

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 14 December 2022, via Zoom, 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Stuart Collins (Uplands Roast), Councillor Martha Wardrop, Councillor Ken Andrew

Tom Johnstone announced that the Zoom recording of the meeting is to assist the minute-taker only and will not be made publicly available.

1 Apologies: Stewart Leighton

2 Police Report

This was taken as read.

3 Uplands Roast

Stuart Collins of Uplands Roast spoke to the licence application he would like to submit for a coffee shop in Kelvingrove Park. At the moment he goes to Vietnam once a year to buy coffee directly from farmers, imports it, roasts it and sells it in the Meadows in Edinburgh. He would like to replicate this in Glasgow on a site just off Kelvin Way next to the bandstand on an empty hard-standing that currently houses bins and is used only for events. He explained how it would work by describing what he does in Edinburgh. It is a mobile stance, a wooden-clad trailer serving hot drinks, tray-based flapjacks and a few other simple things from 8am to 8pm. He invested in mains electricity so it doesn't have the noise of a snack van, and a big effort is made in keeping the surrounding area tidy by litter-picking and by investing in planters, picnic tables, planting beds and small trees. There is a bicycle-fixing stance and bike parking, and parking, water and treats for dogs. As the site is next to Edinburgh University he sponsors six student bodies every year for various charities and works with the Friends of the Meadows. There is CCTV that is shared with the police, if necessary, so it is a good passive presence in the park. The staff are paid over a pound above the living wage and wages are currently increased in line with inflation. There are first aid kits on site, and free coffee is provided for homeless people. He opted for direct dealing with coffee farmers rather than using Fair Trade, which has its grey areas. He has spoken to Yorkhill and Kelvingrove Community Council, which seemed to like the idea although it is not within their jurisdiction. He has been in touch with a few councillors, and Councillor Ken Andrew said he would support his application if Yorkhill and Kelvingrove and Woodlands and Park Community Councils both agree. Stuart said he had put in an application for a street trader's licence but was told he needed the right permission, which turns out to be from Glasgow Life and asked if the community council would support his application.

In reply to a question from Tom Johnstone about links with Edinburgh University, Stuart said he employs a lot of students and a lot of students visit. His customers seem to be half dog-walkers and the local community and half students and very few tourists. They support students through sponsorship of various university bodies like the cycling club, the mountaineering club and the netball team. In reply to questions from Councillor Andrew, Stuart said that the lowest wage they pay is £10.65 an hour for an untrained student where the government's self-styled living wage is £9.50, although this is going up in April, and that he does not keep naloxone pen injections in his first aid kit but would certainly look at doing so and also at investing in a defibrillator and the necessary training. In reply to Ruth Gillett's concern that if the community council agrees to support his application there could be an escalation in such outlets, Stuart said that the Friends of the Meadows and local community councils did not want 'creeping commercialisation' and refused more than two units. He is certainly not looking at building a market. In reply to a question from Councillor Wardrop, Stuart said he had not carried out any market research as this is the only pitch he would be interested in in Glasgow for his style of simple hot-drink, community-focused dog-walker style of operation. Stuart said he accepted Councillor Wardrop's point that this is a difficult time for a lot of businesses but his preferred site is quite far away from the other sites and would provide an incentive for people to use a green space. The community council agreed to formally support Stuart's application in response to a proposal by Tom, seconded by Derek Manson-Smith. Stuart said he would keep the community council informed of developments, and Tom suggested that Stuart also get in touch with Hillhead Community Council to keep all the community councils around the park involved. Stuart said Hillhead had directed him to Woodlands and Park. Tom said he would speak to the secretary of Hillhead Community Council. Councillor Andrew said Stuart should get in touch with Glasgow Life citing the support of the community councils and to use his name.

4 Minutes of 9 November Meeting

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

5 Matters Arising

In reply to a comment from Derek Manson-Smith on the monitoring of 20mph speed limits as part of traffic control measures in the Park area, Tom Johnstone said that the most suitable place to put speed bumps would be Cliff Road where there are no listed buildings nearby.

6 Trinity College Tower

Councillor Andrew reported that the residents are struggling to raise funds to complete the work. The structure has been stabilised, but some residents have not been able to return to their flats on the south side of the development. He hopes that the new financial year will bring new opportunities for funding.

7 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wardrop reported that she had been mostly dealing with issues in the Park area. She has managed to get Taylor bins at Park Circus Lane for households at 1 to 9 Park Quadrant to replace the uplift of rubbish bags thrice daily from the pavement. She thinks there are still a few properties in Park Terrace whose rubbish bags have to be lifted from the pavement but she has not been able to engage with anyone there. Regular uplift of bins and general street cleansing are other concerns, resulting in problems with mice and rats. Derek Manson-Smith reported that the amount of debris and rotting leaves on the section of street from Lynedoch Place to Woodlands Gate is dangerous to pedestrians. Councillor Wardrop said she would follow up on that. There are ongoing issues with Park Circus Lane, but there is quite an active group of residents at the Park Gate end and there are opportunities to work towards improving the lane.

Councillor Andrew reported that a request for a new pelican crossing at the junction of Woodlands Drive and Woodlands Road had been turned down after a traffic survey and consideration of police reports on accidents showed that no case had been made. He is chasing up with Licensing and Planning the potential reopening of the Blythswood Cottage pub in Park Road to make sure the appropriate permissions are in place. He has been told that there is money available from planning gain funds to refurbish the outdoor gym equipment in the park by the Kelvinbridge car park. He thinks it is important that such moneys should be spent in the area. He now sits on the Strathclyde Passenger Transport executive board and had a trip to the Govan depot to be shown the new rolling stock, part of the multi-million pound refurbishment of the underground. Eventually it will have driverless trains in a fully electronic system, at its peak running trains through the system every 90 seconds. A downside is that only two stations are wheelchair-accessible.

Clare Crawford and Ruth Gillett reported that the streetlights in Barrington Drive that they had reported as not working are still not working. Councillor Wardrop said she had been told that the lights had been fixed and she would follow up on the matter.

8 Kelvingrove Park

Ruth Gillett and Tom Johnstone reported that they had attended a second workshop on lighting in the park, and their group unanimously wanted no more lighting. Tom said that Ruth has repeatedly made the valid point that if you light a path it makes women on the path a target for people they cannot see. The perception that extra lighting in the park will make it safer is almost certainly false. The decision on lighting has yet to be made. Ruth said that the planting of the fruit trees in the herbaceous walk has been postponed until February as there has been a problem with locating water pipes.

9 Dropped Kerbs

Tom Johnstone reported that the walkabout had taken place and that Councillor Wardrop seems to be well ahead with what can and cannot be done with the existing budgetary restrictions. The council officers who were on the walkabout are well aware of the problems. Councillor Wardrop said she is awaiting an update from the officers about the timing of the investment in West Princes Street from the Connecting Woodside project.

10 Park Circus Lane

Tom Johnstone said his only contact with people in Park Circus Lane is through George Hazle who has, unsurprisingly, given up trying to get Ambassador to cooperate. See also item 7, Councillors' Reports.

11 Citizens' Panels

Nothing was reported.

12 Cleansing

This was covered under item 7, Councillors' Reports.

13 Correspondence and Licensing

Licensing: Tom Johnstone said that none of the HMO licence applications has planning permission. The renewal of street trader licence is for Mrs Falafel in Ashley Street. There was no objection.

Correspondence: before the meeting Tom circulated a list of correspondence, including emails, with the items he thinks likely to be discussed printed in red. The item dated 11 November from Derek Manson-Smith about the Hillhead infrastructure was discussed under item 5, Matters Arising. On 29 November he received an email from the Information Commissioner. An investigating officer has only just been appointed. The email also gave him a link to go to see what the status was of all current cases. His case has been validated and the authority was providing the withheld information. The information they provided was many pages that had been redacted. Virtually no information was provided. He is not going to tell them that anything at all has been provided. He is going to let them find out for themselves. There was notification on 1 December of a Local Review Committee hearing on 65–77 Otago Street. People are being invited to attend or appear. On 12 December from Steven Dowling, which should have gone to everyone, about a low emission zone and shared transport community survey. He encouraged people to take part. An email from Steven Dowling on 13 December, Attending community councils card for councillors, is a pretty good summation of what councillors can and cannot do for community councils in his opinion. He has written to the Local Review Committee to say that it is his intention to appear at its hearing. He has to provide a written statement before the end of the month. Councillor Andrew said that Tom would probably be asked to speak to his statement but could not add any new information and ask people to invite questions and question the applicant.

14 Finance

Gerry Doyle said there was nothing to report.

15 Electric Charging Points

Tom Johnstone reported that there had been an email on 22 November from Councillor Wardrop and another from Steven Dowling on 14 December about a Glasgow public electric vehicle charging needs survey. They are looking for as much input as possible.

16 Air Pollution

Councillor Wardrop said she would ask for an update to report at the next meeting. There has been more work going on on the M8 Woodside viaduct and there is a road closure in place at the moment so there has been extra traffic on St Georges Road. In reply to a comment from Derek Manson-Smith, Councillor Wardrop said that there is air testing going on around schools in the area of the Woodside viaduct. Councillor Andrew pointed out that the school car-free zones that are being expanded around the city are primarily to make these areas safer for children but they also improve air quality by stopping cars idling.

17 AOCB

At Clare Crawford's suggestion, it was agreed that the Hillhead Area Partnership meeting should be a separate agenda item every six weeks. Councillor Wardrop said that requests had been made for the Cameron Memorial fountain at the junction of Woodside Crescent and Sauchiehall Street to be refurbished. There is a report coming to the Hillhead Area Partnership. In reply to a question from Clare Crawford about the cutting of bus services, Councillor Andrew said it is because of the shortage of drivers.

18 Planning

In reply to a comment from Derek Manson-Smith about permission for the formation of a door from the window of a flat at 11 Park Circus Place, Tom Johnstone said that the property is being converted into flats and that he thinks the door will be to a basement flat. Tom said there were another two applications: 10 Lynedoch Crescent, which is using office space as three flatbed dwellings—in general, reversion from office to residential use is a good thing; and internal alterations at 5 Claremont Terrace. He has not had a chance to study it yet but he doubts there will be anything wrong with it. If there is anything wrong he has until 6 January to object.

19 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 11 January 2023 at 7.30pm via Zoom.