

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NORTH KELVIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON 17 JANUARY 2017

Present:

Members: Jamie Thomas Harley, Peter Blackshaw, Merle Read, Martin Venhern (left after Treasurer's report), Jane Morgan (associate member)

Apologies: Christine Alison, Elaine Doherty

Attendees: Helen Stephen (Councillor), Alasdair Macdonald, (resident), PCs Watts and Ahmed (for police report)

1. Jamie Thomas Harley (Chair) welcomed those present. The minutes of the November meeting were approved with any matters arising on the agenda.

Treasurer's report

2. MV reported that he submitted the previous year's accounts (to 30/9) to GCC in December. They were viewed as in good order and the meeting recorded thanks to the previous Treasurer for his work. Funding for the current year (now to 31/8) of some £500 should be released by 23/1. MV noted that equipment would not be eligible spend under the core grant but that it would be possible to apply for discretionary grant.

Communication: Noticeboards

3. MR had contacted GCC's land and Environmental Services (LES) after the last meeting. They accepted the Belmont Street triangle as a site although on reflection members were concerned as to whether residents would walk over to view. LES considered the site next to Boots on Queen Margaret Drive as too busy and after discussion attendees thought the other end of QMD a possibility. MR, with JTH, will pursue applying for planning permission and Area Partnership funding.

Police report

4. PC Watts and Ahmed explained that Lisa Harris was on early shift so was not attending but that they too were from the problem solving team. Attendance would depend on shift patterns but should otherwise be stable. PC watts reported on reported crimes which had been relatively low in the last month including 2 housebreak-ins, 1 theft from a secure close, and vandalism of cars, theft from one car but no street drinking, AM noted car and bike thefts in Dryborough Gardens in the previous month. The police acknowledged this as part of a wider problem and that thieves were obtaining car keys from houses. They advised keeping keys out of sight.

5. JM enquired about a leaflet referred to by PC Lisa Harris at the previous meeting. PC Ahmed explained that this had not been delivered to each house but rather available in e.g. shops. Members expressed interest in receiving copies that the CC might distribute.

Site of new school

6. HS reported that the consultation period had closed and that officers were analysing comments prior to the Council's decision.

Planning Officer's report

7. As ED could not be present this was deferred to the next meeting.

Communications: including Web report

8. Members agreed that it would be useful to place notices (already held) about the CC in local shops and elsewhere. JTH and MR to pursue initially.

Correspondence

9. The Secretary (PB) had no correspondence to report.

Councillor's report

10. HS referred to her e-mailed update after the previous meeting (annexed) . Additional points were:

- A meeting with the Belhaven nursery school head about the proposed new school
- There had been disruption to some bin collections over festive period but these should soon be back on track
- HS continued to work with those seeking to improve Wilton St etc lane. DRS had visited and the public meeting had been postponed until there were specific proposals to put forward.
- HS clarified boundary changes for Council wards as they affect CC residents. All streets west of QMD currently in Canal ward would go into Maryhill ward. All east but south of Maryhill road would go into Hillhead. Firhill area stays in Canal.
- The Council is setting its budget. This is later than usual due to late UK and then Scottish Govt decisions. GCC's allocation from SG is a further £20m lower than expected (thus £150m less than previous year). Changes to make savings had already been put in place but the Council is considering a 3% Council tax increase which would deliver nearly half the £20m. This would be the first increase for some 10 years. HS did also note that higher bands (E-H) would face further rises due to changes made by Scottish Govt.

11. In discussion, HS confirmed that Chris Kelly had resigned as his new job did not allow political activity. HS noted that she would not be standing again and, while she would continue until May, members thanked her for her work.

12. HS agreed to pursue other points raised:

- The lack of cleaning of Stair Street- and possibly other stepped ways (eg. 60 steps, Up from Melrose Gardens.
- Need for repainting of yellow lines on corners
- It seemed that the Environmental Task Force webpage (referred to at last meeting) functioned except with Safari web-browser.
- New leaflets on recycling would be helpful.
- Could the Council remove Xmas trees left on land by the Kelvin on Belmont St.

AOB and next meeting

13. AM referred to continued problems with parking. JTM suggested putting this on the agenda for the next meeting with a view to a public meeting that might hear of and discuss options.

14. The 60 steps group would meet on 24/1 at 7.30.

15. AM noted grants available from SNH and Sustrans and members agreed to consider their use
16. The next meeting will take place on 21/2 at 6.30 in St Charles Church Hall.

On 30 Nov 2016, at 12:56, Stephen, Helen (Councillor) <Helen.Stephen@glasgow.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Jane

Thank you for a copy of the minutes and proposed actions. Unfortunately I am not able to make the informal December meeting so please find copied below an update - just in case there was anything that the Community Councillors wanted me to pick up before/over the Christmas break.

I am still waiting to hear back about litter bins at/around Belmont Street.

Best wishes

Helen

- Grit Bins

Land and Environmental Services (LES) have advised that as both Yarrow Gardens/Wilton Gardens and Melrose Gardens/the Steps do not meet the criteria laid down in Section 3.11.2 of the Council's Winter Maintenance Plan, in that there are grit bins within 200m of these locations, therefore they are unable to accede to the request of additional grit bins at Yarrow Gardens or top/bottom of the steps.

LES advise that the nearest grit bin to Yarrow Gardens/Wilton Gardens is Wilton Street/Jedburgh Gardens and the nearest grit bin to Melrose Gardens/the Steps is Kelvinside Gardens/St Charles Church (just outside the hall).

I understand that section 3.10.2 of Glasgow City Councils 2016-2017 Winter Maintenance Plan says " A grit bin should not be sited within 200 metres of another ". Also there is no criteria regarding the incline of the footway in the plan for the provision of grit bins. Please follow this link for details of the Winter Maintenance Plan <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=31713&p=0>

- Street Cleansing discussion for next meeting Peter Hendry, Depot Manager, will attend the NKCC January meeting. I have advised the Chair.

- Trees at Botanic Gardens/Doune Gardens The trees in question, on the southern side of Doune Gardens, were visited on the 23 November 2016 and were noted to be in good health generally, with no significant defects being observed at the time of the visit. That said, lower branch growth was noted to be beginning to encroach the adjacent road/parked cars and, as a consequence, 8 trees would benefit from being lightly crown lifted to a general height of 3m.

Accordingly, LES has programmed this pruning work for completion within the next 12 weeks. Please note, however, that this work and the intended timescale, is subject to LES securing Conservation Area approval and, if required, a Temporary Traffic Restriction Order due to the presence of parked cars.

Regarding concerns that the trees are 'blocking' day light, LES has advised that the Council will not undertake to remove or reduce the height of otherwise healthy trees in response to requests for increased direct sun light. This arises as there is no entitlement to direct sun light in relation to neighbouring trees in Scotland and the removal or height reduction of healthy trees is not recommended arboricultural practice in accordance with the British Standard for Tree Work Recommendations (BS 3998:2010).

- Litter Bins

I am still waiting on a response from Land and Environmental Services.

- Oban Path

An inspection of the footpath was carried out on the 22nd of November and four lanterns were found dark and restored to operational condition.

- Environmental Task Force

Some background information on the Task force:

The Environmental Task Force (ETF) aims to revolutionise the way the city is maintained and gives the public the opportunity to make its voice heard through Facebook and Twitter. This real time information from the public will be gathered at a state-of-the-art command centre in Bridgeton, with 30 rapid response teams dispatched to tackle the issues as quickly as possible. The ETF's main aim is to tackle environmental issues including fly tipping, littering and dog fouling. An emphasis will also be placed on improving neighbourhoods throughout the city through environmental enhancement.

The ETF model sees the city's 21 wards grouped into four Task Force Cycles. An ETF team will arrive in a ward

each week and work on that area before starting again in a new ward the following week. A typical ETF team comprises of specialist units who will focus on graffiti removal, improving roads, dog fouling, community payback and littering. And as part of the programme a major recruitment drive will take place which will see unemployed people of all ages from across the city trained up as ETF officers.

More information on the Council's website: <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17179>; including how to report online/smart phone/contact telephone number. I have just tried to report using the website, and it worked fine for me, but if residents are experiencing more problems then let me know.

- Yarrow Gardens Lane/Planning

I have been in touch with Christine separately about this, but have attached the information on cars/transport policy that the Planning process considers, and a copy of my representation, for information. I have also highlighted to DRS your concerns about 5 Kelvinside Gardens East.

Let me know if there's anything else!

Councillor Helen Stephen
Canal - ward 16
Glasgow City Council
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