

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 14 April 2021, via Zoom, 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Councillor Ken Andrew

1 Apologies: Diane Mitchell, Patrick Harvie MSP, Liam Brady (GU SRC), Kay Scott, Gerry Doyle, Councillor Wardrop

2 Police Report

Tom Johnstone said that a police report by PC McGlynn had been circulated with the other papers for the meeting. He said he tended to agree with Stewart Leighton that it was hard to see what information is in it that should not be shared with other people.

3 Minutes of 10 March Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were proposed as correct by Stewart Leighton, seconded by Alasdair Gerrie.

4 Matters Arising

Derek Manson-Smith said he had contacted representatives of residents in Park Circus and Park Terrace about having an official dump for Christmas trees near the gate to Kelvingrove Park. Dave Horley of Park Terrace had not responded and George Hazle of Park Circus had responded and said Derek should ask the people who live there although he thinks they would probably object. Derek does not have any way of identifying who of his contacts actually live there. There was discussion about flytipping.

5 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Andrew said that people will be aware of the crowds of young people who have been gathering in Kelvingrove Park and of their antisocial behaviour. The police are considering how to lever in resources when intelligence indicates that trouble is going to happen. Before social media problem days could be forecast, e.g. bank holidays and ends of exams, now any half-decent day will do. A range of measures are being considered. Drink and drugs will be confiscated. Two lots of CCTV cameras have been installed, one at the park gates on the Sauchiehall Street side of the park and the other at the entrance in Park, to cover the hill as that is where the young people congregate. The Scottish Government has announced money for refurbishment of play parks. Glasgow City Council will look at what is required in Kelvingrove Park and bid for money. He has asked if they can be flexible because quite a lot has been spent in recent years on refurbishing children's play parks. He has asked for the money to be used for improvements to parts of the parks that are designed for children. There is also money for parks from the Scottish Government February budget. He thinks Kelvingrove Park could get something like £50,000 for planting, which can be decided by consulting those who know the park best and have its best interests at heart. When he gets more detail he will contact community councils and Friends of parks groups. In reply to a question from Stewart Leighton, Councillor Andrew said this might also include the Kelvin Walkway and the River Kelvin as they are part of the park environment. He had managed to get the noisy manhole cover on Great Western Road at the junction with Woodlands Drive sorted. Stewart Leighton reported another noisy manhole cover in westbound Eldon Street, close to the St Andrews Building, which Councillor Andrew said he would report. There have been complaints about a graffitied shipping container parked by the river just off South Woodside Road that is used by Park Mobility to store scooters. They are trying to see if it can be moved to more out-of-sight spot. He has had to raise again with the police that the Park area is being used as a race track by high-powered cars. Stewart said there are two streets where he has noticed vehicles speeding up quite considerably: Park Road between Great Western Road and the mini roundabout into Woodlands Road; and the section of Woodlands Road between the mini roundabout at Park Road and the mini roundabout at Eldon Street. Councillor Andrew said he would ask Roads to investigate. Stewart said he thinks the roundabout at Eldon Street and Woodlands Road should be redesigned to slow down traffic and to ensure that traffic does not turn right out of Barrington Drive. Another thing is the continued abuse of the chevrons for parking.

6 Millennium Park

Clare Crawford asked that Councillor Andrew make sure that the Millennium Park is included in applying for the money available for play parks. Councillor Andrew said that it will be for community groups to bid for that

money. As soon as he gets details he will make sure all community councils in his ward aware of what's available and the process.

7 Kelvingrove Park

This was discussed under item 5, Councillors' Reports, but Tom Johnstone said that points that Ruth Gillett had raised about closure of gates meaning people who are disabled or less able not being able to get access to the park from the Woodlands area have not been resolved. A letter sent out by Karen Venables refers to the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, Section 15 as justifying the council's decision, but he thinks that sub-section 6 negates that. It was agreed that he would write to Karen Venables asking what regard the council had taken to the obligations in sub-section 6 before invoking Section 15 of the Act. Ruth said that at the very least we must get the Park Drive gate open. She knows that they have said it is only going to be shut on certain days but we also need to have all the other gates open in the evenings for safety for women in the park. Stewart Leighton suggested a lit route through the park. In discussion, Ruth said that would make people sitting targets and Councillor Andrew said it would disturb wildlife.

8 Cleansing

Tom Johnstone said that he had reported a missed blue bin collection on the My Glasgow app more than a month ago and a week later had received emails with conflicting information, the kind of response that destroys faith in the My Glasgow app. Derek Manson-Smith said that over time he has often had emails saying things had been done when they hadn't been done so he just reports them again. Councillor Andrew said he thinks the problem is caused by the way the computer system has been set up and that it has been an issue for quite a while. Tom said he had made another complaint, but nothing has happened. Councillor Andrew said he would deal with the matter. Stewart Leighton asked Councillor Andrew for a blue bin for 80 Barrington Drive. He thinks a previous extra bin supplied has been gobbled up by the machine.

9 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Tom Johnstone reported that none of the ten HMO licence applications has planning permission. In his opinion, none of the planning applications is remarkable in any way although the story of what happened at 266 Woodlands Road is perhaps a stark reminder that, in the words of another planning activist, 'if there are grounds for objection, just object rather than leave it up to it being rejected under delegated authority because of the danger of it going to the local review committee.' The Report of Handling for that particular planning application is correct and he will be interested to see what happens when it eventually gets considered by the local review committee. The Report of Handling concludes, on a very clear policy basis, that the application should be refused but the applicant has appealed against that. Stewart Leighton said he had found the report thoroughly professional. Stewart and Tom then discussed the planning history and status of 276 Woodlands Road, which is now West End Lettings, and the planning restraints on local town centres particularly where there are residences above ground level. Stewart said he had sent out an email suggesting that the community council support the principle of cooperating with North Kelvin Community Council and that either the chair and/or secretary liaise with that community council and the other community councils that operate within the Hillhead Partnership area, Hillhead and Woodside. Tom said that on planning issues he already liaises with Hillhead and Ann Laird of Dowanhill, Hyndland and Kelvinside Community Council. It was agreed that Tom would draft a response to North Kelvin and circulate it to Ruth Gillett and Stewart.

10 Finance

Tom Johnstone apologised for copying the accounts to everybody as the only way to approve the accounts is to do so at an AGM. Gerry has now sent them to Steven Dowling. That is all that can be done for the moment. Robin Gillett would like to be paid electronically. It was agreed that Gerry be asked to make a cheque payable to Tom and for Tom to pay Robin over the internet. Because of the shambles of trying to get an annual subscription at a reduced rate from Zoom he needs a cheque for £14.39 for the following month's meeting. He has abandoned his attempt to get a reduction on an annual subscription.

11 Electric Charging-points

Tom Johnstone reported that Councillor Wardrop had circulated an email with useful information. He is astonished at the extent to which they are trying to defend there being nothing within Woodlands. Derek Manson-Smith said that on Google Maps, the nearest charging-point is Clarendon Place. If they are going to consider Park the most obvious place to put a charging-point is Lyndoch Place as it often has spare parking and is the closest to Woodlands. He said he would let Councillor Wardrop know his view. Councillor Andrew said that the positioning of the electric charging-points has been arbitrary. He thinks it is not unreasonable that each area has some access to these points. The managers seem to be deciding where these points should go without consultation. Certainly, the councillors are not being engaged with. We need to have this better managed. The

demand for points is going to build over the next few years and probably quite quickly. In reply to a question from Alasdair Gerrie, Councillor Andrew said he could not discern any kind of logic. It may well be that there is an infrastructure issue in terms of what kind of electricity supply they have, how close it is to a substation. Stewart Leighton said that people forget that even though cars might be eventually electrified we will still face pollution. In discussion about the state of the electrical wiring in the area, Councillor Andrew pointed out that a lot of work has been done on new lamp standards to allow LED lighting and these are low-voltage systems where electric vehicle charging-points need a high-powered system. A supply from a domestic charging-point takes 12 hours to charge a car. The highest-powered charging-points should fully charge a car in two hours, but you need to be fairly close to a substation. Tom said there is a substation in Woodlands Road, just beside the Methodist church.

12 AOCB

Tom Johnstone said he has had a request for a letter supporting the People's Palace Winter Gardens and Glasgow Green in their application for the museum and the Winter Gardens to be listed in the World Monuments Watch 2022. This was agreed.

Derek Manson-Smith said there had been a piece on Radio 4 the previous week about community gardens in the UK and there was quite a long bit on Woodlands Community Garden, its origins, what they had been doing in lockdown and what they are planning to do. He said he would send a link to BBC Sounds.

13 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 12 May 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.