

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 9 February 2022, via Zoom, 7.30pm

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

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

1 Apologies: Kay Scott

2 Police Report

Tom Johnstone noted that two versions of the police report had been sent out, the first on 1 February, the second on 5 February. The first included an item about the police starting consultation with Glasgow City Council about what to do about antisocial behaviour in Kelvingrove Park this year. That paragraph had been removed from the second report. He suspects this is connected to the freedom of information request by the community council. After discussion about a lack of consultation with councillors, community councils and residents' groups, it was agreed that Tom would write to the police and ask why the paragraph had been removed. In the discussion, Councillor Wardrop said the police had advised that they will not be locking the park gates again although she has not seen this in writing.

3 Minutes of 12 January Meeting

Tom Johnstone pointed out that under item 10, Correspondence, line 15, 'Marie Miller' should be 'Mairi Millar'. Otherwise, the minutes of the meeting were proposed as a correct record by Tom, seconded by Diane Mitchell.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Trinity College Tower

Councillor Andrew said he had been working with Trinity residents for the past three years to try to get the issue resolved. Work had finally started at the end of January when bad structural cracking was found. Then Storm Malik hit, and the tilt monitors within the tower, which had been in place for two years, went off line so the following morning the council engineer attended and decided that Trinity had to be emptied, an exclusion zone created and residents from surrounding flats be moved out. The consulting engineer for the Trinity residents has now looked at the tower and thinks it is not in imminent danger of collapse. What does remain a danger is the little balcony near the top from which masonry fell the previous summer when a crash deck was erected. There is a bulging wall, which is currently propped, and engineering solutions are being sought. The residents' consulting engineer had met Frank Breslin, the city engineer, that morning, but he has not yet received word as to its outcome. The council will keep the exclusion zone in place until it is convinced there is no danger. There are issues with insurers, particularly those of the adjacent buildings, who say that it is not their buildings that are the problem. There is to be a meeting the following day with Kaukab Stewart MSP and Alison Thewlis MP, who will deal with the insurance angle because this is a Westminster reserved matter. She dealt with residents after the Art School fire. Social work services are helping people who are not being supported by insurers, other officers are being as reactive as possible in terms of parking permits, and special measures have had to be put in for refuse collection. Councillor Wardrop said she had been monitoring the area since the incident and following up any enquiries she has received. She has circulated information about the council's web page on Trinity Tower for updates. A temporary Traffic Regulation Order has been put in, which runs until 22 August but can be revoked at any time. She will be putting questions to Building Standards the following day following the engineers' meeting. She had said that the community council needed support, but Tom Johnstone said he had received nothing. In reply to a question from Stewart Leighton, Tom said there is information on assessments in planning applications for 35 Lynedoch Street. There are two reports in particular. One is a heritage impact assessment and the other a description of works proposed. A lot of it is to do with the use of non-porous paint on the inside surfaces of the tower and repairs done in the 1980s, starting with the conversion of the building for multiple residential use. Other repairs since then have also been of poor quality.

6 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wardrop said she would ask for a site visit and a traffic assessment about making Park Quadrant two-way, or at least as far as the entrance to the underground garage, while the two-way system is operating because

of the Trinity College Tower closure. Another issue is the pavements; someone has asked for a lowering of kerbs to make the Park area wheelchair-accessible. Stewart Leighton suggested public realm investment in the area to channel traffic and improve pedestrian access. Councillor Wardrop said the lowering of kerbs on Great Western Road junctions in Woodlands is an ongoing issue. She has been reporting pavement problems for a number of years. Ruth Gillett said that the council's response to Councillor Wardrop's email about Montague Street is inadequate as it is much more dangerous than they are suggesting. Councillor Wardrop said she has been following up on problems with recycling and cleansing. There is obviously a need for more resources for that service, and she is pushing for continued investment in the back lanes.

Councillor Andrew reported that he has been dealing with a number of complaints from residents on St Georges Road about the noise from the works to the motorway, particularly through the night. There are issues around the road linings on Park Road, which are very worn. It should have been relined some weeks ago, and he has had an apology from Roads. The previous Friday in Park Road there was what seemed to be a gang attack involving two vehicles, and a video taken from a window in Park Road shows men attacking a driver and using a weapon to smash his car. He is following the matter up with Inspector Robertson. It looked to him like gang violence, he hoped from outwith the area. Derek Manson-Smith said that the advanced stop box at the junction of Park Road and Great Western Road has practically disappeared. Councillor Andrew agreed and said that a lot of drivers don't seem to know what an advanced stop box is for. There have been complaints about a car with a noisy exhaust in the Park area. He is following that up. Stewart Leighton wondered if the possible gang attack would be mentioned in the next police report.

Ruth Gillett said that Councillor Malik had sent a message saying he is having Zoom problems.

7 Millennium Park

Nothing was reported.

8 Kelvingrove Park

In reply to a question from Ruth Gillett, Councillor Wardrop reported that there is water in the Stewart Memorial Fountain at the moment. She is concerned that it is not very clean, but it does deter people from climbing on to it. A lot of fencing around the park is damaged. Ruth said that the fencing down from the Carlyle statue on the way down to the bandstand has not been repaired. Councillor Wardrop said she would check that site. Additional money was agreed at the budget the previous year to be spent on the play areas. She had done a walkabout of Kelvin Way with a student from the Students Representative Council and two security staff from the University. There is a student-safe app that covers the whole length of Kelvin Way. If a student is under threat they can press an emergency button that goes directly to the security team at the University. She would send the link to Ruth to promote it. Some trees have been removed from the park in the past week, she thinks because of ash dieback. Proposals for tree planting would be helpful to the council. Ruth said that they have a proposal for apple trees in the herbaceous walk and she is following that up. Councillor Andrew said, as a note of caution, that apples can be used as antisocial weapons.

9 Dropped Kerbs

This was covered under item 6, Councillors' Reports.

10 Cleansing

In reply to a question from Stewart Leighton, Councillor Andrew said that the Western Depot continues to be an issue, with high levels of absenteeism and industrial mischief-making, but there are going to be changes made to resolve the situation. Councillor Wardrop said she has been following up issues resulting from sickness and absence over December and January and a lot of bins not being emptied. There is now a problem with mice and rats, which she is following up with Environmental Health. Where a private landlord or an HMO is involved she is bringing in Housing officials to try to get to the root of the problem. Often it is people not knowing how to use the bins correctly or problems with a stairwell or maintenance of the property, and some people don't know about all the council's services. Communication is important. She is trying to get landlords, factors and letting agents involved. There is more support for lanes available. Residents can get support to organise improvements to back lanes and back courts and community clean-ups. Derek Manson-Smith said that despite the disruption in Lynedoch Place their wheelie bins have not been interrupted but their blue bins have been missed. He hopes they will be collected the following weekend.

11 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Tom Johnstone reported that the planning application for 16 Park Road by Levant Pies is described as a resubmission of an earlier application. The earlier application was refused using the wrong grounds. He has identified the correct grounds and an objection has now been submitted. There is an application for UPVC windows at the front of a basement flat at 37 Arlington Street. From the point of view of visual amenity,

obviously these windows are beneath street level, but it doesn't change the fact that policy says that at the front in a conservation area UPVC is unacceptable. It was agreed that Tom would object to the application on that basis. Stewart Leighton pointed out that the Woodlands Conservation Area Appraisal makes reference to the number of UPVC windows and it is a very considerable abuse. Tom said he would mention the appraisal in the objection. By contrast, 46 Woodlands Road is for installation of replacement windows, by the book wooden sash and case. Tom said he has not had time to look at the remaining planning applications. At 5 Lynedoch Crescent for a single storey extension at the back of a basement flat, which also involves listed building consent. At 17 Woodside Crescent for a timber carport at the rear of a dwelling house. There is one additional HMO licence, flat 2/1 34 Woodlands Drive. It has no planning permission but he sees no grounds for objecting to it. The man who submitted a planning application for HMO use at 144 Woodlands Road, which was bound to be refused, has now submitted an application for an HMO licence that is bound to be granted. There was an email on 13 January from Online Planning to say that the application for a common repairs scheme at 343 West Princes Street has been withdrawn, probably because of the number of complaints about misrepresentation. The application is apparently going to be resubmitted with a tree survey, even though initially it was claimed that there were no trees on site. It is not the residents' fault; it is the agent's. On 25 January there was a communication about physical community council meetings. He personally would not feel safe at a physical meeting, and he knows there are other vulnerable members of the community council. If, come October, we are still not having physical meetings it does mean we are in danger of being labelled a secret society as we haven't had any open meetings for so long. On 25 January there was an acknowledgement from the Scottish Information Commissioner that the community council has launched an appeal against the review of the refusal to give the community council information about policy-making for Kelvingrove Park. The email makes it clear that it takes up to a month to go through various checks before further processing. On 31 January there was a reply from the Scottish Government to Tom's letter about the Planning Local Review Committee to say that the Scottish Government cannot get involved in local government decisions. They had intended making training of councillors in planning compulsory but then the pandemic came along. They are now going to carry out consultation before introducing regulations that would make training compulsory. As Councillor Andrew has already mentioned, the change to the composition of the Planning Local Review Committee has already made a huge difference in the quality of decision-making. Some late items have arrived, but those on the mailing list will already have seen them. Clare Crawford suggested using the terrace of the Woodlands Community Development Trust for an outdoor meeting when the weather gets warmer.

12 Finance

Tom Johnstone said he had another Zoom invoice to send to Gerry Doyle, making seven in total, and he would try to do something about collecting a cheque. Gerry said he had not yet received the sixth invoice.

13 Electric Charging-points

Derek Manson-Smith reported that something had been posted on the Nextdoor social media site saying that electric charging-points are coming to somewhere in the Park area. Councillor Wardrop said that two points have been installed in Park Street South as a pilot project. They have been installed on the pavement rather than in a parking bay. Drivers have to register an interest before being told about them. She will find out what stage the project is at and whether there will be a report to the community council.

14 Air Pollution

Councillor Wardrop thanked Councillor Andrew for the graphs he had supplied. They showed a breach of air quality above 40. She doesn't know if there is any action that can be taken based on this. Councillor Andrew said he had not raised the matter with council officers because it was a very short period of breach. Councillor Wardrop said that since there are two schools on the boundary of the motorway the level should be about 20, and she will pursue the matter.

15 AOCB

There was no other competent business.

16 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 7.30pm via Zoom.