

# Woodlands and Park Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 12 October 2022, via Zoom, 7.30pm

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

**In attendance:** Councillor Ken Andrew, 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:** Derek Manson-Smith, Mark Irvine, Councillor Malik, Gerry Doyle

### **2 Police Report**

Tom Johnstone said that the comments in the chair's report about Operation Mother had provoked a response from Gillian Frew. There had been continuing theft of petrol from Sainsbury's, a slight increase in housebreaking, minimal drug offences, an increase in road traffic offences and a focus on cars being stolen.

### **3 Minutes of 14 September Meeting**

Tom Johnstone said that Gerry Doyle had asked him to point out that under item 13 Finance the figure of £75.88 should be £75.78. Otherwise, the minutes were proposed as correct by Diane Mitchell, seconded by Tom.

### **4 Matters Arising**

Clare Crawford said that she would try to complete the minute of item 13A of the June meeting the following weekend.

### **5 Trinity College Tower**

Councillor Andrew reported that a renewal of the Dangerous Buildings Notice had been served the previous week. He believes the works are likely to stop because of lack of finance. The internal stent that will prevent the building collapsing in on itself is complete. The current danger is a collapse out the way. Complete rebuilding of the lower portion of the south wall is required. He understands that another application for funds has gone to the Glasgow City Heritage Trust. In reply to a question from Stewart Leighton, Councillor Andrew said that GCHT is in discussions with Historic Environment Scotland about sources of funding.

### **6 Councillors' Reports**

Councillor Andrew said that an Airbnb at 5 Montague Street had been reported to Planning as operating without planning permission. Planning is taking enforcement action. There had been an email from Stephen Egan that day about the removal of ash trees in Kelvingrove Park. A resident in Woodlands had made an arrangement to have some bulk uplifted and paid the £35 fee. She cannot now be there on the arranged day and has been told by Environmental Services that she cannot cancel the uplift and must book another appointment at another £35. He is taking the matter up. Owners of properties in the Park area who are joint owners of the pleasure gardens had complained to him about children from a nursery school, also a joint owner, over-using the gardens and had asked him to raise the matter with the educational services. The educational services have said this is private ground and nothing to do with them; their only interest is that the nursery is being appropriately run.

Councillor Wardrop said that road lining is being done in Woodlands, starting with West Princes Street. Stewart Leighton said he is compiling a list of where road lining and other infrastructure modifications are needed and will circulate it. Councillor Wardrop asked if she could have it by 19 October so it can be included in a report going to the Hillhead Area Partnership. Ruth Gillett said that poor work had been carried out on a pavement in Montague Street. Councillor Wardrop said she would investigate and report back. There are issues with bins in most places. For various reasons, residents in Park Quadrant, apart from the new development, have to put a bag out every Wednesday and she is trying to get wheelie bins for them instead. There has also been a tussle over a recycling bin.

### **7 Kelvingrove Park**

Councillor Wardrop reported that the Hillhead Area Partnership had been very helpful and that funds have now been allocated to repair the fountain, which will happen next year. Ruth Gillett said it was important to keep the

fountain running to prevent further damage. Councillor Andrew explained that because a lot of the internal pipe work is terracotta the fountain has to be drained over winter to prevent water freezing in the pipes if there is a heavy frost. Ruth said it is in the summer months that children climb over it and cause damage. Ruth reported that a group from Glasgow University and Friends of Kelvingrove Park have a project to plant 18 fruit trees on the grassed-over areas of the herbaceous walk in November but the council has said there has to be liability insurance, which neither FOKP nor the university's environmental bodies can fund. Tom Johnstone said that, in his opinion, if the community council were the lead organisation it would pay the insurance, but it depends on what Gerry Doyle has to say. It was agreed that if Gerry approves, this will be the case.

## **8 Dropped Kerbs**

Stewart Leighton said dropped kerbs will be on his list of infrastructure modifications but he needs details of where they are to be. Tom Johnstone said that before lockdown he had attended a meeting where the places where dropped kerbs were to be put were identified so they should be mapped and there had been at least one follow-up meeting with Derek Manson-Smith so he should be able to confirm some of the positions.

## **9 Park Circus Lane**

Tom Johnstone said that he thinks Ambassador is avoiding people. George Hazle keeps sending polite emails asking for a follow-up meeting and nothing happens.

## **10 Citizens' Panels**

Stewart Leighton said that the meeting cancelled because of the queen's funeral had yet to be rescheduled.

## **11 Cleansing**

Councillor Wardrop said she had been asked by someone in the Montague Street area to get some brown bins for green waste in Woodlands and asked for suggestions for where these should be put. Clare Crawford reported that one of the blue recycling bins in her back court had disappeared. Councillor Wardrop said she would order a new one. Tom Johnstone said replacement can take six weeks.

## **12 Correspondence and Licensing**

**Licensing:** Tom Johnstone said that, as usual, none of the HMO licence applications has planning permission. Two more have arrived since he circulated the list, one at 243 Great Western Road and the other at 167 Great Western Road, neither with planning permission. He said that Ruth Gillett had enquired about the temporary public entertainment licence for Elfingrove and it affects only the Argyle Street side of Kelvingrove.

**Correspondence:** Tom had circulated a list of correspondence, including emails, before the meeting and invited comments on any items. He said that Ruth had done the survey on safety and lighting in Kelvingrove Park. In discussion about the outdoor exercise equipment beside the Kelvinbridge Subway car park, Councillor Wardrop said the land is part of the council-owned Kelvin Walkway and the equipment was installed by the council as the children's play area equipment that was there before was being vandalised. The equipment can be upgraded because the cost of sports equipment comes out of planning gain money. She asked Tom to forward to her the email from the man who had raised the matter so she can use it as part of evidence for an upgrade. Ruth asked that the man be informed that the matter was now with the councillors. Tom that Mark Irvine had made three suggestions for infrastructure improvement: new traffic calming measures on Cliff Road; construction of a new footpath on the northwestern side of Woodlands Gate; and renovation of the statue of St George and the Dragon at St Georges Cross in the Woodside Community Council area, which is inactive at the moment. Tom thinks that Derek Manson-Smith has said something about not wanting speed bumps in Cliff Road. Stewart Leighton said that when he had consulted Derek about speeding in Park Circus and had suggested speed bumps, Derek had expressed reservations, reluctantly, and had suggested a 20mph speed limit for the whole of Park Circus along with CCTV. Stewart had suggested looking at a 20mph limit on all the approach routes to Park Circus, although drivers might ignore this and some form of speed restraint may have to be considered. It also has to be remembered that the Park area has an outstanding status as a conservation area. Ruth said that she has heard complaints about people being woken in the night by the noise of cars going over speed bumps and that they may generate vibrations that could damage buildings. Tom said that he had thanked Gillian Frew for her response to Ruth's comments in her annual report about Operation Mother.

## **13 Finance**

Tom Johnstone said that he had yet to collect a cheque from Gerry Doyle to cover his Zoom expenses.

## **14 Electric Charging Points**

Nothing was reported.

### **15 Air Pollution**

Councillor Wardrop confirmed that she had circulated an update on air pollution connected to the motorway in August or September. This information is circulated six-monthly. From the evidence, she thinks there have been no more breaches. Cars idling on St Georges Road as traffic gets backed up between 4.30pm to 6pm is a problem. In discussion about cars idling, she suggested monitoring for air pollution around Park Road. Stewart Leighton suggested a comprehensive review of air pollution around routes to the motorway. He said that he had heard a radio programme about Aberdeen University research having found particulate matter in the lungs and brains of fetuses.

### **16 AOCB**

There was no other competent business.

Councillors Andrew and Wardrop left the meeting.

### **17 Planning**

Tom Johnstone said that he had not submitted the objection, agreed at the September meeting, to replacement windows at 429 Great Western Road as they appeared not to be sash and case because he discovered that the application form states sash and case windows although there were no drawings. He said that the Local Review of the proposed development north of Otago Lane illustrates the problem of local councillors, who have the best local knowledge, recusing themselves from participating, although not legally required to do so. He has applied to be heard at the Local Review. Tom and Stewart Leighton discussed the possible legal future of the Otago Lane proposed development and the legal past of the Park Quadrant development.

### **18 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 9 November 2022 at 7.30pm via Zoom.