

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 18th November 2019

Present: Jack Powell (JP, Chair), Cindy Berry (CB), Bill Crawford (BC), Jabbar Ghafar (JG), Tony Halifax (TH), Douglas Lawson (DL), Alex Mackie (AM), Morag McLaughlin (MM), Maureen Powell (MP), Caroline Wilkinson (CW).

In attendance: Cllr Jim Fletcher, Cllr Colm Merrick, Cllr Gordon Wallace, Six members of the public.

Chair's opening

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

Apologies for absence: Janey Floyd, Shamielah Ghafar.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 21st October 2019 were approved by Alex Mackie and Bill Crawford.

Matters arising

DL stated that the abandoned car on a public road had now been reported to the DVLA.

Refuse collection – food waste – ERC send food waste to a special facility in Blantyre where it is in Vessel Composted

Removal of public refuse collection site – Cllr Merrick indicated that this is because the private companies that provide them no longer consider them financially viable.

Police report

Officer Ryan Cannon attended the meeting. A police report for the period 17th October to 14th November had previously been circulated.

TH asked about the incidence of drug cases, how do they compare with other areas of the council. RC replied that they are lower than other comparable areas.

Vandalism/Breaking into cars – this can be an issue at this time of the year as some people leave their car engines running while being away from the car in order to defrost the windows. This can be an opportunity for thieves. It is also the case that leaving engines running in this way is actually illegal.

MP asked about cars/vans in streets with occupants in them, possibly looking for opportunities to commit theft – if there are suspicions, dial 101.

Police also advise people to be vigilant when drawing money from ATMs.

Presentation by VAER

Ruth Gallagher from Voluntary Action, East Renfrewshire attended the meeting to talk about the Market Place initiative in the Avenue in Newton Mearns. This was established a year ago and was made possible, in part, as the landlords of the Avenue were keen to have a community offer within their premises and have therefore been able to work in partnership with VAER to take on the venue at a reasonable rate.

It operates as a community hub and shop and is used by local vendors who don't have their own premises (VAER gets 20% of any sales), and craft groups, as well as being a community meeting point for anyone visiting the avenue. It is staffed mainly by volunteers, but with paid staff providing the necessary structures.

It was the feeling among members that some kind of hub, offering similar facilities, would be of benefit in Giffnock. VAER would be happy to support GCC and any other partners interested in pulling together a plan to take this forward, test local appetite, find an appropriate venue and secure funding. This in turn would require substantial commitment from local/groups in Giffnock.

It was agreed to organise a joint meeting (GCC and VAER), after the festive season is over, to bring various people/groups together to test the level of commitment and also focus on what kind of facility would be possible in Giffnock.

Secretary's Report

Caroline Wilkinson has submitted an application to become a co-opted member of GCC. The application had been previously circulated to members. The application was universally approved and JP welcomed her as a member.

Treasurer's Report

The banking details have been received from the previous treasurer, and passed to TH. The signatory details need to be changed, and the application for the administration grant for 2019/20 needs to be submitted.

Planning/Licensing Issues

Local Development Plan

The working group that was established at the October meeting had produced advisory information for residents seeking to make submissions regarding the local development plan. This information had already been posted and shared on the Friends of Huntly Park, Go Giffnock, and other relevant Facebook sites. The community council have also organised a leaflet drop, covering some 1200 addresses in the vicinity of Braidbar Quarry and Huntly Park. Cost of printing (£108); distribution (£130).

A submission by the community council has also been drafted out and was tabled for approval.

Consultation with ERC

JP and MP reported that they had had a meeting with Sean McDaid of Planning in ERC. This followed from an email exchange between TH and Mr McDaid regarding consultation procedures on planning, where it was indicated that community councils could formally request a consultation on a specific planning application within 7 days of receiving notification of a plan.

While certain aspects of this process were clarified (e.g. 7 days referred to working days, excluding weekends and holidays; CCs could start the process simply by sending an email requesting a consultation, and provide details of specific issues later), other aspects were less clear (e.g. what form would any such consultation take; what weight would it be given by ERC; what consultation processes were available regarding more general planning issues?).

It was felt that further dialogue with the Planning Dept. needed to be held, perhaps inviting planning staff to attend a full community council meeting.

Eastwoodhill House development

MP reported that a submission had been made on behalf of GCC regarding the proposed development on the Eastwoodhill House site by Westpoint Homes. The submission was in support of submissions made by a number of residents about the effect of additional traffic on Berryhill Road, which has no pavement, but is used by pedestrian to access St Ninian's school and other sites, and regarding the junction of Berryhill Road with the busy main Fenwick Road and the need for traffic and pedestrian controls at this junction

Community Engagement

Following on from the October meeting JP has asked TH, SG and MMcL to form a sub-group to examine how the community council can engage more effectively with the community at large.

TH submitted a set of headings regarding the various activities that the community council can have in dealing with the community, suggesting that they be included as standing items on the agenda, this was agreed.

Questions from the floor

Freedom of Information Requests – A member of the public asked why the various FOIs that have been made have revealed no information about negotiations/dialogue between ERC and Advance Construction regarding remediation of Braidbar Quarry/Huntly Park. There was general concern about this issue, and disbelief that there was no record of any meetings/emails etc. Cllr Wallace agreed to ask questions about when any remediation report will be produced.

AOCB

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting - Monday December 16th at 7.00p.m. in Giffnock Library.