

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 8 June 2022, via Zoom, 7.30pm

Present: Gerry Doyle (treasurer and chair of meeting), Ruth Gillett (chair), Tom Johnstone (secretary), Diane Mitchell, Clare Crawford (minutes), Stewart Leighton, Derek Manson-Smith, representatives from 343 West Princes Street: Allie Macpherson, Ian Graham, Fiona Morton, David Dickie, Alfie Vaughan, Alasdair Smith

In attendance: Brian Gannon (West of Scotland Housing Association), Councillor Ken Andrew, Councillor Martha Wardrop, Sean Griffin (Ramsay McMichael, on behalf of residents of 343 West Princes Street)

Ruth Gillett welcomed everyone attending and said that, as it had been suggested that she might have a conflict of interest on an item on the agenda, she would hand over the chairing of the meeting to Gerry Doyle. Tom Johnstone announced the death of Kay Scott, a long-term community councillor, in May. It was agreed that Ruth would send a card of condolence on behalf of the community council to her daughter and family.

1 Apologies: None

2 Police Report

This was taken as read. There was discussion about Councillor Andrew not receiving copies of the police report.

3 Brian Gannon: Presentation on the Possible Transfer of Charing Cross Housing Association to the West of Scotland Housing Association

Brian Gannon said that a transfer of engagements between two housing associations is a legal process and happens when the tenants vote in favour of it in a ballot. He announced that 72 per cent of Charing Cross Housing Association residents had voted in their ballot, 96 per cent of whom voted in favour of the transfer. The West of Scotland Housing Association is delighted with the outcome and that CCHA tenants have put their faith in the WSHA to deliver on its promises. Special general meetings will be held to allow CCHA shareholders to vote to transfer it to the WSHA and other legal and financial arrangements to be processed before a transfer on 1 August, when current CCHA tenants in Woodlands and Garnethill will become WSHA tenants and factored owners of CCHA will start to receive their factoring service from the WSHA rather than CCHA. As the WSHA wants to get to work as quickly as possible it has already submitted planning applications for replacing windows as it wants to put work out to tender to start to make a real impact on the lives of its tenants. The WSHA has been going since 1965 and has about 3,600 homes in Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire. It works in partnership with local groups and agencies as it makes better decisions when it listens to the views of the people who live in its communities. It has already reached out to the Woodlands Community Development Trust and Visibility Scotland. Brian said he has a meeting the following day to establish a steering group of tenants and factored owners who will represent the interests of current CCHA tenants in the future. He and his colleagues will be more than happy to come to community council meetings if there are issues that it wants to raise. Tom Johnstone said that he would put WSHA on the community council's mailing list.

Tom said that in 2021 CCHA introduced a rule change where the share certificates of shareholders who had not attended five general meetings were cancelled. Some people accepted it and were disenfranchised. Others, including himself, challenged it, and their certificates have been upheld, so they will automatically become shareholders of the WSHA. Brian said that anybody who was previously a member of CCHA can become a member of the WSHA. In reply to comments from Gerry Doyle, Brian explained that while legally only CCHA tenants got to vote, the WSHA had invited factored owners to every focus group and road show to feed into the consultation process. At the moment the WSHA has about 400 factored owners and CCHA has about 900. At its latest meeting the WSHA board had decided to restructure its factoring services as it recognises that this is going to be a more significant part of its business. It will set up a factored owners' forum where owners can engage with the WSHA about its service, and factored owners will be able to be members of the new residents' group that is being set up for Woodlands and Garnethill. The CCHA office will be retained as a base for WSHA services and will provide a meeting space for community groups and possibly office space for other agencies. The community council could hold meetings there at no cost. There was discussion about a staff member of the WSHA becoming a coopted member of the community council, as had been the case with CCHA.

Gerry Doyle thanked Brian Gannon for his attendance.

4 Minutes of 11 May Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were proposed as correct by Tom Johnstone, seconded by Ruth Gillett.

5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6 Trinity College Tower

Councillor Andrew reported that the owners and Glasgow City Council are in contention and that he could say nothing more on the matter at the moment. Councillor Wardrop said there had been concerns about traffic management after the lifting of the exclusion zone although she has not received any more reports of problems with traffic flow up to Park Quadrant.

7 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wardrop reported that there have been ongoing problems with litter in West End Park Street. She understands that the litter bin is to be reinstated and is pushing for litter action planning including the need to work with the takeaways. Council officials have been working with Glasgow University to make videos about recycling for students to share on social media. There is to be another rollout of bike storage, and she would welcome suggestions for sites other than the request for one at the corner of Woodlands Road and Barrington Drive. Because some people do not have recycling provision, the recycling bins in Park Drive have been reinstated but some residents are raising concerns about the return of flytipping problems so she is trying to find a better location. Derek Manson-Smith suggested the other end of Park Drive before it reaches Woodlands Road where flytippers would be more visible. Councillor Wardrop said there is CCTV on the University building in Park Drive. She will see if she can get it activated and get the University's support. Derek said that he had been discussing with Councillor Wardrop the problem of the council not reacting to reports of adverts on private property and removing them. Councillor Wardrop said she would keep in touch with him on the matter.

Councillor Andrew reported that he had circulated the data from the traffic survey of the section of Woodlands Road between Park Road and Montague Street, which show that there was not a problem with speeding. Enforcement of parking restrictions at the top of Park Road had been effective, and he hopes that will remain the case. He has asked for relining works to be done, particularly in the Park area, of bays and traffic advisory lines and signage to discourage bad motoring practices. He said that at the Hillhead Area Partnership meeting the following day he would raise the possibility of CCTV for flytipping hotspots, but he agreed that Derek's suggestion of moving the bins in Park Drive was a good one. Clare Crawford asked for bus stop areas to be repainted to discourage drivers from parking on them. Councillor Andrew said he would follow that up.

8 Kelvingrove Park

Ruth Gillett reported that the apple tree planting on the Herbaceous Walk is still being organised and will probably take place in November. In reply to a comment from Derek Manson-Smith about weeds, she said that the council has no money at the moment to deal with that problem but the apple trees are to be planted in the grassy patches and they are hoping to get some money for wild flowers as well. Councillor Andrew and Ruth discussed the lack of information on the Dandelion Festival.

9 Dropped Kerbs

Councillor Wardrop said it is still an ongoing matter to get the Minor Works programme completed over the summer.

10 Park Circus Lane

Tom Johnstone reported that there had been a number of meetings with residents in Park Circus and Park Circus Place and the agents for various owners have all agreed to give him, as data controller for the community council, contact details so that he can contact them when the time comes. The sticking point at the moment is getting a representative from Ambassador to attend steering group meetings. There seems to be little progress on site at Park Quadrant at the moment. The next meeting of the steering group will not be until the end of July or into August as George Hazle will be away.

11 Citizens' Panels

Councillor Andrew reported that three wards are going to be pilots for the new arrangement of how citizens' panels integrate with community councils and area partnerships. He thinks they are Pollok, Canal and East Centre. There may be more information at the meeting of the Hillhead Area Partnership the following day.

12 Cleansing

Councillor Wardrop said she has had some feedback from council staff that there may be a 'deep clean' of West Princes Street but does not know when as there have been ongoing concerns about leaves, debris and weeds. People have been maintaining their gardens a bit more during the pandemic and there are the planters all the

way down. She hopes to firm that up and will let the community council know what a deep clean involves and when it will happen.

13 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Planning: Tom Johnstone reported that in his opinion all the planning applications are uncontentious. Another eight have been added since he circulated the list, all for Charing Cross Housing Association properties, submitted by the West of Scotland Housing Association. A planning application for listed building consent for replacement windows for a flat in Park Quadrant submitted a few months previously was objected to by the community council because the amount of information provided was inadequate. The matching full planning permission application has now been submitted and has masses of detail and overcomes all the objections.

Licensing: as usual, the applications for HMO licences have no planning permission. There is one more in the same category at 33 West Princes Street. There was an application for a street trader's licence on the south side of Great Western Road, 19 metres west of the entrance to Kelvinbridge Station, in one of the parking bays on Kelvin Bridge. The closing date for objections was that day. Councillor Andrew said he will object to having a takeaway stall on the bridge as it is only metres away from a school. He will explain that the lateness of his objection is because he had to discuss the matter with the community council, which also objects.

Correspondence: the letter of 13 May from Planning concerned 343 West Princes Street and said the tree survey had not been posted on the planning portal on 7 March because 'admin' thought it was 'sensitive'. Tom has no idea what criteria determine sensitivity. On 19 May a copy of a letter from Ailie Macpherson, acting on behalf of herself and the owners of five other properties in the same close, requesting withdrawal of the community council's objection. On 24 May, a communication from Planning that the letter from the community council has been published. Tom said that the Planning portal seems to be cracking up and he hopes Councillor Andrew will pick up on that.

Councillors Wardrop and Andrew, as members of the Planning Committee, left the meeting as the next item concerned a current planning application.

13A Request by Ailie Macpherson and others, including their surveyor, that Woodlands and Park Community Council withdraw its objections to planning application 22/00518/FUL [External alterations to flatted dwellings, comprising structural, stone work and roof repairs and tree works, 343 West Princes Street]

Minute to follow.

14 Finance

Gerry Doyle reported that he had received a Zoom invoice of £14.39 for the May meeting. Tom Johnstone explained that £14.39 is the cost for a month from the first day of the month and that he would be cancelling the subscription at the end June unless there are to be more special meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that he would try to get an annual subscription with a 40 per cent discount.

15 Electric Charging Points

Derek Manson-Smith reported that he had been back to check where the electric charging points had been installed in the Park area and he could find no evidence of any damage.

16 Air Pollution

Tom Johnstone said an article in *The Guardian* recently supports a point that Stewart Leighton had made previously that the amount of air pollution caused by particles from tyres is far greater than that produced by exhaust. Stewart Leighton said that some two and a half years before he had attended a lecture given by the Glasgow Centre for Population Health in which it was stated that it is not just the PM10s but the 2.5s that are the damaging stuff that gets into everybody's lungs.

17 AOCB

There was no other business.

18 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14 September 2022 at 7.30pm via Zoom unless a special meeting is called.