

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 13 October 2021, via Zoom, 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Councillor Hanzala Malik, Councillor Martha Wardrop

1 Apologies: Kay Scott, Johnpaul McCabe, Councillor Andrew

2 Police Report

Tom Johnstone reported that he had circulated the police report. Derek Manson-Smith said it was hardly worth commenting on. Tom said it seemed to be getting less detailed.

3 Minutes of 8 September Meeting

Councillor Wardrop pointed out that although she is listed as in attendance, in fact she couldn't get on to Zoom so she should have been listed under apologies. Otherwise, the minutes of the meeting were proposed as a correct record by Tom Johnstone, seconded by Diane Mitchell.

4 Matters Arising

Stewart Leighton said that at some point he would write an email to members of the community council and others detailing his experience of the growing anti-planning attitude among politicians in the city. Derek Manson-Smith apologised for not having followed up on putting a notice about the AGM in the noticeboard at Sainsbury's. Ruth Gillett reported that the board is missing. The manager told her that it was binned during a refurbishment as it had not been used for a long time. The reason why it had not been used was that she had been in three times wanting to add posters to it, and the previous manager had said he had lost the key. It was agreed that Tom Johnstone and Ruth would go along and talk to the manager about getting a new board.

5 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wardrop reported that the Spaces for People final report on easing physical distancing in public places confirms that, after public consultation, the temporary closure of Kelvin Way to traffic will be made permanent. She would circulate the paperwork. Two transport strategies are out for public consultation: the Active Travel Strategy, which involves money still to be spent by Connecting Woodside on Woodlands Road, West Princes Street and St Georges Road; and the wide-ranging Transport Strategy, which looks at the future of the city in terms of transport provision. In attempts to get more community involvement in Kelvingrove Park, meetings were held online over the summer between elected members, council officials and the police. A review that would include feedback from residents' groups and community councils was planned for the end of September but did not happen so she has asked for a review at the end of November and is awaiting a response. There is an ongoing issue with Planning Enforcement and other planning matters that are having an impact on the conservation area. She had involved the Head of Audit in discussions about 55 Woodside Terrace Lane. She has circulated information about various private sector housing problems, including a number of properties that have not been maintained during the pandemic. One is 6 Melrose Street, which has been boarded up. She had had to report that it had been breached over the previous weekend. This week police and Building Control and Housing officials have secured it. She asked that if anyone sees any sign of it being breached again, to let her know or, out of hours, phone Building Control. Derek Manson-Smith said he had reported to Planning Enforcement the cutting down of a tree in the Park area, which was acknowledged, and wondered about any follow-up. Councillor Wardrop said he should receive a Planning Impact Report but it takes two months to complete. She would follow the matter up. Councillor Wardrop said that there had been a launch of Fire Prevention Bonfire Night Awareness. Stewart Leighton thanked Councillor Wardrop for letting the community council know about the state of 20 Rupert Street, which has now been rectified, and raised the matter of 192 West Princes Street, where large timber supports have been in place for the last ten or so years. He has also noticed a number of recent reports looking at the state of the tenemental sector in the city. Councillor Wardrop said she was aware of 192 West Princes Street and its problems and had reported it. Two or three of the back windows were broken and there was a problem with pigeons nesting. The wider issue with the windows and repairs to some of the properties within the building is still unresolved and needs attention. There is a wider issue with enforcement areas and special powers over private sector housing. Hillhead and Woodlands need to be part of an enforcement area. She is concerned about the number of properties now affected by structural

defects and there is a backlog of maintenance issues. Thanks have to go to landlords and factors who do look after their properties, and there are housing officers who do try to address these concerns as best they can.

Councillor Malik reported that he has been active in the reinforcing of road markings and parking bays. Some plates have been removed from walls so traffic wardens have not been able to issue parking tickets. He is also pursuing the wide misuse of disabled bays. HMOs is another area in which he has been active, but the current administration is not paying any attention to his complaints. He has also been pursuing the private registration of landlords as it has been brought to his attention that quite a few people who don't have HMO licences are nevertheless renting properties out without registering to avoid paying tax and obeying health and safety rules. HMO licences should not be issued without planning in place. He agreed with Councillor Wardrop about the structural quality of some of the buildings in the area. Stewart Leighton echoed Councillor Malik's comments on under-recording of landlords. In comments he made to the 2018 consultation carried out by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, he gave evidence based on data from Neighbourhoods in relation to not just tenure structure but apartment structure to try to relate this to the actual number of registered privately rented flats. In Woodlands there were about 200 registered HMO flats, far removed from the actual number of privately rented flats. Councillor Malik said that, if the council does find an unregistered landlord, rather than fine them, to send out a clear message to other rogue landlords, it tells them to apply to go on to the register. Stewart said that there is a degree of ambivalence on the part of the council in that they probably take the view that it is better on balance to have people registered and therefore regulated.

6 Millennium Park

Councillor Wardrop said that there can be an issue with fireworks so she is happy to go to the Fire Service and flag that up. Alasdair Gerrie said that last Guy Fawkes there was a running street battle between two groups of youths, throwing fireworks and firing rockets, and many of the rockets were going off target. The police did come eventually and made a fairly good job of chasing them. Councillor Wardrop said she would ask the police to put the park in their action plan.

7 Kelvingrove Park

In reply to a question from Ruth Gillett, Councillor Wardrop reported that she had asked that the fountain be protected, but nothing has happened yet. She had used photographs Ruth had sent her as part of the action plan for Kelvingrove and made a point of having her concerns about the fountain recorded. She said she would welcome details about fountains that have been working so that there is a consistent fountain policy. In discussion about the lack of personnel to monitor the park, Stewart Leighton suggested a floodlighting strategy, but Ruth said that when she spoke to the boys who were climbing on the fountain it was bright daylight, and Councillor Wardrop pointed out that lighting would have an impact on biodiversity and wildlife and would encourage people to congregate in the park at night. Now that Kelvin Way is open for pedestrians, cyclists and joggers, it is a lot busier at night and is well lit. There is a Parks fund, and the Hillhead Area Partnership has been discussing how it is to be spent. Stewart said there needs to be a wider consultation with people who are using the park in order to engage a greater collective commitment. Councillor Wardrop said that qualified youth workers were employed to support police officers and council officials in making contact with young people in the park. There is a CCTV camera that oversees the fountain so there will be recordings of anybody climbing. Ruth said there are rumours that this camera and the one at the bandstand are not working because so much happens that doesn't appear to be noticed. Councillor Wardrop said she would ask to visit the centre where the cameras are and check that they are working.

8 Cleansing

In reply to a comment by Gerry Doyle, Councillor Wardrop said that she thinks that a brown bin can now be requested for tenements and that she would ask for brown bins for anyone who wanted one. They are not collected from back lanes and must be put out on to the street on a particular day. Ruth Gillett, Gerry, Stewart Leighton and Derek Manson-Smith said they would like brown bins. Alasdair Gerrie noted that for the first time in six years he had seen a group of council workers clearing the pavements and kerbs of weeds and general debris. Derek said that he had put in a notification about weeds through the MyGlasgow app earlier in the year. The response he got was that there was a timetable for weeds to be dealt with twice a year and they would be dealt with when the next time came up, which would be the end of the summer. Councillor Wardrop said street cleansing is an ongoing issue. There has been a debate about using hoes and trying to get staff to do weeding. A lot of muck and mud has been built up over lockdown, blocking the drains, and now leaves are coming down. Brown bins are handy for leaves, if you don't compost.

9 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Tom Johnstone reported that he had submitted an objection to 12 Woodlands Road, using the same arguments as the case officer had to refuse 266 Woodlands Road under delegated authority. It will probably end up being

appealed to a Local Review Committee, which means it may actually get permission. In discussion about the low position of the vent for the proposed hot food takeaway, Stewart Leighton said that Environmental Health would have an objection, but Tom said Environmental Health regularly fail to submit reports. None of the HMO licence applications has planning permission. In connection with the temporary public entertainment licence for the Elvingrove event at Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Councillor Andrew had emailed to say that the 'trail' element has been cancelled so Tom saw no reason to object as it is for the ice rink only. In reply to a question from Ruth Gillett, Tom said he would phone the licensing section to find out where the ice rink is to be. He hoped that some people had had a chance to look at the material from Carmunock Community Council about the Local Review Committee's decision to go against green belt policy. The webcast shows Councillor Andrew becoming increasingly uneasy during the discussion and then dissenting from the decision. It was obvious that the other two members of the committee had no idea about planning. It was agreed that the community council would work with Carmunock Community Council and North Kelvin Community Council, where they are worried about the eventual decision on Fergus Drive, to submit a portfolio of really daft Local Review Committee decisions to the relevant minister in order to get the prospective statutory training of councillors enacted. In discussion with Stewart, Tom said there are only three councillors on the Planning Applications Committee who are au fait with planning issues. Tom said that on 7 October he had received a citation to attend a Licensing and Regulatory Committee in connection with the Park Road flat that has an iron grille over the window. He has to use Microsoft Teams, which he finds difficult but will try to use it with the Edge browser. Councillor Andrew had sent out an email about Charing Cross Housing Association going into partnership with West of Scotland Housing Association after Charing Cross's recent difficulties. Gerry Doyle said that, reading between the lines, it doesn't so much seem a partnership as Charing Cross being taken over. Tom said that it is the lack of consultation with owners and members of the association that concerns him, a procedural point. Councillor Wardrop said she had had a meeting with Charing Cross and she will go back to them with a request for a briefing to the community council.

10 Finance

Tom Johnstone said he had another invoice to send to Gerry Doyle for a Zoom payment.

11 Electric Charging-points

Derek Manson-Smith reported that the Park area has been leafleted by a company trying to encourage people to join their network of electric charging points. The flyer has Glasgow City Council's logo on it.

12 AOCB

Derek said that in the spring and the summer he had reported that in Lyndoch Place first one then two of the two illuminated bollards on the island dividing the traffic had disappeared. He has had an acknowledgment, but there is no sign of their replacement. Councillor Wardrop said she would report the bollards to be replaced.

13 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11 November 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.