

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 13 January 2021, via Zoom, 7.30pm

Present: Ruth Gillett (chair), Tom Johnstone (secretary), Gerry Doyle (treasurer), Derek Manson-Smith, Clare Crawford (minutes), Alasdair Gerrie, Johnpaul McCabe

In attendance: Councillor Ken Andrew, Councillor Martha Wardrop, Councillor Malik

1 Apologies: Diane Mitchell, Liam Brady (GU SRC representative)

2 Police Report

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

3 Minutes of 9 December Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were proposed as a correct record by Derek Manson-Smith, seconded by Tom Johnstone.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Andrew reported that there had been a report in the Evening Times on the previous Monday about masonry falling from Trinity Tower on the Sunday night. There is now heras fencing around the tower, and stabilising it has become a matter of urgency. He is working with residents, DRS and Building Control to move repairs forward. There have been a number of issues with refuse collection failures, particularly in Lyndoch Terrace, throughout lockdown. A senior manager is now trying to identify the problem there. There are also problems in Willowbank Crescent Lane, which is badly flytipped. The council has had to go in there a number of times over the years and clean it. Now enforcement action is going to be taken against the owners. Peppi's fried chicken and the ice-cream shop next door continue to be a problem generally. The situation has been going on for two years. The residents have had enough and are now making official complaints about Glasgow City Council. For children who receive free school meals, £25 per child per fortnight will be paid into a nominated bank account. There is good news about the Kelvin Hall, which is to receive about £8 million from the Scottish government and £4 million from Glasgow City Council to develop a high-quality sound stage and film studio. In reply to a report from Alasdair Gerrie that the bins on the north side of Grant Street have not been lifted for four weeks, Councillor Andrew said he would raise the matter with Neighbourhoods and Sustainability. Derek Manson-Smith said that despite the publicity about the facility for recycling Christmas trees in Kelvin Way, the pile of Christmas trees dumped at the end of Park Gate, before you get into the park entrance, is now about one storey high. Councillor Andrew said he would chase the matter up with Neighbourhoods and Sustainability. Derek also said that, walking around the park in the last couple of days, he has become concerned about the numbers and the sizes of groups of young people. Councillor Andrew said he would raise the matter with Inspector Daley. Ruth Gillett asked Councillor Andrew to make it clear that closing the park gates is not a solution. Councillor Andrew agreed that that had been discriminatory.

Councillor Wardrop reported there has been concern about gritting and there is still a problem with black ice and she wanted to check if everyone knows if there are enough grit bins in the area. She has asked for additional gritting to happen around Kelvin Way and all the paths in Kelvingrove Park. She had noticed the Christmas trees in the Park area and feels that an official site should be created there as it is a long haul down the hill to the other side of the park. She asked Derek if he could find out from the residents' associations if there would be any objections. The problem with the food waste service does not seem to have been resolved. She has been trying to get bins put in Woodlands but then they have been removed. She's not sure what is going to happen next. She will keep people updated as to how she gets on. The majority of lanes have been kept quite clear of refuse over the holiday time. She has had people complaining that they can't get through on the phone to make an appointment for bulk uplift and everything has to be online. She thinks that they will have to look at a helpline. If anyone is having difficulty getting an appointment online and needs assistance she will try to get help organised to get the bulk moved. If anyone needs help with Council Tax and bill-paying, she will try to get assistance. She has been investigating the vaccination programme. At the moment it just seems to be over-80s and health care staff and care homes. If councillors get health and social care updates then she is happy to take up any health and social care issues.

6 Millennium Park

Alasdair Gerrie said that people persist in throwing food out for seagulls and pigeons and the park can become pretty unhygienic. Derek Manson-Smith said that somebody throws out masses of yellow fried rice on to the slope up from Gibson Street going into Kelvingrove Park. Councillor Wardrop said that they had looked at signs and had involved Environmental Health in the past but there is a limit to what they can do. They can't fine people, they can only warn them. She said she would ask for a power washer to clean the area. Councillor Andrew said it is a major problem but in legislation there is very little that can be done. The difficulty is that people are encouraging vermin and there is a problem with rats at the moment.

7 Kelvingrove Park

This was covered under item 5, Councillors' Reports, and item 6, Millennium Park.

8 Cleansing

Clare Crawford reported that there used to be a recycling bin at the top of Woodlands Drive without a lid for many years. A lid appeared, and two days later the bin was removed. It had been well used so for a few days afterwards people were leaving stuff at the site. That stuff has been removed but she thought it was a good thing to have. Councillor Wardrop thought maybe it had been moved because the back courts in the area now have blue bins. Clare wondered what the policy is now. Councillor Andrew suggested it could be part of a policy of taking any broken-down Taylor bins away. His personal view is that a lot of the Taylor bins on Great Western Road are used by businesses that are not meant to use them; they are meant to pay for their own waste removal. Councillor Wardrop said that the council is not reliable in emptying these bins and it does not consult on the issue. She would enquire about why it was taken away. In discussion about street recycling bins, Councillor Wardrop said they are supposed to be evenly spread across the area. Clare said the bin she was talking about was well used for Amazon packaging so she thinks it was used by young people. Councillor Wardrop said there is a need to be positive and encourage people to recycle and to provide a reliable service. Recycling is at the bottom of the chain and it is not taken seriously enough. If the council can't provide a regular service then people get disgruntled. Tom Johnstone said that there used to be a square-shaped rubbish bin halfway down West End Park Street but it has gone and he wondered why. It might be because it attracted quite a lot of black bin bags around it. In his close, and he thinks this is repeated in other closes where there are a lot of HMOs, there are eight general waste bins and six blue recycling bins. It takes just one cycle of the recycling to be missed and then there is no option but to put the recycling into the green bins. The 16-day cycle is too long or the number of bins is insufficient. Councillor Andrew said that the West End Park Street bin had been removed at the request of people living beside it as they could barely get in and out of their close.

9 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Tom Johnstone said the planning application for 3 Park Circus has just come in. At the moment some people receive the weekly list of planning applications and some do not. He will ask Robin Gillett to check who is on the mailing list for the admin email address. None of the applications for HMOs has planning permission. Two temporary street trader licence applications are by two people who are probably related but not the same person for identical stances and identical vehicles. He asked that people return completed 'How Good Are Glasgow's Places' questionnaires so that he can compile a response from the community council. Although it is badly designed, unless others complete them, it will be left to Tom and one other to decide the response. Councillor Wardrop said there were a couple of consultations, one for the North Glasgow Planning Framework and the other on purpose-built student accommodation, with responses due this month. Tom said that Stewart Leighton had agreed at the previous meeting to write something about it. The worst local example was the attempt to build on top of the STUC building at the junction of Woodlands Road and Park Road. Quite a lot of people objected, not only the community council, to the extra storeys being added on top and that had some effect. Ruth Gillett said some people in Park Road didn't get notification about that but she didn't know if they had complained. Councillor Wardrop said she is planning to make a response on the Glasgow North Framework as it affects Hillhead, which is on the edge of the framework and Woodside is included in it. She is concerned that Hillhead is constantly having to object to overdevelopment. It is important to get developers to move away from developing in Hillhead to other areas of the city across the north. She agreed with Tom that the main reason is profiteering and the quality of life for existing residents is being diminished. Tom said there is a nasty little phrase in the existing City Plan about ensuring 'a compact city' and that is being interpreted to pile people on top of each other, with new developments generally being one storey higher than they need to be. Councillor Wardrop said social housing is crucial. There are waiting lists across Hillhead as people can't afford the rents. Surely we can make some gains for other areas and maintain a decent quality of architecture and green spaces in Hillhead. Derek Manson-Smith said there is a consultation on Get Glasgow Moving, which should be completed by 24 January. He said he would circulate it to the the community council's email address. Councillor Andrew said it was difficult for him, now he is on the quasi-judicial Planning Applications

Committee, to say too much, but he was surprised that planning officers have used as reasons to reject a planning application those very objections that were used by himself, Councillor Wardrop and the community council for the Arnold Clark development in Grant Street, which were not allowed. He understands that every planning application has to be taken on its own merits but there is inconsistency. The planning function in the city is not working well. The SNP group on the Planning Committee is beginning to look at how it can be strengthened. Tom said that the development plan is not sufficiently proscriptive and is open to ambiguous interpretations. In Barcelona, apparently, you can both apply for and, in most cases, obtain planning permission entirely online because the system is so proscriptive. Alasdair Gerrie said Glasgow keeps trying to promote itself as a place for tourism and leisure but in order to do that the city needs to have a reasonably consistent aesthetic and by throwing up these modern buildings what they are doing is destroying the wonderful Victorian heritage.

10 Finance

Gerry Doyle reported that he had been in touch with McArthur and Denton about the auditing of the accounts and he hopes they will be ready for the next meeting. Tom Johnstone asked Gerry to prepare a cheque for him for £28.78 for two months' Zoom subscription. Tom said he cannot provide an invoice for December, but he can prove that he paid it with a bank statement. He has an invoice for January.

11 AOCB

Johnpaul McCabe said he is thinking about getting an electric car but has found that there are no charging points within Woodlands and Park although there are in the wider area. He wondered if the Connecting Woodside initiative would include them. He had consulted the council's website and found that there is a roll-out of charging points but he wondered how the planning happens and how the need is determined. Councillor Wardrop said there is a council officer who gathers evidence from electric car owners and responds to enquiries. They work in partnership with the car-sharing scheme, Co-Wheels, and they tend to put charging points next to Co-Wheels car-sharing bays. They have to put in a traffic regulation in order to install the charging point in an existing parking bay. She said she would ask if they have identified any sites within the Woodlands and Park area and pass the information on to the community council's email address and suggested the matter be put on next month's agenda.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.