

MINUTE

of

NEWTON MEARNS SOUTH, BUSBY, CLARKSTON AND EAGLESHAM AREA FORUM

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in Mearns Castle High School on 1 March 2016.

Present:

Provost Alastair Carmichael

Councillor Alan Lafferty

George McLachlan (Busby Community Council); and John Seenan (East Renfrewshire Neighbourhood Watch Association).

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

Attending:

Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager.

Apologies:

Councillors Ian McAlpine and Stewart Miller; Inspector Alan Dickson (Police Scotland); and Station Manager David Fothergill (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting of 1 December 2015.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2015/16

2. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing an update on projects previously approved by the forum and the balance outstanding in the General Services budget for 2015/16.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that Busby Community Council had submitted proposals for some resurfacing and reinstatement works on the path at the end of Newford Grove. Costs had been requested and were awaited.

During further discussion a number of additional proposals were suggested, particularly in relation to regular waste and dog waste bins at various locations, in respect of which the Democratic Services Manager undertook to contact cleansing services to establish whether these could be taken forward before the end of the financial year.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

3. Mr Seenan reminded the forum that he had raised the issue of property revaluation at the meeting of the forum on 2 December 2014. He explained that he understood it to be the

case that domestic dwellings should be revalued every time that they were sold to a new owner and this was not happening. As a result, with regard to the particularly challenging financial circumstances facing local authorities, this lack of revaluation was depriving them of a potential source of additional income through some properties being revalued and moved into higher Council Tax bands.

At the time this was first raised the Democratic Services Manager undertook to raise this matter with the Assessor and a reply had been obtained and forwarded to Mr Seenan.

It was noted that Provost Carmichael was one of the Council's representatives on the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board and he undertook to raise this matter with the Assessor once again.

Thereafter Mr Seenan and Mr McLachlan were heard on the poor condition of The Crescent in Busby, Mr McLachlan indicating that it was his understanding that the road was scheduled for repair.

In reply, the Democratic Services Manager undertook to clarify the situation with the Roads Service and advise Mr Seenan and Mr McLachlan in due course.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

5. The forum noted that at the meeting of the Cabinet on 28 January 2016, it had been decided that the area forums would cease to operate from April 2016, and as a result this was the last meeting of the forum.

Councillor Lafferty on behalf of the forum thanked Provost Carmichael for his chairmanship of the forum and paid tribute to those forum members, past and present, who had attended meetings and to their positive contributions. In addition Mr Seenan thanked the forum for the improvements it had made to the lives of many disabled residents in the area through the installation of dropped kerbs in various locations.