

# Woodlands and Park Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 11 May 2022, via Zoom, 7.30pm

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

**In attendance:** Councillor Ken Andrew, Councillor Martha Wardrop

**1 Apologies:** Kay Scott, Alison Thewliss MP, Derek Manson-Smith

### **2 Police Report**

This was taken as read.

### **3 Minutes of 13 April Meeting**

Ruth Gillett pointed out that, in line 1 under item 3, Matters Arising, 'Charing' should be 'Charging'. Tom Johnstone pointed out that in item 4, Minutes of 9 March Meeting, line 2, 'Mason' should be 'Manson', that in item 10, Park Circus Lane, line 1, 'Hazel' should be 'Hazle' and that in item 13, Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing, line 18, 'Lewes' should be 'Lewis'. Otherwise, the minutes of the meeting were proposed as correct by Tom, seconded by Diane Mitchell.

### **4 Matters Arising**

Clare Crawford said that the problem with the pedestrian phase of the traffic lights at the junction of Napiershall Street and Great Western Road, which she had reported to Councillor Malik, has been sorted out.

### **5 Trinity College Tower**

Councillor Andrew reported that the exclusion zone had been lifted a couple of weeks before, following the bracing of the tower and installation of the supporting external girdle. Residents who live around the tower have been allowed to return to their homes, but the tower residents have not. The owners accept that of the 23 flats there are five that the owners cannot return to because of their proximity to the tower and the works that have had to be done to access the base of the tower. That leaves 18 flats that could be safely occupied, and the residents have prepared an engineer's report and an evacuation scheme in the event of something untoward happening in terms of fire or further problems with the tower. These have gone to Glasgow City Council's chief of building services, but they have not had a response, leaving them frustrated at how slowly the council reacts to reports or information. The council is determined that the costs accrued are paid by the owners of Trinity tower while the Trinity residents say that the council's reaction to the problems of the tower was an overreaction and feel that they should not have to pay all the costs, for instance the costs of the exclusion zone. He, Alison Thewliss MP and Kaukab Stewart MSP have been acting as mediators between the residents and the council to get the matter resolved as quickly as they can. In reply to a question from Stewart Leighton, Councillor Andrew said that there seems to be little likelihood of enough works being completed to allow the residents to return before November. It will be at the point where the council are content to lift the Section 30 order on the building, which is a bone of contention.

### **6 Councillors' Reports**

Tom Johnstone congratulated all the incumbents on their reelection. Councillor Andrew said that being out and about with election matters he had noted a number of ongoing issues. At the Eldon Street end of Park Road is the 'occupation' by Eusebi's delicatessen and at the other end of Park Road the cars, particularly two vans, that park illegally and block the left-hand filter lane so that traffic backs up down Park Road into Woodlands Road and leads to idling engines affecting air quality. He has again asked for parking enforcement. He has noticed litter on the streets but thinks that on the whole the area is not looking too bad. There was little electioneering in the Hillhead ward for his political party as there was only one SNP candidate standing and resources were needed to support two candidates in the other wards within the Kelvin constituency. There is negotiation going on about the administration of Glasgow City Council for the next session. In reply to comments from Stewart Leighton, Councillor Andrew said that Eusebi's planning consent is not formal planning consent but a temporary pandemic measure to occupy on a temporary basis and has been extended to September. He agreed with Stewart that there should be a rethink about the design of Park Road. Stewart said there are broken concrete bollards in Park Road that need attention. Councillor Andrew said he would follow the matter up.

Councillor Wardrop reported that faded white lines are now causing problems with parking, the worst being in Carnarvon Street and West End Park Street. She hopes white-lining can be done in the next few months. She has had people asking for food waste bins to be reinstated and is following that up. The general waste bins seem to be okay. She is doing all she can to make sure that anybody who is looking for recycling bins is getting them. Park Drive used to have a recycling point for residents without back courts, and they are concerned about the lack of a recycling point near them. A specially designated recycling point with better signage and information is supposed to be coming so she is waiting to see what happens. Traffic management in the Park area has gone a bit awry following the end of the closure of the streets around the Trinity tower and the police may have to be called in. The one-way system has been reinstated but people are still treating Park Quadrant as two-way. There are still pavement works to be done in Woodlands as people are concerned about safety walking around the area. The new bike storage facilities seem to have gone down well as she has had no complaints. The street lights have been fixed. New planters have been put in the Millennium Park and people like them and want them extended to other streets, particularly Carnarvon Street. It is something for the community council to think about supporting, making sure you have someone to look after them and water them. The community council was involved in the planters in West Princes Street. Ruth Gillett said that the community owns the planters. If there are to be more planters there must be a commitment from the council to water them as it is difficult for individuals. Councillor Wardrop said she has not heard much more on the Trinity tower from council officials, but she will follow up on concerns about the way it has been handled. Stewart said he was in happy that Woodlands was moved from being a controlled parking zone (CPZ) to a restricted parking zone (RPZ) because if the lines are gone the parking attendants cannot enforce any abuse or irregularities. He wondered whether a bike storage unit could be placed on the chevron at the junction of Woodlands Road and Barrington Drive. It would avoid the need for nibbling and stop people parking on it. Councillor Wardrop said she would ask about that. Councillor Andrew said that there are very few CPZs, with resident-only bays, in the city. He understands it is easier to make adjustments to RPZs, with shared bays. The bike stores have been a great success. Traffic regulations have changed recently and pedestrians have right of way written into the Highway Code. He suspects, however, that there is a lot of ignorance of the Highway Code.

## **7 Kelvingrove Park**

Ruth Gillett said that Councillor Andrew is following up with Major Philip Grant about the Cameronian statue at the other side of the museum. Tom Johnstone said there had been a response to the Freedom of Information request, but you have to reach page 12 before you discover anything at all from the information that has been released. He had had to complain to the Information Commissioner before he received even that. The commissioner has not subsequently been in touch so more may be extracted from the council in due course. Around about page 12 or 14 is the information we were looking for, which had it been provided in the first place, the community council would not have had to go to the Information Commissioner.

## **8 Dropped Kerbs**

Councillor Wardrop said that she thinks it is in the Minor Works programme, but they cannot give a date. She thinks it could probably be taken up through the Hillhead Area Partnership as an issue as long as we can get a programme of works agreed.

## **9 Park Circus Lane**

Tom Johnstone reported that many meetings are being held. The following day he is meeting George Hazle and Gordon Russell as a steering group meeting. There will be another meeting involving Councillors Wardrop and Andrew later on. Progress on getting consent from owners to part with contact details is progressing remarkably well even though they have to be dealt with through agents rather than directly.

## **10 Citizens' Panels**

Nothing was reported.

## **11 Cleansing**

Tom Johnstone said that there has been a general improvement but Councillor Andrew has warned that that might collapse at any moment. Councillor Wardrop said that there is a level of concern about litter and that it is not all down to the council to fix the problem. She has been pushing for a litter prevention plan to be created to bring together businesses, schools and residents and would like the community council to be involved. Tom said that very few HMO tenants have any idea where they are supposed to put glass and that there should be a way of educating them. Councillor Wardrop said a big concern is the number of takeaways on Woodlands Road and we need to work with them. There are 56 Neighbourhoods across the city and the Neighbourhood approach is the one to follow because that is how Cleansing organises routes, vehicles and staff. The Neighbourhood relating to Woodlands also includes, she thinks, Hillhead High and Hillhead Primary. Another

area is Kelvingrove Park. Bins have been put in there but she doesn't know if there has been any update on the number because of last summer's events. She will look into the matter and get some assistance from Cleansing.

## **12 Correspondence, including Planning and Licensing**

**Planning:** Tom Johnstone reported that 343 West Princes Street have once again failed to pay attention to what objectors have been saying, which is that a protected species survey and better and more consistent information about what work is to be done to which trees is needed before interfering with trees. There are inconsistencies between documents at the moment and there is still no planning application form. An objection has gone in to the windows at 5 Park Quadrant. It had originally been agreed not to object to the basement at 4 Lynedoch Place being used as a gym, but after visiting one of the neighbours there, Tom said he had started reading the City Development Plan again and realised that gymnasium use is class 11 and is subject to the same restrictions as public houses and entertainment venues and should be neither in nor adjacent to residential premises so he has put in an objection on those grounds. There are some very good examples of plastic window replacements taking place, of which 51 Rupert Street is one. Stewart Leighton said that the plastic windows in Woodlands mar the conservation area and could make it more difficult to sustain. He wondered if Glasgow City Council and Historic Environment Scotland could consider an initiative to provide financial incentives to encourage people to replace plastic windows. Councillor Andrew said he recognised the problem of UPVC windows in conservation areas but, given their ubiquity, it would be very difficult for the council to take any sort of enforcement action, but he agreed with Stewart that a carrot method of approach is better than a stick if we can find any kind of finance. Tom said that the operation of the planning system online is getting quite hopeless. There have been recent examples of irrelevant objections to planning applications and the ability to track planning applications is not working at all. He had noticed as well that when documents that have been missed out by agents for applications for planning permission are eventually submitted they are backdated to when the first lot of documents was submitted. This practice should be stopped immediately. Councillor Andrew said he had noted Tom's points and there have been complaints at planning applications hearings about document that have appeared late despite having earlier dates. He will pursue the matter.

**Licensing:** none of the HMO applications has planning permission, as usual. Tom said he could see nothing exceptional about any of the various applications for marketing operators' licences and late hours catering licences.

**Correspondence:** Tom dealt with the communication about the Freedom of Information request under item 7, Kelvingrove Park. He noted that the chief executive of the West of Scotland Housing Association will be coming to the June meeting.

## **13 Finance**

Gerry Doyle reported that he had received a Zoom invoice of £14.39 for the May meeting. Tom Johnstone said that all payments are up-to-date.

## **14 Electric Charging Points**

Councillor Wardrop asked that it be noted that the lack of charging points in Woodlands is an ongoing issue. They are piloting a project in Park Circus at the moment. She will find out what stage it is at and when it will be reported on and what the implications are for the whole community council area.

## **15 Air Pollution**

Councillor Wardrop reported that Clean Air Day was coming up. She is waiting to hear from council officials about what the council would like to do to mark it and will circulate the information when she receives it.

## **16 AOCB**

There was no other business.

## **17 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 7.30pm via Zoom.