

Woodlands and Park Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 13 March 2024, Fred Paton Centre, Carrington Street, 7.30pm

Present: Ruth Gillett (chair), Tom Johnstone (secretary), Rosanne Davidson, Patricia Panther, Stewart Leighton, Derek Manson-Smith

In attendance: Clare Crawford (minutes), Councillor Seonad Hoy, Councillor Ken Andrew, Mark Bryans, Laura Bryans, Councillor Wardrop (from item 13)

1 Apologies: Gerry Doyle, Mariama Bah, Ros Smith, Councillor Wardrop

2 Police Report

As there were no police present there was no police report.

3 Minutes of 14 February Meeting

Stewart Leighton said that under item 9, Dropped Kerbs, he would like it minuted that he had said that he would make some comments to Councillor Wardrop, which he had done. Prompted by Derek Manson-Smith, there was discussion about the meaning of the first line of the last paragraph under item 7, Councillors' Reports, and it was agreed that the words 'either' and 'or built since then' be deleted. Otherwise, the minutes were proposed as a correct record by Tom Johnstone, seconded by Stewart Leighton.

4 Matters Arising

Derek Manson-Smith said that the no right turn into Lynedoch Street sign has been ignored ever since it was erected and has nothing to do with road markings. It is an enforcement matter. Councillor Andrew said the road markings could be better but enforcement is a police matter as it is a moving traffic violation and not a council matter. Stewart Leighton said if the police had been present the matter could have been flagged up to them.

5 Kelvinbridge Mural

Tom Johnstone reported that Jonathan Pickering of Glasgow City Council had offered a half-hour to 45-minute meeting on site the following week on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. After discussion it was agreed on Wednesday 20 March at 10am. Stewart Leighton suggested establishing another community garden on an under-utilised area of land near the mural and talking to the Woodlands Community Development Trust and others. Clare Crawford said that as a member of the WCDT board she could raise the matter but it will depend on the ownership of the land. In discussion about ownership, Councillor Andrew said it may be owned by Network Rail and Patricia Panther said, depending on its site, a garden could be intrusive and would need agreement by residents. At Ruth Gillett's suggestion, it was agreed that photographs be taken at the meeting. Tom Johnstone said that the ways of funding the various aspects of the site would all be different. Patricia said there has been an abandoned graffitied shipping container on the site for years and then a gym was set up near it. When she researched the matter she found that to rent that land is £500 per half day. Stewart said that if we can get a new mural it is important to have some kind of broadly harmonious use alongside it with some other activity that can help protect it.

6 Trinity College Tower

Tom Johnstone said there had been a crane up against the tower several times in the past two weeks. Councillor Andrew said he thinks the stent is into the tower now but there is still no access through the front door. As he had said at the previous meeting, because there is a potential for planning issues he is letting the residents get on with things so he does not have to recuse himself from the Planning Committee or draw back because of potential action against the council.

7 Councillors' Reports

In discussion about the no right turn signs on to Lynedoch Place and out of Barrington Drive, Councillor Andrew said it was his guess that Barrington Drive was about accidents and the tightness of the turns while Lynedoch is about stopping traffic getting badly backed up along Woodlands Road. A lot of the illuminated signage across the city is being replaced by a new material that will be very visible no matter the time of day because of its level of reflectivity. He had had a phone call regarding Flourish House in Ashley Street, which is for people with enduring mental health problems, and wondered if there had been any rumours about problems there. Tom Johnstone said he had met people who attended there and they seemed quite happy with it. Councillor Andrew said he had been asked by Dr Chakraborty of the Scottish Ethnic Minority Sports Association about placing a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Kelvingrove Park. She had been told by Glasgow City Council that SEMSA would have to consult with the 'local neighbourhood', which he takes to be Woodlands and Park Community Council, Hillhead Community Council and Friends of Kelvingrove Park. Tom Johnstone

said there have been a number of planning applications for various monuments in the vicinity of the art galleries, usually to do with particular ethnic groups and military service during the wars, and there had not been any prior consultation but that would happen naturally from making a planning application. After discussion about the process of agreeing a site and consultation, it was agreed that Councillor Andrew would suggest to Dr Chakraborty that she get in touch with the community council, and Tom suggested that she speak to the community council.

In reply to comments by Laura Bryans about increases in parking charges in controlled parking zones, particularly the hike in the cost of visitors' permits from £2 for six hours to £5 and to Tom saying that a similar point had been raised in an email by a resident in Park Quadrant, Councillor Andrew said that the Park Quadrant matter is a slightly different issue. Residents there are complaining about the harmonisation of the controlled parking times across the city from 8am to 10pm, Monday to Sunday, even including Hillhead, which had had a different scheme altogether. He has sympathy with people travelling into bridge clubs and the like who will have to pay more but the position is that the city is trying to reduce private vehicle travel into and through our area and to encourage people to use buses and active travel wherever they can, hence the investment in cycle ways. In reply to comments about improving the buses, Councillor Andrew said they will improve if people use them; business reacts to a demand. The matter is being discussed the following Friday at the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority. In discussion about that a visitor's parking permit running from 4pm on a Saturday afternoon until Monday morning will no longer be the case. Stewart Leighton said the parking scheme was first introduced in 2005. The charges were kept static for at least twelve years, maybe longer, before they were reviewed. The council also has a statutory obligation to cover its costs. It can make a surplus but he does not know if this happens every year. When the charges were increased they were not increased to what would have been the real price level had they been increased each year by the rate of inflation. In discussion, Councillor Andrew said that the point is trying to discourage car travel so if the scheme makes a surplus all well and good. Laura said the increase will hit people with child care responsibilities by £40 a week and suggested that the scheme be made more fair for people with a pro rata approach. Councillor Andrew said that such a system could become complicated to the point that it would be difficult to manage. He has spoken with the City Treasurer and the conveyor of the department that manages travel and parking issues and asked them to go back and look at the scheme. It has to be remembered, however, that the city has commitments to its poorest residents. There was discussion about alternative and more equitable ways of raising money like reform of the council tax, but Councillor Andrew said he is not sure that the council even has the ability to do that. Councillor Hoy said that council tax is going to be reviewed by the Scottish Government as part of the Bute House Agreement between the SNP and the Greens. Councillor Andrew suggested that Laura petition the council by going on to the council's website and looking up the petitions process. A petition will be accepted if there has not been a similar petition heard in the previous six months and he is fairly certain there has not been one. A petition does not mean you will get what you want, but you will at least get a hearing. Laura has suggested ways that it could be done differently, solutions rather than complaints. Stewart Leighton gave the councillors copies of newspaper articles on the extended parking hours. Councillor Hoy apologised for not having her own report as she was just newly in post but said she would have one for the next meeting. She said that Councillor Wardrop has been working on a long list of issues raised at a meeting of the Woodlands Residents Association organised by the West of Scotland Housing Association on 20 September 2023, including overflowing street bins, flytipping, people feeding birds, missing road markings, traffic congestion because of traffic being directed into Woodlands after the closure of Phoenix Road, and weeds in the gutters.

Stewart said that on behalf of the community council he had tramped round Woodlands and Park the previous year to produce an infrastructure plan, including lowered kerbs, repainting parking bay lines and picking up on issues relating to the garage on Woodlands Road and the cul de sac off Ashley Street. Councillor Hoy said that Councillor Wardrop had suggested that the Community Payback team be involved in wood removal in Baliol Street and overhanging trees in the Millennium Park. She will ask Councillor Wardrop for more detail on some of these issues, particularly the overhanging trees, and she will find out which issues have been settled and which are still ongoing. Derek Manson-Smith reported that the council had been clearing the gutters in West End Park Street a few days before. Councillor Andrew pointed out that gutters have to be cleared manually now because the spray that was used is highly toxic. Ruth Gillett reported that one woman in her seventies had cleaned the whole of a block herself. Councillor Hoy said that Councillor Wardrop had said there is a proposed walkabout to check street lighting on Wednesday 20 March from 7pm to 8pm, meeting at the Woodlands Community building on Ashley Street. Derek Manson-Smith said that the difference in the illumination between West End Park Street and West Princes Street is very marked, the latter being much darker than the former. Councillor Andrew said he thinks only one side of West End Park Street has LED lights. As the sodium lamp units fail they are replaced by LED lights rather than doing a wholesale change. Councillor Hoy said that another issue that Councillor Wardrop had raised is that there is a residents' association proposed because of cleansing and recycling issues in West Princes Street, Queens Crescent and Melrose Street.

8 Kelvingrove Park

In reply to a question from Ruth Gillett, Councillor Andrew said the pieces of the damaged balustrade have been taken away. He has been assured that the pieces' whereabouts are known and the balustrade will be repaired. Ruth said it took two years for a previous repair and she'd rather it did not this time.

9 Dropped Kerbs

Councillor Hoy reported that Councillor Wardrop had had correspondence with Glasgow City Council officials on the redesign of Active Travel Routes at Woodlands Road, Eldon Street, Park Avenue and Barrington Drive junction and the roundabout at this location. Stewart Leighton said he had been in email communication with officials about a range of issues concerning the roundabout. Their response to the original proposal for dropped kerbs at Barrington Drive had been no as there had not been any accidents. An officer had gone out at different times of the day to look at what was going on. Stewart's response had been that there are a lot of things that are going wrong in that area and that what is required is a comprehensive assessment of the roundabout taking into account the movement of vehicles and pedestrians and he had suggested that a camera should be perched on a prominent building near the roundabout and the junction as a whole.

10 Park Circus Lane

Nothing was reported.

11 Citizens' Panels

Nothing was reported.

12 Cleansing

Councillor Andrew reported that the back court bin collection has been withdrawn from West End Park Street as a healthy and safety issue because the operatives were being asked to cart heavy bins up flights of stairs of differing levels. In reply to a question from Rosanne Davidson, Councillor Andrew said he had lobbied for the Hillhead ward to get the next tranche of the new bins with individual compartments for different kinds of waste and recycling but he thinks that it will be a slow rollout.

13 Correspondence and Licensing

Licensing: Tom Johnstone said that none of the HMO applications has planning permission.

Correspondence: Tom said that the 28 February Planning Representations reference to the planning application at 310 West Princes Street that has been decided shows how the system is meant to work. The application was made apparently without awareness of the facade mutilation or that the property was subject to enforcement action. At the end of the community council's objection Tom had said that the applicant should be invited to amend the application to take account of everything that was in the enforcement notice, and they have done so in great detail. They have included annotated photographs and have identified the areas where the lintels were hacked off and have also submitted a detailed petrographic report, which is very unusual. Tom gave Councillor Andrew the planning application number so he could track the Planning officer to congratulate him or her. Ruth Gillett said she would mention to neighbours that they ask the contractor, CBC, to take their ladders up from ground level every night to stop antisocial behaviour and theft. Tom said there was correspondence relating to a planning application that has already been decided so there is no problem about discussing it, all to do with what he calls Otago Lane but is technically 65–77 Otago Street. They are all applications that do not comply with various conditions on earlier planning permissions and they are nothing to do with the application that was eventually granted after an appeal. Tom said he does not know what is going on with the Marigold Café. He had first noticed a photograph of a large construction on the pavement in front of the café on the Nextdoor social media site, which obviously could not have been dismantled overnight. On 4 March at about 4am it was still there, but by 11 March it was just large screens and a tree. There should not be anything outside after 10pm. Councillor Andrew said he had raised the matter with the council. Councillor Wardrop said she takes photographs every time she walks past to monitor it. Tom said what annoys him is the insincerity of both the applicant and his solicitor at the Licensing Board meeting. Stewart Leighton and Tom had a discussion about whether Section 59 of the 1984 Roads (Scotland) Act trumps a Licensing Policy Statement in determining obstructions on a footpath.

14 Finance

Tom Johnstone reported that he has now been reimbursed £160 for four meetings. He said that Gerry Doyle had been keen to come to this meeting but was overtaken by his illness.

15 Electric Charging Points

Councillor Wardrop said there is a new tariff from 1 March and she will circulate an email about it.

16 Air Pollution

Clare Crawford reported that Councillor Wardrop had that day emailed information about a public consultation by Glasgow City Council on its Air Quality Action Plan.

17 AOCB

Ruth Gillett reported that the Woodlands Community Development Trust is sourcing the noticeboard and will let the community council know when it has been fixed to the fence.

Ruth said that the Friends of the People's Palace, Winter Gardens and Glasgow Green are wanting support to encourage Glasgow Life to include having community involvement in all the stages of planning the redevelopment. Tom Johnstone read out their email: 'To whom it may concern, the Friends of the People's Palace, Winter Gardens and Glasgow Green are very excited about the recent funding announcement by Glasgow City Council securing £850,000 from the National Heritage Lottery to support the first phase of development of the People's Palace and Winter Gardens. The Friends recognise the historic and cultural value of the People's Palace and Winter Gardens as an important site for communities across Glasgow to learn about the city's social history and enjoy a relaxing indoor green space in the Winter Gardens' glasshouse, historically showcasing Glasgow's long history of horticultural excellence. As Glasgow Life move forward with the first phase of the development they have committed to taking a community-centred approach. However, clarity is needed on how this should be carried out alongside clear guidance on the engagement and consultation process. The Friends would like a commitment from Glasgow Life to ensure the communities play a central role throughout the redevelopment period to secure the delivery of a restored People's Palace and Winter Gardens. As part of this request of Glasgow Life, we are reaching out to community councils, community groups and Friends of groups to ask for your support of the following short written statement: "We support the Friends of the People's Palace, Winter Gardens and Glasgow Green in their request for a commitment from Glasgow Life to engage with communities throughout the entire redevelopment process of the People's Palace and Winter Gardens to maximise the benefits of restoration for all the communities of Glasgow and secure its future for generations to come." It was agreed that Tom would send a letter of support from the community council in support of the Friends of the People's Palace, Winter Gardens and Glasgow Green's statement, proposed by Tom Johnstone and seconded by Stewart Leighton.

Stewart circulated to the councillors copies of an article from The Guardian about what Vienna has done in terms of what in Britain we call council housing and reflects a different and progressive approach. The issue has also been covered by George Clark on Channel 4. Councillor Andrew said that housing for social rent is built to the Glasgow standard, which is considerably better than most houses built to rent or houses for resale.

18 Planning

Nothing was reported.

19 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Fred Paton Centre, Carrington Street.