

# Woodlands and Park Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 9 June 2021, via Zoom, 7.30pm

**Present:** Ruth Gillett (chair), Tom Johnstone (secretary), Derek Manson-Smith, Gerry Doyle (treasurer), Diane Mitchell, Clare Crawford (minutes), Alasdair Gerrie, Stewart Leighton

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

**1 Apologies:** Johnpaul McCabe, Kay Scott, Liam Brady (GU SRC)

### 2 Police Report

After discussion about the police report, it was agreed that Tom Johnstone would write to the police to ask for more detail and for the date of the report to be nearer the meeting date of the community council.

### 3 Minutes of 12 May Meeting

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

### 4 Matters Arising

Tom Johnstone said that, under item 5, Councillors' Reports, the objection he has made to the planning application for 55 Woodside Terrace Lane has now been posted on the Planning portal and planning permission had been granted the previous day for 266 Woodlands Road by the Local Review Committee. The only thing that can now stop it becoming a hot food shop is for one or more of the owners to object to the fixing of a ventilation flue up the back wall. If the community council gets involved there could be problems with indemnity insurance if the advice doesn't work or people are taken to court. Stewart Leighton said he would get in touch with the people who did object to the application. Tom said the Freedom of Information request about closing the gates of Kelvingrove Park, item 7, Kelvingrove Park, has been sent but the 20 working days will not be up until the following Thursday. Councillor Andrew said that the Clerk for the Planning Committee asks for councillors to volunteer for the Review Committee and then they are selected. Generally speaking, a councillor will not be selected if the review relates to his or her own ward. In response to a comment by Ruth Gillett, Councillor Andrew said it would make sense for a councillor with local knowledge to sit on a Review Committee and they are looking at the conduct of Local Review Committees, how they are formed and how members are chosen.

### 5 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wardrop said that the closing date for the Spaces for People consultation is 20 June. She hopes as many community councillors as possible will respond. There has been a lot of discussion about keeping Kelvin Way closed to traffic, and a low-emission zone consultation is being launched in the next few weeks. The food-growing strategy was adopted the previous day. She will circulate a copy of this. She has been following up the planning issues at 55 Woodside Terrace Lane. She understands that work has been started on-site again this week so she has reported it to Planning Enforcement. There have been concerns about white-lining in the parking zone as marked bays are not clear and there are problems with parking enforcement and a lack of parking wardens in the Woodlands area in particular. There are ongoing issues with Eusebi's and the two vast structures. Stewart Leighton said that two weeks before he had observed one of the units in use for an afternoon but since then the use of both units has been put on hold. Tom Johnstone said that one of the objectors has been told by City Services Group, which seems to be hellbent on making sure that shops can keep trading as much as possible, so the planning system is being short-circuited, that everything has been placed on hold until 14 June. He will be asking for authority to write to object to the use of these boxes later in the meeting. Councillor Wardrop said there had been correspondence with the police about the murder in West Princes Street and there will be additional police patrols in the area.

Councillor Andrew said that he had been dealing with the issue around 55 Woodside Terrace Lane. An enforcement notice has been served on the developer, but it would appear that this has been ignored and the development has been restarted so we will have to go back to Planning Enforcement. Tom said that he would send Councillor Andrew a copy of an analysis of a similar situation in Anne Laird's area. Councillor Andrew said he was also trying to deal with the issue around Peppi's in Woodlands Road through Planning Enforcement. He has been supporting a number of businesses seeking to trade post-Covid. Notice has been served to move the container that stores the mobility chairs for Park Mobility from where it is parked beside the river. He is

working with the Parks people to find a better location. He is organising a meeting of councillors concerned about the explosion of graffiti around the West End to think of innovative ways to deal with this. A man has been arrested for the murder in West Princes Street. Stewart Leighton outlined his theory about a growing anti-planning attitude among politicians in the city and its effect on Glasgow City Council's organisations, which are riding roughshod over planning procedures. Councillor Andrew said that a degree of latitude has been given to businesses to allow them to trade so they haven't had to go through a formal planning process, but that latitude is only until March 2022, when standard planning processes will apply. Councillor Wardrop pointed out that DRS and LES had been merged to make a new department, Neighbourhoods, Sustainability and Regeneration, and Planning comes under that. She thinks that the main concern is a shortage of experienced staff and not enough Planning Enforcement officers to carry out the required follow-up work. There have been no consultations with elected members about any proposals to extend external seating areas to the end of March 2022, and a lot of the decisions have been taken by officials. Under the Covid regulations there is no transparency. It is very top-down and not good for local democracy.

## **6 Millennium Park**

Diane Mitchell reported that the long strip of grass needs cutting. Councillor Wardrop said that there has been a 'no mow May' policy to encourage nature and biodiversity and that Glasgow City Council does the grass cutting. Derek Manson-Smith said that grass cutting had started in Kelvingrove Park that week.

## **7 Kelvingrove Park**

Ruth Gillett reported that the fountain is a problem. Two of the birds were broken a fortnight previously and another one has been removed and smashed on the ground. Some of the birds have been rotated, whether that's vandalism or attempted theft, she doesn't know. The water must be turned on once the repairs are carried out as there are children climbing on it every day. Councillor Andrew said he was meeting two council officers the following week at the fountain to look at some of those issues and the poor quality of the repairs by City Building. Ruth said she would send him photographs. Stewart Leighton said the Stewart Memorial fountain had been restored twice. If it is to be restored again, it must be done by people who are skilled in that sort of restoration. There was discussion about flood lighting and CCTV and whether the latter is monitored. Ruth said there had been fire at the bandstand about a month before and repairs have been done but they look very temporary and have been graffitied. The bandstand isn't being properly maintained; the stage is worn at the edges, and the arena is a mess and has broken glass all over it. One of the gates is open, allowing vandals to get in. There is a camera at the back of the arena but it obviously isn't being monitored. Councillor Andrew said he will raise the matter with the council officers he is meeting and with Glasgow Life. Ruth said she would send him photographs and information on which gate is open. Stewart said there is a need for a strategic overview in relation to how the park is maintained and its individual objects looked after. Tom Johnstone made a plea for the use of weedkiller at the base of trees to be stopped. It is of no benefit and does a lot of damage to animals and insects. Councillor Wardrop said there is a meeting of officers, councillors and the police the following Thursday. She also said there is funding available to support the bandstand's maintenance and she will clarify what resources are available.

## **8 Cleansing**

There were no complaints.

## **9 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing**

Tom Johnstone confirmed that the Spaces for People consultation is open until 20 June. Members of North Kelvin Community Council do not wish to attend our meetings but to form a small subcommittee, which can wait until September. He had spoken to the architect of the Avenues Project, Nick Wright, who said there is to be a further public meeting and when that is set up he will send Tom the details, which he will circulate to everyone on the community council mailing list. It was agreed that the community council will sign a petition to re-extend the number 4 bus route to Knightswood. Park Road residents have contacted him about Eusebi's. City Services Group is dealing with these applications at the moment. The residents have been assured that no decision will be taken until 14 June. It was agreed that Tom would write a letter of objection, using what information is publicly available on City Services' website. Some of that information is out of date and Tom has asked for an update. There is a flood of planning applications in and around Woodside Terrace Lane. He has checked the drawings, and it looks as if they are all being done properly. None of those applications has attracted objections so far. Alasdair Gerrie asked if there was any more detail on the planning application for the air-conditioning unit at the Albany Centre. Tom said that the drawings were amateurish and that the unit is just visible from the south side of the building. Clare Crawford wondered why an air-conditioning unit is needed. After discussion, it was agreed that Tom would object on behalf of the community council.

## **10 Finance**

Gerry Doyle said he had nothing to report. Tom Johnstone asked Gerry for a cheque for £14.39 to cover the cost of the Zoom meeting.

## **11 Electric Charging-points**

Tom Johnstone reported that he had an interesting and justified comment from Johnpaul McCabe that he wanted made at the meeting: 'If the council don't have an active policy of a charging-point per parking area it is not only a little discriminatory but is actually, arguably, benefiting the areas they are installed in disproportionately.' He goes on to say, 'Park residents, Hillhead residents, Dowanhill residents, and so on, don't need to pay extra parking charges when using the charging station, but Woodlands residents would. If there ends up a packet of charging-points in more affluent areas that might seem quite inequitable and special treatment for those areas. I don't know how you deal with that except by making some charging-points in Woodlands.' In reply to a question from Ruth Gillett, Tom said no rational explanation has been given for why there are to be no charging-points in Woodlands. Councillor Wardrop said she will keep pushing on the matter. There is a pilot project in Park and there is to be a report to the Environment Committee on the topic. Work is still to be finished on Connecting Woodside, which includes West Princes Street. There is still an opportunity as part of Connecting Woodside to look at this. Councillor Andrew said he has tried to encourage the NRS to look at putting in charging-points and a place has been identified close to the junction of Park Road and Great Western Road. He is aware that people in some modern developments are looking at electric charging-points as a way of getting additional parking spaces. Councillor Wardrop said there is always the option of a car club vehicle. She said that the Environment Committee had discussed the previous day the assumption that garages will convert to electric charging-points in the next ten years. That may be the case with the Sainsbury's garage. Councillor Andrew said the fastest current chargers will charge a battery up to 80 per cent in 40 minutes.

## **12 AOCB**

At Alasdair Gerrie's suggestion, it was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to the relatives of Esther Brown who was murdered in West Princes Street. Clare Crawford said she would try to find the address of her relatives.

It was agreed that Tom Johnstone be authorised to deal with any planning matters until the September meeting. Tom said that, at the request of the council, the developer of the proposed housing development north of and including Otago Lane had been asked to submit an updated sunlight and daylight report. This was a defensive document, full of mistakes, and he submitted an objection to it. In reply to a question from Derek Manson-Smith about the number of construction hours and noise on a building site, Tom suggested he consult the Planning portal or complain to Environmental Health. In discussion, Tom said that all trees in conservation areas are protected by tree preservation orders.

## **13 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 8 September 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.