

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 11 December 2019, Albany Centre, 7.30pm

Present: Ruth Gillett (chair), Tom Johnstone, Derek Manson-Smith, Stewart Leighton, Gerry Doyle, Kay Scott, Alasdair Gerrie

In attendance: Councillor Ken Andrew

1 Apologies: Diane Mitchell, Clare Crawford, PC McGlynn, Councillor Wardrop

2 Police Report

As there were no police present there was no police report.

3 Minutes of 13 November Meeting

Tom Johnstone said that under item 9, HMO Consultation, line 4, '163A' should be '136A'. Stewart Leighton said that under item 8, Hillhead Area Partnership, the word 'cleansing' should be inserted before the word 'protocols' in line 5. Otherwise, the minutes of the meeting were proposed as a correct record by Tom Johnstone, seconded by Derek Manson-Smith.

4 Matters Arising

Tom Johnstone reported that conditional consent had been granted by the Planning Committee for the planning application for the Otago Lane development. Despite requests beforehand, nobody was allowed to speak about the application at the Planning Committee meeting where, under the previous administration, a four-minute speech was allowed. Councillor Andrew explained that the procedure now is that there has to be a request for a hearing to the chair who then puts it to the committee. If such a request is denied by the committee then there is no hearing and no appeal, even for a councillor. In discussion about the shortcomings of the terms of the City Plan and the planning system in general, Tom pointed out that planning, like licensing, is a quasi-judicial matter and should not have anything to do with party allegiance.

5 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Andrew reported that he had looked at the traffic priorities associated with the Park Quadrant development and has again asked for a meeting on site with the appropriate department to discuss the issue of the one-way section. In response to a Hillhead constituent he has been in touch with Neighbourhoods and Sustainability to see what can be done about the mural wall leading to the Eldon Street bridge, which is now in a poor state and is being graffitied over. It could be a candidate for ENV2 money from the Park Quadrant site or could be funded by a Hillhead Area Partnership grant. He reported that he has been receiving many emails of complaint from a Carnarvon Street resident who is not on the electoral roll but who claims to act on behalf of a Carnarvon Street residents' group. One complaint features Pure Gym, a converted garage on St Georges Road. Alasdair Gerrie said that on occasions there can be a lot of rubbish in St Georges Road around the gym but on the whole St Georges Road and Grant Street are vastly improved on what they were five years ago.

6 Lanes Project

Tom Johnstone reported that the last four planning applications for the signs have gone in. Charing Cross Housing Association objected to the fitting of the sign for Ashley Lane West to their building at 31 Ashley Street. Tom and Councillor Wardrop had had a meeting with John Mann. The reason for the objection was that the lane is extremely short and leads into their private car park and anything that encourages people on to their private land is not a good idea. It was agreed not to go ahead with this sign as CCHA, as owner of the building, could refuse to let the sign be put up even if planning permission were granted. The only wasted money is £24 for the cost of the sign, which has probably already been made, as the fee for the planning permission will be refunded.

7 Park Quadrant Site

Derek Manson-Smith and Tom Johnstone reported that the show flat is very claustrophobic. Tom said that 17 per cent of the flats sold so far are buy-to-let. Derek reported that the meeting of the developer and local residents had also been attended by an officer from Neighbourhoods and Sustainability. Much of the discussion was about the state of the lane. It was agreed to put setts in the centre of the lane to take the weight of bin lorries and to tar the sides, but this has still to be costed. The lighting is still an issue. The cables will have to be sunk.

As the council will not pay for this, someone will have to contact all the title-holders in the lane. Some residents have lights above their front doors. Somebody has raised the issue of parking as some of the flats are being sold as 'car-free', without parking spaces, as at Park House, and are not eligible for local parking permits. There was discussion about this. There was also discussion about bin provision.

8 HMO Consultation

Nothing was reported.

9 Millennium Park

Nothing was reported.

10 Kelvingrove Park

Tom Johnstone said he had been to see where the rhododendrons are to be cut down, above the azalea beds and in front of the university. Ruth Gillett said it looks as if they are repeating what was done ten years ago when the rhododendrons were cut back but not removed.

11 Cleansing

Councillor Andrew reported that the 16-day uplift cycle is now live and that information on uplift days for different postcodes is now available on Glasgow City Council's website.

12 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Tom Johnstone said there was one late item of correspondence had arrived since he circulated his report: a temporary market operator's licence application in Kelvingrove Art Gallery 15, 16 and 17 May. Councillor Andrew said it relates to an event being organised by Itison. Tom said that, as usual, none of the HMO licence applications has planning permission and one has been refused lawful use and enforcement is being pursued. As emails from Steven Dowling are received by everyone, he wouldn't list them. Councillor Andrew said he has objected to market operators' licences for fast food outlets in Kelvin Way.

13 Finance

Gerry Doyle reported that he had received an invoice from GCVS for £20 for room hire for November.

14 AOCB

Stewart Leighton said that of the highest 20 postcode areas for crime in Scotland G3 is number 16: Finnieston, Anderston, Garnethill, Park and part of Woodlands.

There was discussion about flytipping.

Stewart Leighton said there is a flat in West Princes Street, obviously with structural problems, which has lain empty for a number of years. Councillor Andrew asked Stewart to give him details as Glasgow City Council is now compulsorily purchasing such properties which, working with housing associations, will be brought back into use. Alasdair Gerrie suggested Mr Singh's property in Melrose Street.

15 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 8 January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Albany Centre.