

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 11 January 2023, via Zoom, 7.30pm

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

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

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: Gerry Doyle, Diane Mitchell, Kaukab Stewart MSP

2 Police Report

This was taken as read. Tom Johnstone reported that he had had an email that day from a new police sergeant, Lyn Forbes, asking about dates of community council meetings and about wanting to attend where possible. There was discussion about hybrid meetings using the West of Scotland Housing Association's facilities.

3 Minutes of 14 December Meeting

It was agreed that under item 13, Licensing and Correspondence, line 5, the words 'On 29 November, he . . . ' should be changed to read 'On 29 November, Tom . . . '. Otherwise, the minutes were proposed as a correct record by Derek Manson-Smith, seconded by Tom Johnstone.

4 Matters Arising

Derek Manson-Smith said that in relation to item 5, Matters Arising, on reflection he thought speed bumps on Cliff Road would not achieve the aim of reducing speeding round Park Circus because it is not on the boy racers' route. Tom Johnstone said he has seen people speeding on Cliff Road but conceded that it is a far worse problem elsewhere in the area. Stewart Leighton said that in the infrastructure exercise he had consulted with Derek and others about the Park area and had made suggestions about traffic management as a longer-term solution to addressing the issue of boy racers in discussion with officers of the council. Councillor Andrew said that he agreed that a multi-factorial approach was needed. Derek said that in relation to item 7, Councillors' Reports, he will follow up with a contact in Park Terrace about getting in touch with Councillor Wardrop.

5 Trinity College Tower

Nothing was reported.

6 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Malik said there had been a lot of complaints over the holiday period about bins not being collected. He has contacted the department several times but has received no explanation. The problem is not unusual, but the lack of response by council officers is. Derek Manson-Smith illustrated the problem by describing how recycling material has been blown from the tops of the blue bins all about his area.

Councillor Wardrop reported that there has been flooding, particularly at St Georges Road and St. Georges Cross, and she has been trying to get that addressed. There are issues with some of the lanes where rubbish from unemptied bins has been blown about. She hopes that by the end of the following week most of the rubbish will have been cleared. She thinks officers are concentrating on getting bins emptied rather than replying to emails. Tom Johnstone said that the last three blue bin dates and two green dates have been missed, which is a marked deterioration in service. Councillor Wardrop said there had been Covid cases. She suggested working with the West of Scotland Housing Association to see what improvements can be made in some of the back courts and lanes. There is still a backlog on street lighting. Ruth Gillett said that the light she had been complaining about was reported immediately it went out, in November, and she is concerned that it will take three years to repair, as it had last time. Clare Crawford reported that after the last meeting the light she had reported as not working had come on for a few hours and then gone out again. She also reported two street lights on Great Western Road as not working: one outside the Lovable Rogue restaurant and one beside Tesco. When the Lovable Rogue has its tables out only half the pavement is left for pedestrians and that half is cracked and has little potholes. Councillor Wardrop said she would chase the matter up.

Councillor Andrew said both he and Councillor Wardrop have been working with residents on Willowbank Lane, which has been very heavily flytipped again, to try to get the factors to do something. There is a gate that

could be locked to prevent flytipping. He has had an email apology from the lighting department and has been told that it is significantly behind in street-light maintenance right across the city. Ruth said that both Councillors Andrew and Wardrop had forwarded the apology and she understands that the department is behindhand, but the email seemed to say that while whole streets would be prioritised individual lights would have to wait. Councillor Andrew said that is the department's preferred way of working, to get a team in to service a number of lighting columns, but this does not take safety into account. He thinks there is a shortage of engineers to do the work, but he and the other councillors will continue to chase the matter up.

7 Kelvingrove Park

Tom Johnstone said that he was waiting to hear the outcome of the workshops he and Ruth Gillett had attended.

8 Dropped Kerbs

Councillor Wardrop reported that she had fed back to the community council that the Sustrans project, Connecting Woodside, will start again in May or June and will tackle the worst of the safety problems in Ashley Street, around the Millennium Park and in West Princes Street. Stewart Leighton said he hopes that the work will include enlarged nibbling at junctions to prevent parked cars blocking dropped kerbs. Councillor Wardrop said she thinks there will be opportunities to get involved in discussions in May and June.

9 Park Circus Lane

Nothing was reported.

10 Citizens' Panels

Nothing was reported.

11 Cleansing

This was covered under item 6, Councillors' Reports.

12 Correspondence and Licensing

Licensing: Tom Johnstone said that the two new HMO licence applications have no planning permission. In reply to a question from Stewart Leighton, Tom said he has no way of determining whether 'new' means a new application or a new owner. Councillor Malik said that, whether they are new or old, they should be objected to as they have no planning permission. Tom said that as policy stands it is pointless to object. The Licensing Committee cannot take planning into account while it is policy not to do so. Councillor Wardrop said that the Hillhead Area Partnership has agreed to have a subgroup to meet with relevant council officials to discuss the matter. She thinks there will be a meeting in February. Stewart Leighton said that at the last meeting of the HAP in November it was agreed that somebody from Planning would attend to discuss it. In discussion, Councillor Andrew said that the issue is not Planning but Licensing policy and referred to the evidence sessions in late 2017 and early 2018 when this was an issue for the Hillhead ward and others but not for the majority of wards across the city and it was decided not to link licensing to appropriate planning permission. Stewart Leighton argued that it is now a strategic issue for the whole city because of the rise in student numbers and migrational data from local authorities revealing that people are moving out of Glasgow. Councillor Wardrop said there are opportunities to look at the new Housing Strategy and what it is going to do in linking licensing within housing policy development, particularly around student housing. There is a consultation planned for the housing strategy in the next few months. Tom said that statutory guidance to Scottish licensing authorities includes the possibility of having different treatment of the link between licensing and planning for different parts of a licensing authority area.

Correspondence: before the meeting Tom had circulated a list of correspondence, including emails, with the items he thinks likely to be discussed printed in red. There was discussion about an email on 3 January from Dr Ishaq. It was agreed that as Dr Ishaq had not asked for a response and had not provided any evidence nothing should be done about it. Councillor Wardrop said she had forwarded the email to council officials for them to respond to him and had asked the officials to update community councils on transport policies as quite a lot of changes had come in. A new transport strategy had been agreed just before Christmas. Tom said that on 19 December, Kaukab Stewart, as well as giving apologies for this meeting, had asked for information about upcoming meetings, not for the first time, which he had given.

13 Finance

Tom Johnstone reported that he still had not collected the cheque for Zoom payments from Gerry Doyle.

14 Electric Charging Points

Nothing was reported.

15 Air Pollution

Councillor Wardrop said she would ask for updated survey data from the monitoring around the M8 at the Woodside viaduct for the next meeting as there have been road closures at the viaduct so there is more traffic on St Georges Road. In reply to a question from Stewart Leighton, she said there is a City Centre District Framework paper going to committee the following day and there is quite a lot of information linked to and around the motorway at Cowcaddens. Once it is published she will forward it to him.

16 AOCB

In reply to a question from Stewart Leighton, Councillor Andrew said that in terms of funding the Hillhead ward has done rather well given the Sustrans Connecting Woodside project and the City Deal monies that will make a huge improvement to Byres Road. Stewart and Councillor Andrew then discussed the state of pre-1919 tenemental stock in the city and the need for its improvement.

17 Planning

Tom Johnstone said that the grant of planning permission for replacement windows at 429 Great Western Road was complicated by the fact that the windows to the front of the building are not original. He has looked at the conditions attached and these will sort it out. The original deadline of 31 December 2022 for getting in hearing statements for the Otago Lane appeal was extended to 15 January 2023 as the planning portal had broken yet again. Apart from himself and Jean Charsley, Martin Fell, the owner of Chai Ovna, has also been given permission to speak. There is nothing objectionable about planning permission for internal and external alterations at 58 Woodlands Road, one of the bits of Hobbs Reprographic being changed to a dentist's.

18 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 7.30pm via Zoom.