

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 9 November 2022, via Zoom, 7.30pm

Present: Ruth Gillett (chair), Tom Johnstone (secretary), Diane Mitchell, Derek Manson-Smith, Gerry Doyle (treasurer), Clare Crawford (minutes), Stewart Leighton, Rinna Vare (Glasgow University Student Representative Council)

In attendance: Councillor Martha Wardrop

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: Councillor Andrew

2 Police Report

This was taken as read.

3 Minutes of 12 October Meeting

Tom Johnstone said that under item 7, Kelvingrove Park, line 8, the words 'can fund' should be changed to 'have' and in line 9, the words 'it would pay the insurance' should be changed to 'its insurance policy should be used'. Otherwise, the minutes were proposed as correct by Tom, seconded by Diane Mitchell.

4 Matters Arising

Derek Manson-Smith said that, to do with traffic control around Park Circus in particular, he accepted that speed bumps could be detrimental to neighbouring buildings and that a 20mph speed limit would be more realistic. Stewart Leighton said that all options had been included in his report on infrastructure improvements but he could not say when such improvements would be approved and when they would be carried out. Derek said at the time of the Connecting Woodside consultation he had marked on the map where dropped kerbs should be placed at the ends of the streets between West Princes Street and Great Western Road.

5 Trinity College Tower

Nothing was reported.

6 Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wardrop reported that following the Hillhead Area Partnership meeting and decisions about the allocation of the infrastructure fund, there are funds available for the improvement of footways in Carrington Street, Montague Street, Great Western Road and Ashley Street, which she hopes will link in to the dropped kerbs onto Great Western Road. There is a consultation being carried out until 16 December on the future of the libraries. She has been carrying out follow-up visits around bins in various places. There are concerns about Baliol Lane, which needs upgraded, and she is working with residents there, and there are concerns around waste management and street cleansing in Carnarvon Street, which she is following up. She has reported problems with flooding and drainage issues in St George's Road, particularly at the junction with the M8 bridge and access on and off Great Western Road, and also along Woodlands Road. Residents around Park Road have been concerned about accidents around the roundabout at Woodlands Road at the Primary pub, which the police are following up. There is money in the infrastructure fund for road markings to be refreshed. Derek Manson-Smith said that the section of road beside the university building at the roundabout is in need of repair. Councillor Wardrop said the area around the roundabout at the Doublet pub has been highlighted as a dangerous area for pedestrians and cyclists because of speeding cars and is being followed up. Ongoing flooding has also been reported on the Kelvin Walkway under the Eldon Street Bridge. Air pollution monitoring is continuing because of traffic backing up at the M8 Woodside viaduct because of the closure of Phoenix Road. There is a backlog of recycling bins needing to be emptied so she is chasing that up. In discussion about the gym equipment at the Subway car park, Stewart Leighton said he had inspected it and included it in his report on infrastructure improvements. Councillor Wardrop said that parks and open space improvements have been agreed but there has been no progress yet because of procurement and staffing capacity issues. She will chase the matter up. Clare Crawford reported a non-functioning streetlight in Barrington Drive. In response to a comment by Tom Johnstone, Councillor Wardrop said she had been following up concerns about student safety for some time. She has done walkabouts with students to deal with concerns about lighting and security and has

submitted evidence to a legal enquiry set up by the university. She has long supported initiatives to stop violence against women and is concerned that when new students come into the area they need support. In discussion Stewart suggested improved lighting and partnerships with other bodies, e.g. West of Scotland Housing Association, in upgrading the area and improving public realm, and Councillor Wardrop said she has a local work plan for Neighbourhood Liaison Officers to follow up on and one of the areas is the Kelvin Walkway where the transport-themed mural, which was created with input from local schools, has been covered in graffiti. As part of COP26, Hillhead Primary had worked with an artist on a wildlife-themed mural on Otago Street. She has asked NLOs to look at working with local artists and schools and maybe students and housing association tenants. She does not have capacity to support such a project at the moment so she will speak to Glasgow Life about finding someone who could coordinate such a project. She said that as part of the cycling championship to be held in Glasgow in May 2023 there will be an artist in residence.

7 Kelvingrove Park

Ruth Gillett and Tom Johnstone reported that they had attended a meeting on lighting in the park where they were part of a work group that was concerned about wildlife. The group thought that the very well-lit Kelvin Way and the fairly well-lit Park Circus area provided direct routes through the park. Wildlife, dark skies, biodiversity and insects are damaged by permanent light. Tom said he had noticed a small number of conifers had been cut down on the technically private road that leads to the Sunlight Cottages on the university side of the road. It was agreed that this should be investigated. In reply to a comment from Stewart Leighton about the Stewart Memorial Fountain, Councillor Wardrop said that a minute of a meeting of the Hillhead Area Partnership confirms that the fountain will be repaired in the spring of 2023 and it is now an agenda item of the HAP. Stewart suggested that it be floodlit.

8 Dropped Kerbs

Tom Johnstone reminded the meeting of the walkabout taking place the following Friday from 2pm to 3.30pm. Ruth Gillett said she hoped to attend but was not certain that she could. Diane Mitchell said she was not able to attend. At Councillor Wardrop's suggestion, it was agreed that Diane would be involved via WhatsApp.

9 Park Circus Lane

Tom Johnstone said that he thinks George Hazle has given up emailing Ambassador about a meeting. Councillor Wardrop said that there seems to be quite an active group of residents in the lane.

10 Citizens' Panels

Stewart Leighton said that he has received no further information.

11 Cleansing

Derek Manson-Smith said that since the strike the timetable in the Park area has worked well.

12 Correspondence and Licensing

Licensing: Tom Johnstone said that, as usual, none of the HMO licence applications has planning permission. Five more have arrived since he circulated the list and are in the same situation: 19 Rupert Street, 348 West Princes Street, 294 West Princes Street, 247 West Princes Street and 2 Woodlands Drive.

Correspondence: Tom had circulated a list of correspondence, including emails, before the meeting. He commented on the items marked in red. He has applied to join an elected member training workshop. He has not yet looked at the Parklife newsletter. As required, he has asked Steven Dowling for confirmation that the community council's insurance would provide public liability cover for the Kelvingrove Park Community Orchard Group and has been asked to provide extra information before the matter will be considered further. Stewart Leighton had sent an article from Glasgow Live from May 2022 about how Glasgow City Council can enforce controls about inappropriate windows in conservation areas if they are spotted within four years. If not, nothing can be done because of the way the legislation is drafted. Jean Charsley of Hillhead Community Council is keeping alive discussion about houses of multiple occupation and their licensing at Hillhead Area Partnership meetings. Stewart said that the matter had come up at the HAP meeting the previous day. Tom said that Jean had confirmed Stewart's thinking that there will be another meeting and the person from Legal will be accompanied by somebody from Planning. Stewart said that the increasing number of university students has led to an accommodation crisis. According to the *Sunday National*, in 2019 Glasgow University's student population was around 28,000 or 29,000 and is now up to 37,000. Stewart had recommended at the HAP meeting that there is a need for a housing strategy that deals with students, as he had previously suggested in 2018, along with a transport strategy. Tom said that Jean had said that Tom should also be at the meeting. Councillor Wardrop said that the Student Representative Council member had spoken at the HAP meeting, that there was willingness to have the meeting in January and that the SRC member should be invited.

13 Finance

Gerry Doyle said there was nothing to report. Tom Johnstone apologised for not yet having collected from Gerry the cheque for his Zoom expenses.

14 Electric Charging Points

Councillor Wardrop said she was conscious that she has not had an update on charging points. The roll-out of the Low Emission Zone is going ahead and there are more and more discussions about electric vehicles. She will find out when there will be a report on the pilot project in Park Street South. In reply to a question from Gerry Doyle about how blue badge holders would be affected by the Low Emission Zone, Councillor Wardrop said she would ask for a response in writing.

15 Air Pollution

This was covered under item 6, Councillors' Reports. Councillor Wardrop said she is expecting a report at the end of the year.

16 AOCB

In reply to a question from Clare Crawford, Tom Johnstone said that item 13A from the June meeting had been approved by quorate assent by email by the people who were there.

17 Planning

Tom Johnstone said that there was nothing contentious in the applications that he had circulated before the meeting. There had been one application since then for solar panels on the roof of a house at 37A Claremont Terrace Lane. The panels would be on a south-facing roof that is not visible from any public street. There was a wide-ranging discussion about whether councillors on the Planning Committee should be party to community council discussions about planning issues, about the need for training for councillors on planning matters and about the problems faced by a community council whose councillors are all on the Planning Committee.

18 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7.30pm via Zoom.