

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Giffnock Community Council

Venue: Giffnock Library

Date: Monday 17th December 2018

Present: Douglas Lawson (DL – Chair), Jack Powell (JP), Maureen Powell (MP), Bill Crawford (BC), Janey Floyd (JF), Richard Loudon (RL), Alex Mackie (AM), Jim McCann (JMCC), Caroline Wilkinson (CW)

In attendance: Cllr Jim Fletcher, Cllr Gordon Wallace; Five members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Ian Lang, Cllr Colm Merrick

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 19th November 2018 were approved by Bill Crawford and Richard Loudon.

Chair's opening

DL welcomed the members of the public to the meeting.

Police report

PC Erik Work attended the meeting. A police report for the period 12th November to 13th December had previously been circulated.

CW asked about the procedure for reporting incidents. She had gone to the police station to report an incident of inconsiderate and potentially dangerous parking. The desk officer informed her, somewhat curtly, that he could not take it and that she had to dial 101 to report it. Was this official police policy that there is only the one avenue for reporting incidents? PC Work said he would make enquiries and email the community council of the outcome.

DL asked about the outcome of the reported court appearances following thefts. PC Work said he was unable to comment as they are still sub judice.

Chairs report

DL stated that he had attended a day conference run by ERC titled Communities Together. Personally he was disappointed but felt fundamentally it was a good means to engage with the community and consideration should be given to holding such a conference every 2/3 years

Secretary's report

JP reported that BC, JF, and CW had agreed to form a sub-group, along with himself, to look at ways of promoting the Community Council and engaging with the community.

Following on from the previous meeting, a letter had been sent to Lorraine McMiillan, Chief Executive of ERC, complaining about the lack of transparency over both the quarry and leisure centre issues, and asking for a member of staff at a suitably senior level to act as liaison between ERC and community councils as a mechanism for improving communications and transparency. The letter had simply been passed to Vincent McCulloch, the existing community liaison officer. While it was generally felt that this was a very disappointing response, totally ignoring the request for a 'suitably senior' member of staff, it was agreed to take the community council's concerns to him in the first instance.

Treasurer's report

JMCC reported that the administrative grant for 2018/19 was being processed.

Current balances are: Administrative account £1407.97
Fundraising account: £174.04

Matters arising from Minutes

Braidbar Quarry

Following the recent developments regarding both the quarry and the leisure centre, various groups have come together to form an umbrella group called 'Keep East Renfrewshire Green' which seeks to protect various areas of green space from any development.

Regarding the quarry, AM expressed the view that the Scottish Government should be approached to see if they would be prepared to fund the remediation of the quarry, but leaving it as open green space.

Eastwood Leisure Centre

It was noted that the swimming pool would be closed over the holiday period for essential maintenance work to be carried out.

Enterprise Car Rentals

A letter had been sent to Andrew Cahill, Director of environment, complaining about the parking of vans on pavements on both Fenwick Road and adjacent side streets, also asking what planning permission they had (i.e. space for 14 cars, but no provision for vans). To date no reply has been received, so a follow up email will be sent.

Planning Issues

Eastwoodhill House

Westpoint Homes have had a pre-planning presentation regarding converting Eastwoodhill House into flats and building another four blocks of flats on the site, totalling some 50-60 flats. The presentation was attended by MP and JP. It is clearly a high end development with no provision for affordable homes.

Westpoint Homes envisage putting in a formal planning application in January, and hope to obtain planning permission in April.

Former Bank of Scotland premises

The Community Council had objected to the proposal to convert the former Bank of Scotland premises into a restaurant. However, planning provision has now been granted.

Questions from the floor

Parking on double yellow lines

Some small businesses have been complaining about parking on double yellow lines restricting access to their premises and that such parking restrictions are not being enforced. It was noted that this is a matter for the Community Wardens, not the police. There are a total of 12 wardens for the whole of East Renfrewshire. And there is a contact number for them on the ERC website.

Parkgrove Avenue

JMcC reported that, as Parkgrove Avenue is a private road, the residents have paid for repairs to the road surface at the junction with Braidbar Farm Road. However, this area is extensively used as a drop off and turning point for parents dropping off their children for Braidbar Primary School, and it is this traffic that has caused the damage to the road surface. His feeling is that the residents should be compensated for this damage by ERC.

AOCB

DL and JP gave notice that they intend to stand down as Chair and Secretary respectively at the AGM in April.

Date of next meeting

Monday January 21st at 7.00p.m. in Giffnock Library

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.