

Giffnock Community Council

Minutes

19th June 2023

Welcome

Cindy Berry (CB) opened meeting, explained it was being recorded and welcomed those present.

Apologies

Cristina Scheeffler

Members Present

CB, Scot van den Akker (SVDA), Iain Wilkinson (IW), Marion Miller (MM), Joan Perry (JP), Jack Wells (JW)

Councillors Present

Provost Montague, Councillor Merrick

Minute taking

SVDA

AGM-Vincent McCulloch (separate agenda to follow)

Approval of May Minutes - proposer & seconder

Proposed – MM and Seconded - SVDA

Police Report

Received and circulated to Community Councillors.

Planning

MM now receiving planning information from ERC and will highlight anything that appears relevant. MM asked if we felt there were too many pubs/restaurants and too few shops in Giffnock...the issue will be raised with ERC.

Banking

We now have a 'live bank account' and will receive grants and pay any creditors. Resolutions re RBoS were passed unanimously.

Boundaries

CB thanked Councillor Wallace for his prompt and informative response to GCC email to all ward councillors asking for clarification. Provost Montague apologised for not getting to the email and advised that boundaries was tabled to the agenda for the next full council meeting and councillors' views would be known then. Councillor Merrick apologised he was unable to respond due to personal issues. We sent our objections re the proposed changes to the boundaries before the deadline. The next ERC discussion on the subject is Wednesday 28th June 2023.

Disability Parking

BID Meeting: CB and MM met with ERC and two BID members which turned out to be - Gianni Celino, Chairman of BID and non-BID member Jim Martin. The meeting was facilitated by Provost Montague. GCC felt disadvantaged being misled that the only attendees allowed to be present were 2 members of BID and 2 members of GCC. Also present was Michael McKelvin, Economic Development Officer ERC.

Changes to the plan re parking bays are unlikely to happen. Provost Montague will walk through Giffnock with MM to see the challenges, opportunities and generally see just how 'accessible' Giffnock is. Meeting was well tempered and MM felt that BID was gaining an insight into the issues and the problems faced by some customers accessing Giffnock.

However, GCC disagrees with ERC's decision being made based only on BID's objection. GCC are concerned and dissatisfied that this decision does not reflect ERC's policy of 'inclusivity' and in fact is discriminatory towards disabled people.

Scheme of Establishment

The review was ushered in by issues at 2 specific CCs. It is designed to tighten up procedures. SVDA mentioned to Provost Montague and Councillor Merrick that it was not obvious how such issues had been dealt with once and for all. PM replied that close looks at various sections did show important changes, especially in terms of stopping malicious complaints, multiple similar complaints etc. There

are also tougher sanctions for people found guilty of breaching CC code of conduct. We explained our remaining doubts:

- No mechanism for allowing a CC to expel a member simply through a unanimous show of hands. ERC feel this may lead to personal feuds or personal beefs, but this is highly unlikely.
- Someone ejected from a CC should not be able to rejoin at any stage.

Forum for CCs, West Lothian

CB joined a 'Teams' meeting and will get kept up to date with any developments.

AOB

- Braidholm Grass: JP asked ERC councillor and LP re approaching S Water for legacy funding. This has since been superseded by a meeting SVDA had with locals at a S Water presentation. The locals do not want anything resembling a park in case undesirables congregate...they want nothing more than grass re-sewn, and to ensure that it is looking exactly as it did. This ends our involvement satisfactorily.
- Still no action on the cats' eyes in Huntly Park, with almost 1/3 not currently working (sadly SVDA did count them). Provost Montague said she would take a look at the situation.
- GCC wished Vincent McCulloch well for his retirement and thanked him for his advice, encouragement, help and support in re-establishing GCC and wished him all the best for a happy and healthy retirement.
- Vincent McCulloch brought along CC election nomination forms. Closing date for submission is 13th September 2023. All members wishing to remain need proposer and seconder. We also should have a campaign to recruit new candidates.

- Local Recovery: MM told us about this group. They offer funding but it is not clear exactly who funds them, or what their criteria is. Provost Montague will try and see if we can access any funds from them. Provost Montague also said she would investigate as she had not heard of them before.

LDP 4: Up for review and commentary. CB affirmed GCC to look at LDP 4 in order to see if comment by GCC is necessary.

CB raised the issue of how many meetings per year GCC should hold in accordance with SoE guidelines in the hope that less meetings could possibly attract more members. To be discussed further.

DONM-August 21st (no meeting in July)