

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 16th December 2019

Present: Jack Powell (JP, Chair), Cindy Berry (CB), Bill Crawford (BC), Janey Floyd (JF), Jabbar Ghafar (JG), Shamielah Ghafar (SG), Tony Halifax (TH), Douglas Lawson (DL), Alex Mackie (AM), Morag McLaughlin (MM), Maureen Powell (MP)

In attendance: Cllr Jim Fletcher; 4 members of the public; Louise Bickerton and Elaine Grogan (from Community Planning Department)

Apologies for absence: Cllr Gordon Wallace;

Approval of Minutes

Late item from VAER were included in the previous minutes. Minutes of the meeting on 16th November 2019 were approved by Douglas Lawson and seconded by Tony Halifax.

Chair's opening

JP welcomed everyone to the meeting including the police and members of the public attending.

Police report

Officer Andy Wilson (AW) attended the meeting. A police report for the period 15th November to 12th December had previously been circulated. AW advised that this month crime levels are low. AW reminded to not leave cars unattended. The hotspot of drug dealing is at the Braidholm road car park, at the end of the road by the rugby club. There is no reason for cars to be parked there and should any vehicle be spotted then the police should be notified. BC asked whether taking photographs of cars can allow police to take action. AW advised that if you notice a vehicle then just take car registration number and if possible, the make and model name of the vehicle.

Presentation

Community Planning Department

LB is the Partnership Support Officer and covers large parts of work on community planning. There are five East Renfrewshire planning outcomes: Community partnership has statutory duty – tackling equality, child poverty, employability, mental health and well-being.

LB - Plan for health wellbeing and socialisation combined into one. Talking points is a new front door health and care services – discussions to take place in 2020. Looking to use Giffnock library as a starting talking point so people can become familiar with the day and time of venue.

JP asked if talking point is mainly to do with healthcare? LB said yes and that it doesn't necessarily has to be related to social care. Front door policy is where you can be pointed out to who and where to go to. Its coordinated by healthcare and social care. Can also find out about income benefits and jobs.

JP asked will there be regular meetings in the library? LB yes and other community hubs. LB can keep us updated in January.

JP we can assist in spreading awareness amongst people. LB - Community Directory – a lot of work to make that better and update it so it is user friendly. There is user testing taking place and any-one interested are welcome before it goes live.

LB - Child poverty – looking to engage with families living as an East Renfrewshire resident sharing their cost of living, as these are factors affecting child poverty, to get in touch with LB.

JG – is child poverty a rising concern in East Renfrewshire? LB – Child Poverty is a concern albeit, it is not a high concern in East Renfrewshire in comparison to other areas such as Eastwood and Barrhead

DCDL? – where can you find the information regarding Child Protection statistics? LB – Community Planning website, uses stats which are calculated from DWP statistics. We use similar calculation that all other areas use.

JG – Help is available but just require to create more awareness.

LB – East Renfrewshire’s Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) provides huge range of facilities. Could attend future events at CAB in East Renfrewshire.

HGEG? – CAB in East Renfrewshire has a big team of fifty highly qualified people.

TH – Is there a communication strategy in communicating to all groups

LB – there isn’t a community strategy as such. We are looking how to support engagement in our team and how other service of team communication is so there is a same service provided to all east ren residents

TH – it is concerning how we are talking about groups but its hard to get hold of vulnerable groups

EG – I am a community worker. We do need to look at how to convey communication going forwards. We are invited to go into the Churches and that is how we keep an idea of what is going on and we are good at sharing information in the Council.

LB – we go to places – isolated places where people are not able to reach.

JP – looking at broad strategies – taking TH’s point, how do we communicate to people?

EG – I train staff members. We think about if there is a need and if people want to meet. Bring people together and talk to them and tell them what this means to them.

JP – Could attend Community Council network events.

EG – In 2016 Council delivered training – there was a lot to go through such as a new scheme of establishment; listening and responding to your community; community engagement; working in partnership; funding training which includes inviting people to assist with their funding application; go through the scheme. Let us know if you want something.

JG – asked do you communicate with banks as banks provide an independent advice and has a responsibility towards the community. The banks refer people to CAB if they can’t assist. People who have financial difficulty will benefit with this too. EG – no we don’t communicate with banks but will look at this.

Chair’s report

JP stated in future any proposals made are to be formally put forward to all the CCs to be voted on so, any objections can be set out clearly. Subsequently, statements will be passed to SG to be formally distributed.

JP – as per the Rule of Establishment, the AGM has to be held in June or May. It is known that other Community Councillors’ have held their AGM in September. Further investigation is to be conducted to determine whether we can move our AGM to June, as that is effectively the end of our yearly session. -

Secretary’s Report

JP – a young member had shown interest to become a member of GCC but is not currently on the voters role. Allan Steel (Jnr) has communicated interest to become a member of GCC as an Associate member as the community council has a full complement of members in the Merrylee Park/Braidbar area. This means that AS cannot vote but can take part in the GCC meetings.

Treasury Report

TH - Bank mandate is required to be completed by next meeting.

Matters Arising from Minutes

TH had 5 objectives to be added to the future structure of the GCC Agenda. This proposal was discussed at the meeting. The Proposal was seconded by MP.

JG stated, the proposal is to keep a tracking of what we have done. This is a supporting document where we can build on matters discussed such as what stage are matters sitting at and whether we have progressed on the topics touched on.

JP - Vote to do this up to AGM. The proposal can be alternative agenda.

Planning /Licensing Issues

MP – we have 7 applications from people wanting extensions- external alterations and installation of dormer windows.

- *LDP2*

JP stated consultation period passed, conduct in conjunction with friends of Huntly, no idea of what extent people have made submissions

Cllr JF stated public documents will be made public but in council office therefore, we may be able to see how many people responded to the Consultation.

DL – will be useful to find out how many people responded in the Braidbar area.

CB stated that land is not part of housing strategy.

CB – -Quarry area is contaminated -but is not registered on contaminated/Derelict Land Register

JP – CB to draft the letter to ERC re why Braidbar Quarry is not registered under the contaminated land and this letter is to be circulated in January or via email. If no CC objects then the letter can be sent before the January meeting.

JP said that the -next step is to wait for Council's publication of the responses to the LDP2 consultation.

Community Engagement

- *Community Hub*

JP – CC don't have resources, needs to be via some kind of agency that has resources. CC may act as some form of catalyst and form an action group and there would have to be wider community involvement.

TH said there is duplication of work as other agencies are doing this. Local Authority not taking a big role, unless they become a catalyst, but under VAER.

JP – various Churches have facilities. The Church will be able to provide a focus in the community and certainly a lot of Churches want to be part of the community.

JP suggested American Golf shop is vacant and isolated however, people need to make an effort to get there in converse to the Avenue.

JP asked as CC, is this something we will take forward and if so how

Cllr JF asked whether GCC still have a copy of the previous report to identify problems.

JP advised the previous report will be circulated which was produced in previous CC.

DL referred to better use of library and that better use can be made with library screens.

JP - Put in Agenda in January meeting under the relevant objective as per new proposal.

Clearing of pavements

Issues of clearing leaves and icing path are raised as concerns and to look at possible course of action.

Not possible for council to provide universal solution. A formal action from community to assist is discussed.

Transport Survey

JP - LB and EG to alter their survey and we can distribute via social media

Questions from the floor

Process of how to notify ERC of resurfacing road and pot holes. JP advised when reporting pot holes they will be considered a hazard depending on size, width and depth.

Cllr JF advised council do fill in pot holes and it is more expensive to resurface the street. Advised that this is not only an East Renfrewshire problem.

AOCB

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting - Monday January 20th at 7.00p.m. in Giffnock Library.