

MINUTE

of

**NEILSTON, UPLAWMOOR AND NEWTON MEARNS NORTH AND BARRHEAD
AREA FORUM**

**Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead on
11 September 2014.**

Present:

Councillor Tony Buchanan

Sergeant Jim Boyle, (Police Scotland); Steven Healy, (Neilston Community Council) (Vice Chair); David Jesner, (Mearns Community Council); Linda McCullagh, (Hillside Tenants and Residents Association); and Alan Walker, (Neilston Development Trust).

Mr Healy in the Chair

Attending:

Ron Leitch, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Kenny Hay (Chair), and Paul O'Kane; and Grace Brookmyre (East Renfrewshire Faith Forum).

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 29 May 2014 subject to clarification by Councillor Buchanan that seating within the new public realm works on Main Street, Barrhead had been damaged in transit and it was anticipated that replacements would be installed within the coming 6 to 8 weeks.

Mr Jesner, referring to the abandoned property which he had raised under Item 6, advised that the building had subsequently been destroyed by fire.

The forum noted the updates provided.

POLICE/FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES – UPDATE

2. Mr Healy invited Sergeant Boyle to update members on the activities of Police Scotland in the forum's area since the date of the last meeting.

Sergeant Boyle advised the forum that Chief Inspector Angela Carty would take up the post of Area Commander for East Renfrewshire within the next 2 weeks. He went on to highlight the results of the most recent public satisfaction surveys which continued to show a general downward trend in those areas considered to be priorities by the public.

Responding to a comment from Mr Jesner regarding the increased incidence of housebreaking and other theft within Newton Mearns, Sergeant Boyle explained that a number of arrests had recently been made in this regard following an intelligence led investigation; that the accused persons remained in custody awaiting trial; and that it was anticipated that the recent upward trend would now be reversed as a result.

Sergeant Boyle explained the background to a recently reported headline story in the Barrhead News regarding an affray in Barrhead Main Street, explaining that 4 people and 9 police officers had been involved in the incident and that as a result a total of 13 charges had been reported to the fiscal for consideration.

Responding to further enquiries from members, Sergeant Boyle advised that he was unaware of any reported incidences of criminal behaviour locally linked to the Scottish Independence Referendum and that action was ongoing with regard to a spate of vandalism within Newton Mearns and Neilston. He concluded his report by advising that the incidence of fire raising and other anti-social behaviour within the former Shanks Business Park had reduced considerably following the installation of lockable entrance gates.

Having heard Mr Healy thank Sergeant Boyle for his presentation, the forum noted the position.

PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2014/15

3. The forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, giving details of the budget allocation for 2014/15 and submitting proposals for consideration.

Following full and detailed discussion on the proposals submitted, the forum agreed:-

(a) that the following projects be approved:-

Opening Balance £15,360

PROJECT	COSTS/COMMENTS
Repairs to memorial bench, Main Street, Neilston (subject to further clarification regarding ownership and up to a maximum of £300)	£252
Litter bin at Neilston Road, Neilston	£180
Litter bin at Pig Square, Neilston	£180
Total	£612
Remaining Balance	£14,748

- (b) that the following projects be withdrawn:-
 - (i) Repairs to notice board locks at Main Street, Neilston
 - (ii) Replacement of Perspex on notice board, Neilston village.

- (c) that the following project, which had been received too late to be included in the forum papers, be continued pending clarification from Police Scotland:-
 - Provision of a notice board near Barrhead Police Office.

Following further discussion, in the course of which alternative methods of funding various projects were raised, the forum agreed to note the report.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

4. The following issue was raised:-

Review of Community Council Scheme of Establishment

Mr Jesner asked when the report on the Review of the Community Council Scheme of Establishment would be available. Councillor Buchanan advised that the report would be presented to a special meeting of the Council on 24 September with a recommendation that the Council approves the commencement of the Stage 2 consultation and that the report should be available on the Council website on the afternoon of 19 September.

The forum noted the position.

DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

5. It was reported that the next meeting of the forum would be held in the Council Offices, Main Street, Barrhead on Thursday, 11 December 2014.