the secretary on progressing this.

Action: LD to follow up with VM and ERC regarding progressing the change to clause 9.3 as outlined above

Miscellaneous actions:

Action: LD to follow up with CCC members re: meeting up for drinks in the new year

Action: CCC members to submit photos and a little piece about themselves to RN for the website