

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 8 September 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, Johnpaul McCabe

In attendance: Councillor Ken Andrew, Councillor Martha Wardrop

1 Apologies: Kay Scott

2 Welcome to Kaukab Stewart MSP

Ms Stewart did not appear.

3 Police Report

Derek Manson-Smith said that we have already noted the quality of the police reports and other community councils are reporting the same. One community council is in the process of making a complaint that the police are not properly doing their duty. Tom Johnstone said we have already complained and have had an unhelpful response, which is in the correspondence. Ruth Gillett said it will only get worse until COP26 is over.

4 Minutes of 9 June Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were proposed as a correct record by Tom Johnstone, seconded by Diane Mitchell.

5 Matters Arising

Stewart Leighton said that, under item 4, Matters Arising, he had been unable to follow up on 266 Woodlands Road but is still willing to see if he can get a few people within the close to refuse to permit a vent to be placed at the rear of their building. Stewart then outlined a theory he has developed about a growing anti-planning attitude among politicians in the city, citing the amalgamation of departments bringing together bodies with inherent professional conflicts of interest and one of the previous leaders of the council making comments that were contrary to planning policy and indicating a degree of hostility towards the development control function. He said that in recent planning legislation, there was a specific recommendation that the post of Chief Planner should be created, and the implication he drew from that was that MSPs want to see somebody within local authority planning who speaks specifically for planning issues.

6 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Andrew reported that he had had to recuse himself from a planning review of 55 Woodside Terrace Lane as he had asked for enforcement action because the development was going ahead beyond the 2015 or 2016 permissions. Unfortunately, planning was granted. The head of Planning has just retired. Planning is now part of Regeneration in NRS, Neighbourhood and Regeneration Services. Within Planning is a team that is working on the latest City Development Plan, which needs to be prepared for 2022, although he understands it is being held up by legislation going through Holyrood to modify planning law. The convenor for Development and Regeneration, a political role, is Councillor Kenny MacLean, the councillor for Partick East and Kelvingrove, who has oversight of the city's planning function. Apart from the team working on the City Development Plan, there is the Planning Applications Team and the Planning Enforcement Team. There may be more functions, but these are what he comes across. George Hazle has been in contact with Brian Carey of Ambassador to see about repairs to Park Quadrant Lane. Neighbours have complained about a homeless camp that has been set up on waste ground at the bottom of Lyndoch Street. The police seem to have taken little interest so he is trying to get Environmental Health involved. Eusebi's did not get planning permission for their dining pods. They were given temporary permission to use the pavement area to extend their outside seating during the pandemic. They have been told that the structures need to be removed, but they have now taken the matter to law. He has had a report that the steps at Clairmont Place have been heavily washed out from underneath and one of the steps has cracked and broken. He has put in a request to have them looked at by Building Control. Every ward in the city now has an Area Coordinator, and in the case of Hillhead ward it is Gillian MacDonald whom he has just met virtually. They are going to do walkabouts across the ward to look at some of the issues and almost certainly Gillian will be more than happy to attend a community council meeting and to do a walkabout. There is going to be a climate emergency march on 24 September from Kelvingrove Park, organised by a group called Fridays for Future Scotland. On the question of the Freedom of Information request that was made about the Kelvingrove Park antisocial behaviour arrangements, Tom said he had noticed that at the Hillhead Area

Partnership meeting a while ago officers were asked to give a written report and at the next meeting no written report turned up. Councillor Andrew said he did not know. Tom said the council could give some redacted information without compromising anything. Councillor Andrew said that in conversation with Frankie O'Rourke things have been considerably improved. He will speak to Kenny Robertson, the new inspector. Clare Crawford reported that she was having trouble renewing her car parking permit through the myaccount system. Councillor Andrew said the myaccount was a bit of a pest and said if she emailed him and he will get it sorted.

7 Millennium Park

Nothing was reported.

8 Kelvingrove Park

Tom Johnstone said that the Freedom of Information request had been initially knocked back. With some expert assistance from a colleague of Derek Manson-Smith, he was able to ask for that decision to be reviewed, which produced more information on what the decision is based upon. We have six months in which to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Derek Manson-Smith said that, from an experience of his own earlier in the year on a totally unrelated matter, it can be worth pursuing these things and recommended an appeal.

9 Cleansing

There were no complaints.

10 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Tom Johnstone apologised for not submitting an objection from the community council to a planning application for 124 Woodlands Road where condensers on the back of the building are dripping grease. However, a solicitor acting in one case for 11 people and in another case for five, has submitted what should count as more than two objections. Councillor Andrew said that would seem sensible, but said that if this case comes before the Planning Applications Committee, he may have to recuse himself because he has been involved. He said that there is now a formal complaint about the conduct of the council with regard to that planning application. Tom said that, from watching the proceedings, Councillors Bolander and Bartos are very much on Councillor Andrew's side on the Planning Applications Committee. Councillor Bolander has energised the Local Review Committee to start applying policy. In discussion about training, Tom said that the statutory requirement for councillors to be trained is still prospective, not binding, for planning. He has submitted a conditional objection to a planning application for Flat 0/1 343 West Princes Street as on the application form the agent has claimed that there are no trees on site where there are two trees to the front of the property and three trees round the back and it is within the Woodlands Conservation Area where trees are protected by law. An application had come in that day from BT for LED screens at 375 Great Western Road. There were pages of HMO applications to the Licensing Committee, none of which has planning permission. Stewart Leighton pointed out that one of the HMO applications had been refused planning consent but was simply continuing as an HMO. Tom said that there is nothing else the planning authorities can do. Councillor Andrew said he sits on the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee and among the hundreds of papers it had to consider one mentioned that NRS was fortunate that the number of HMO applications and the revenue raised from that had mitigated part of the council's overspend. He has asked for that information. He has also raised with the council leader the issue of HMO licensing, planning, etc, and she has agreed to meet him and the chair of the Licensing Committee to discuss the matter. Tom said that correspondence and emails included 55 Woodside Terrace Lane and the Kelvingrove Park Freedom of Information request, which had already been discussed; a variation of premises licence for Sainsbury's; a letter dated 21 July from Denise Hamilton, Head of City Services and COP26 Operations, about the Eusebi's legal action. Johnpaul McCabe wondered if Park Road could be redesigned to encourage pedestrians to walk down the other side of the street, outside the church, rather than alongside the sheltered housing complex and if the ambulance bay and cycle lane could be reinstated. Councillor Andrew said he would take the matter up with Glasgow City Council. In response to a comment from Derek Manson-Smith, Tom said that there is a serious problem about the numbering of properties in Woodside Terrace Lane. The property sometimes known as 53 Woodside Terrace Lane happens to be within the curtilage of 8 Woodside Terrace. The writer of the letter about number 53 was trying to make out that the community council's letter of objection to 55 Woodside Terrace Lane was attempting to foment some sort of dispute. Tom had replied politely saying that planning objections have to be made public. He concluded by saying to get in touch if he wanted any more information and has heard nothing further. On 27 July Steven Dowling wrote to say that the AGMs are due the following month, October. In discussion about this, Ruth Gillett suggested the Terrace at the Community Garden as an outside venue, Gerry Doyle said that equipment could be purchased from the admin budget to allow Tom to host an AGM via Zoom, and Councillor Andrew said he could host a Teams meeting, which would allow council officers to attend. He also suggested the very large hall in the Fred Paton Centre in Carrington Street. It was agreed that the office bearers would make the decision. In discussion about publicity for an AGM,

Derek Manson-Smith said he had a key for the noticeboard at Sainsbury's filling station. On 20 August Gillian Frew replied about the police reports. The arrangements are agreed across 12 community councils, the implication being that they can't be changed easily or for one community council and not for others. The police can't attend meetings via Zoom as it is regarded as insecure, and they lack the capacity to provide more detail. Tom had also made a complaint to DRS Enforcement about Eusebi's and he has had an acknowledgement, which means that he will eventually get a Planning Impact Report. On 30 August Gillian MacDonald had emailed to introduce herself as the new Area Coordinator. It was agreed that Ruth Gillett and Tom would make themselves available for a walkabout with her.

11 Finance

Gerry Doyle reported that the accounting period for the financial statement had ended the previous week. The person from McArthur Denton, who usually audits the accounts, is on holiday at the moment, but Gerry will be in touch with him when he returns. Tom Johnstone said he would invoice Gerry for two payments for two Zoom subscriptions, 2 x £14.39.

12 Electric Charging-points

In reply to a question from Johnpaul McCabe, Councillor Andrew said he was following up on the possible closing off of Bank Street from Great Western Road. Stewart Leighton said that Park Road now has a 20mph speed limit, but this also needs to be painted on the eastbound lane. He also suggested that the section of Park Road between Woodlands Road and Eldon Street should be residents parking only. Johnpaul said that not all the spaces in Park Road are in use and he advocated more disabled parking. See also under item 10, Correspondence.

13 AOCB

There was no other competent business.

14 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.