

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 9 March 2022, via Zoom, 7.30pm

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

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

1 Apologies: Kay Scott

2 Police Report

Tom Johnstone reported that he had heard from Gillian Frew, who sends out the police reports, that the disappearing paragraph in the police report for January 2022 was due to a clerical error. The police report for March was taken as read.

3 Minutes of 9 February Meeting

Tom Johnstone pointed out that under item 5, Trinity College Tower, line 12, 'Thewlis' should be 'Thewliss'. Otherwise, the minutes of the meeting were proposed as a correct record by Tom, seconded by Diane Mitchell.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Trinity College Tower

Derek Manson-Smith reported that no-parking cones set up in Park Quadrant following the changes to the traffic system to block off Lynedoch Place are being largely ignored, leading to traffic snarl-ups and difficulties for cyclists. Councillor Andrew said that the tower is a complex engineering problem to which there is no particularly right or wrong solution. At the moment there is an impasse between two sets of engineers. He had had a meeting with the leader of Glasgow City Council to raise his concerns about the pace at which the matter is being dealt with. The council's engineers are determined that under section 29 of the Housing Act 2004 they have absolute responsibility for safety. He understands that the council's engineers are proposing inserting a stent through the middle of the tower to stop it collapsing in on itself and a girdle around the tower that will be removed once the tower stabilises. He is having an online meeting with Trinity residents the following afternoon when he will be given updated information on their engineers' ideas. In reply to a comment from Tom Johnstone, Councillor Andrew said the buckling of an outside wall at a fairly low level affects the Trinity building rather than the tower and will keep the residents out of their homes for a number of months. Councillor Wardrop said she had been in touch with residents of Trinity tower and had followed up any concerns they had. She hopes the engineers' report will be available very soon. She hoped that lessons had been learned from the Glasgow School of Art fires about better communication with the wider community about repairs and time scale. Repairs to the church on the corner of Woodlands Gate have led to traffic tailbacks on Woodlands Road, with particularly bad congestion that week. There were concerns about security, but the arrangements to deal with that seem quite robust.

6 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Andrew reported that the work on the Eldon Street steps where there had been problems with flooding, funded by Open Spaces, has been completed. He had heard the previous day that Scottish Water is being contacted about replacing the fencing near the bandstand in Kelvingrove Park.

Councillor Malik said that he had visited the Trinity Tower and that the problem has raised again the issue of people not maintaining their properties and that the council had failed in its job of making sure that any property brought to its attention should be repaired timeously and properly. This is how we lose historic buildings across the city. While not keeping a close tidy is not an issue, the health and safety of the property and the people within it are. He thinks councillors should get together with community councils to make sure buildings are properly monitored and maintained before more are lost. In discussion, Tom Johnstone said reports about pre-1919 stock have gone to committees relatively recently and Ruth Gillett said she had noticed that the bridge at Kelvinbridge has a vast amount of foliage growing out of the stonework. Councillor Malik said he would contact Land Services to see if they can see to it.

Councillor Wardrop reported that five more cycle storage units have been installed in Woodlands, so it has more cycle storage than any other neighbourhood. At her instigation, there was discussion about investment in

Park Circus Lane. Tom Johnstone reported that he had had a meeting with George Hazle and Ryan Carey from the Ambassador Group and had emailed Councillors Andrew and Wardrop about the possibility of using council money towards repairs. Ambassador will make a five-figure sum available at the end of its contract in September. According to George Hazle, the community council would have to send a letter to all the owners in the lane and get their unanimous agreement for the community council to act for them in applying for the council money. The problem is identifying all the owners and contacting them. Once they have been contacted getting their agreement shouldn't be difficult for they have nothing to lose. It was agreed that if a feasible plan could be devised the community council should go ahead with the project. In discussion, Tom said that it would have to be dealt with in two parts: the section beside their site, for which Ambassador has undeniable responsibility, and the section up to Park Gate where Ambassador maintains they have no responsibility although it could be argued that their equipment has to some extent damaged it. The community council, as a properly constituted body, satisfies the requirement to get money from the council. The problem is getting all the owners to agree to our appointment as their agent. Councillor Wardrop said it has been done in other lanes and it requires a systematic approach gathering the information. She is happy to support the work and to help in forming a steering group involving people who live in the lane. Tom said there are drawings and three tender prices for the Ambassador section and he will ask Ambassador to send them to him as digital documents. There are no specifications for the other section. Councillor Wardrop said that the process will have to be agreed with council officers as there is a large sum of money involved. Councillor Andrew said that to get the lane up to an adoptable standard would cost £200–300,000. He pointed out that the voters' roll should record as up-to-date a record as possible of the occupants of the lane. Councillor Malik said that if people make the effort to bring the lane up to a decent standard then it is only appropriate of the council that they adopt that lane.

7 Millennium Park

At Diane Mitchell's suggestion, it was agreed that this item be removed from the agenda and that anything that was required could be dealt with under AOCB.

8 Kelvingrove Park

Ruth Gillett and Tom Johnstone reported that they had had a meeting with a council officer, John MacCulloch, to talk about various things in the park, particularly Operation Mother, the plan for dealing with antisocial behaviour in the summer. They seem to have a clear idea of what they are doing and they are certainly not planning on closing the gates this year. There will be ten police officers in the park on days of risk.

9 Dropped Kerbs

Councillor Wardrop said she has concerns about council officers saying that they could not fund this under Connecting Woodside, but she hopes it will come out of next year's Roads budget.

10 Park Circus Lane

This was covered under item 6, Councillors' Reports.

11 Citizens' Panels

Tom Johnstone said it is not clear to him why the community councils that have been in touch are so upset about citizens' panels as, according to the proposed constitution of citizens' panels, community councils are represented on them. Ruth Gillett said that was not good enough and that there is potential for certain groups to take precedence over the community council because they happen to have more sway with certain councillors. She feels the matter should be investigated further. Clare Crawford said she knows they have been successful in Ireland, but there they are concerned with single-issue matters rather than just being talking shops. Councillor Andrew said that in addition to councillors, community councillors and area partnerships, petitions' committees have been introduced relatively recently to allow petitions to Glasgow City Council on single issues. There had been a report to the Hillhead Area Partnership's last meeting on citizens' panels, but it had left him no wiser. In discussion about the council doing more to resurrect moribund community councils, Councillor Andrew said that Steven Dowling has worked hard to get Woodside Community Council going again and although he has had to put it into suspension this has not closed the door on its revival. Councillor Wardrop said that the idea for citizens' panels is a pilot project. There has been quite a lot of feedback and more would be welcome. It is looking at ways of enabling people to participate, but it does not mean discouraging people from getting involved in community councils. It was agreed that Ruth would draft a document for circulation and comment.

12 Speaker on Possible Transfer of Charing Cross Housing Association to West of Scotland Housing Association

Tom Johnstone reported that Brian Gannon, the chief executive of the West of Scotland Housing Association, had written to Woodlands and Park Community Council and to Garnethill Community Council offering to speak

on the possible transfer. It was noted that Lynn Walsh, co-opted from CCHA, is still notified of meetings but never attends. At Gerry Doyle's suggestion, it was agreed that Tom would invite John Mulholland of CCHA to speak to the community council at the next meeting and write to Brian Gannon to say he would be invited to speak at a later meeting.

13 Cleansing

Derek Manson-Smith said that the problems they were having at the time of the last meeting seem to have settled down into a more regular pattern.

14 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing

Tom Johnstone reported that he had objected to the first planning application in the green font, 37 Arlington Street. On 23 February, in the correspondence section, is an acknowledgement of our objection to a 16-metre-tall telecommunications pole outside the Botanic Gardens. This was referred to us by Hillhead Community Council, which has also objected, as have Friends of Glasgow West. It has been refused under delegated authority and will almost certainly be appealed to the Local Review Committee. On 3 March he had received two notices, which together alerted him to something being wrong in the Planning Department. It was a notification of an appeal and a notification of a local review, both for the same address, 65–77 Otago Street. From what he knows about planning that is simply not possible. You cannot do an appeal to the ministers until you have finished with the local review. In addition to that, it was described on the website as a fast-track appeal, which is a non-existent procedure. It seems mischievous to choose such a contentious site to make such ridiculous mistakes over. It has been taken up by Ann Laird and also by the Otago Lane Conservation Trust. Tom will wait to see how their complaints go before involving the community council. Stewart Leighton and Tom had a conversation about training councillors in planning and failings within the Planning Department. Tom noted that David Gallagher, 124 Woodlands Road, had written to thank the community council for the objection to Pepe's Piri Piri flue and asked Councillor Malik why he had voted for approval. Councillor Malik said there was only 11 centimetres of a difference in the flue and it was already visible. Tom explained that the community council's letter expressed the concerns of residents about the failure of the applicants to comply with environmental health standards. Councillor Malik said he had considered that as an issue for the council to police rather than a planning issue. Tom said that if anyone is interested in attending the royal garden party at Holyrood House then they should get in touch with the lord lieutenant's office at the council directly.

15 Finance

Tom Johnstone reported that he had another Zoom invoice to send to Gerry Doyle.

16 Electric Charging-points

Councillor Wardrop said that there is a report going to committee in the following week, which she will circulate. Tom Johnstone said he had noticed that Dave Holladay has been posting about damage to the pavement caused by the insertion of charging points in Park Street South.

17 Air Pollution

Stewart Leighton pointed out that the use of electric cars will not cause air pollution to disappear as they produce particulate matter from tyres. Councillor Wardrop said a lot had been happening in terms of transport strategy and planning, which will inform the City Development Plan. A new transport strategy is being put forward the following day by the City Administration Committee and a new Active Travel Plan for walking and cycling. There is going to be a free public transport pilot project for the city centre and a new electric bus proposed for Pollok Park and busses are being upgraded for the new low-emission zone. In response to comments from Stewart on Strathclyde Passenger Transport pursuing an integrated model, Councillor Wardrop said there is a bus partnership model at the moment to try to build better relationships over the next few years. There had been discussion that day involving schools because of the extra traffic congestion caused by the motorway repairs. There is an ongoing problem with air pollution. Woodlands Road is also an air pollution hotspot. Councillor Andrew said that probably the best and most integrated urban transport system in the country is in Nottingham where the local authority and private contractors are managing to work together.

18 AOCB

Clare Crawford reported that a street light at the top of Barrington Drive was not working. Ruth Gillet reported that there were two lights not working at the corner of Barrington Drive and West Princes Street and more along West Princes Street towards West End Park Street. Councillor Andrew said he would report these.

19 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 7.30pm via Zoom. Councillor Andrew gave his apologies.

