

Paisley, 10th January 2018

Minutes of the meeting of **PAISLEY EAST & WHITEHAUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL** held at Sherwood-Greenlaw Church, Paisley on Wednesday, 10th January 2018 at 7.00pm.

Present: Gaynor Corry; Elizabeth Logue; Robert Moore; Graham Paterson; Andrew Ramsay; Jean Ramsay; Catherine Scally; Diane Watt

Attending Cllr Jim Sharkey; Cllr Neill Graham; Cllr Carolann Davidson [all Renfrewshire Council]
PC Thomas McFedries [Police Scotland – until end of Item 2 only]
Peter Hogan & Allan Robb (Renfrewshire Community Wardens Service)
John Bell (Local Resident)

Chair: Andrew Ramsay

1. In the absence of the Chair, Andrew Ramsay, as Vice-Chair, welcomed those present to the first meeting of 2018 and wished everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Apologies for absence had been intimated by or on behalf of Helen Dykes, Jhulia Watt and Cllr Jeniffer Adam-McGregor [Renfrewshire Council]

2. **POLICE SCOTLAND**

The Chair invited PC Thomas McFedries from the Community Policing Team to address the meeting

For the benefit of anyone who had not met him previously, PC McFedries briefly introduced himself as one of the local Community Officers.

Since the last meeting, in Whitehaugh there have been 17 crime reports raised. From those reports there have, so far, been 6 detections. PC McFedries went on to provide an overview of the statistics for the Whitehaugh area. Those had included instances of assault; theft from a motor vehicle; vandalism and potentially dangerous dogs.

Of particular concern at the moment is the prevalence of bogus workmen in the area

In Seedhill there had been 54 recorded crimes from which there have so far been 28 detections. Those had included several drugs offences and assaults. PC McFedries apologised, explaining that he did not have with him a more detailed breakdown of the nature of the complaints in Seedhill, but he shall endeavour to e-mail those to the Secretary at his earliest opportunity,

The Secretary explained that, PC Stewart, who had been the Police representative at the meeting last month, had recently been on annual leave but had since (re)sent him the statistics for Seedhill. Those will be reported later in the meeting and minuted accordingly.

PC McFedries then went on to remind those present that he and his colleagues are willing to organise brief Crime Prevention Surveys. Members of the public who express an interest in seeking crime prevention advice can contact either PC Stewart or PC McFedries directly via the '101' non-emergency Police number. If they prefer, they can channel their request via the Community Council and the Secretary confirmed that in the event that he receives any enquiries in this connection he shall e-mail their contact details to the officers concerned.

If anyone is interested in a more in-depth Survey, two of their colleagues in the Community Policing Team have specialist Crime Prevention Training.

The officer emphasised that it is always important for people to bear in mind basic precautions, such as making sure that windows and doors are closed and locked when their home is unoccupied or their car is unattended. As always, the public are advised to leave valuables out of sight so that those are not stolen by opportunist thieves and should ensure that they do not admit anyone to their home is unable to provide official identification.

Jean Ramsay asked if the officer was aware, from his own experience, of the extent of rough sleeping in and around the Town Centre. The Soroptimists are currently looking at issues surrounding homelessness and rough sleeping so she had wondered to what extent this was an issue locally. This prompted a stimulating discussion on these issues. PC McFedries explained that these issues are more for the local authority than the Police. It was suggested that perhaps Anne Carruthers, Homeless Services Manager at Renfrewshire Council might be able to comment on how prevalent homelessness and rough sleeping is locally.

The representatives from the Warden Service also mentioned that Renfrewshire Council had recently organised an initiative to collect donations of clothing and essentials so that parcels could be made up for people to be handed out to people who are facing such adverse circumstances. It was also explained that there are several 'shelters' in Paisley to accommodate people who find themselves in the unfortunate situation of being homeless.

The Wardens suggested that they would ask around and if there are any other agencies or Council officers who might be worth speaking to about this issue, they will pass details on to the Secretary. PC McFedries indicated that he would do likewise,

Following conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked the officer for his helpful input.

[PC McFedries left the meeting at this point]

3. RENFREWSHIRE COMMUNITY WARDENS

The Chair invited the representatives from the Wardens Service to address the meeting.

Peter Hogan, who has attended a number of Community Council meetings in the past introduced his colleague, Allan Robb who has only fairly recently been assigned to the local area.

Mobile patrols are still operating in and around the area

The Wardens provided an overview of the issues that they have been dealing with locally between 1st November and 9th January. Those included 2 reported instances of dog fouling; fly-tipping; illegal parking; fly-posting and 2 abandoned vehicles.

The DVLA have also been in the area and have been clamping untaxed vehicles pending their uplift.

On the issue of fly-tipping, anyone caught can be issued with a fixed penalty of £200. Failure to pay the fixed penalty can result in a report being passed to the Procurator Fiscal with the perpetrators risking a substantial fine on conviction up to £40,000

Any large items that have been dumped in a public place should be reported so that it can be uplifted by the Council's Rapid Response Team.

Instances of graffiti should also be reported to the Wardens. Offensive graffiti will be removed at the earliest opportunity.

It was noted that new graffiti has appeared on the wooden fence at the top of Arkleston Road at the railway line.

It was mentioned that recently the local paper had reported that a male and female had appeared in Court on charges relating to graffiti in Cyril Street

After a brief discussion of the issues arising, the Chair thanked the Wardens for their report and input to the earlier discussion.

[Peter Hogan and Allan Robb left the meeting at this point]

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER 2017

It was pointed out that on Page 3 of the previous minute, it was actually Mr Bell, who was present this evening, rather than Mr Egan, who had hoped to come along to the meeting but was unable to attend.

The Secretary apologised to members and to Mr Bell for this error.

Subject to the inclusion of that amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as accurate by Gaynor Corry and this was seconded by Catherine Scally and the record of the proceedings was approved without dissent.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Toilets at Hawkhead Cemetery

Cllr Davidson confirmed that following discussions with Cllr Sharkey following the last meeting, it is hoped that the motion in relation to this matter will be on the agenda for consideration at the next full Council meeting.

This was noted pending further developments

Makeshift Wooden Structure and Boundary Wall at 74 Arkleston Road, Paisley

Mr Bell reported that it has come to light recently that apparently the subjects at 74 Arkleston Road had been sold in October last year.

So far, there seems to have been no movement in relation to enforcement of the s.33A notice in relation to the structures, albeit that the person responsible should have complied with that within 28 days.

After discussion, it was agreed to note the current position pending further developments in relation to this matter.

HGV Strategy in Renfrewshire

The Secretary reported that when Cllr Adam-McGregor had submitted apologies for her absence this evening, she had forwarded a copy of a response received from Environment and Communities in relation to this matter.

The perfunctory response sent to Cllr Adam-McGregor had included a copy of a letter that was sent by Police Scotland on 23rd January 2013 indicating that they could not support the proposals embodied in the experimental Traffic Regulation Order to restrict HGVs using Arkleston Road.

A discussion ensued, during which it was pointed out that is a letter that has been produced by Renfrewshire Council on past occasions to support their position that it is not feasible to introduce measures to exclude HGVs from using that route.

However, this still does not answer the query about what became of the proposed Renfrewshire-wide HGV strategy that the Council had agreed on 23rd April 2012 should be considered. That copy letter from Strathclyde Police forwarded to Cllr Adam-McGregor has no relevance to that decision to examine the HGV issues with a view to formulating and implementing a Renfrewshire-wide strategy, and it is the outcome of that decision that the Community Council has been seeking to clarify

Concern was expressed that, either by accident or by design, the officers have once again not addressed the point in question.

As the e-mail and attachment had only been received from Cllr Adam-McGregor just prior to the meeting, it had not been included with the papers circulated previously. The Secretary agreed to distribute a copy of the e-mail and attachment following the meeting.

In the meantime, Cllr Sharkey advised that in the absence of Cllr Adam-McGregor this evening, he will speak with the relevant officer(s) with Environment & Communities to make clear that the Community Council is seeking to ascertain the outcome of the proposal to formulate a Renfrewshire-wide HGV strategy.

It was generally agreed that if that a satisfactory response is not forthcoming within a reasonable timeframe then consideration should be given to how best to escalate this matter.

Renfrewshire Community Council Forum (RCCF)

Members were reminded that at the previous meeting it was intimated that the Forum was requesting nominations for the three best and the three worst Council services. At the time, the matter had been continued to allow members to consider possible nominations.

A brief discussion took place from which the general consensus was that all Council services/Departments are likely to attract both approbation and criticism to some extent or other. On that basis these nominations are unlikely to offer an objective or helpful indicator as to how well or badly the various functions perform.

Following conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that the Community Council should not participate by submitting any nominations and that the request therefor be noted.

Renfrewshire Council Changes to Waste Management Strategy

Following the discussion that had taken place at the previous meeting, the Secretary confirmed that, as instructed, he had written to Shona McDougall, Director of Environment & Communities to put on record the Community Council's concerns over the proposed changes.

The Secretary reported that, at the same time, as requested by Helen Dykes, he had queried the position as to how the proposed changes will affect those tenement properties, such as in Cochran Street, which, under the current arrangements, are not provided with a brown bin.

This was noted pending a response

***NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Proposed Closure of Children's Ward at the Royal Alexandra Hospital***

Councillor Davidson mentioned that while she had not been able to attend the last meeting, she had read the transcript of the letter from Charlotte Jack of the Health Performance and Delivery Directorate on behalf of Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, as recorded in the minute. She went on to point out that any representations made on this issue appear to be addressed by the same standard response. Having also written to Shona Robison, Councillor Davidson had received a response more or less in identical terms. It was interesting to note that response she had received also contained the following paragraph: -

"You may be interested to know that the Cabinet Secretary met with parents and local representatives in late May, and in addition Ms Robison also visited Ward 15 in early July and held a further meeting with local stakeholders to hear their views to help inform her decision-making. In late September Ms Robison also visited the new Royal Children's Hospital in Glasgow."

Councillor Davidson pointed out that this was hardly news to her, given that, through her involvement in the *KNOW* Campaign, she had been instrumental in organising the meeting that took place in July.

While the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport has not yet made known her decision on whether or not the ward would be closed, the Health Board seem to regard the closure as a foregone conclusion given that they are already winding down access to paediatric services at Ward 15 in any event.

This was noted.

Review of Car Parking Provision and Charges

Further to the previous discussions on these issues, Councillor Davidson explained that she felt it important to clarify a point regarding the introduction of charges for Residents Parking Permits as she is a member of the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board and had been present at the meeting on 8th November

She went on to explain that a decision had in fact been made to introduce an annual charge for the issue of residents' permits. It was however agreed to suspend the application of a fee until a thorough review was carried out on all parking permits and a subsequent report was brought to the next appropriate meeting of the Policy Board.

A vote on an amendment to reject the report was tied and so the decision was carried on the Convener's casting vote

Given that the scheme to recover costs for all areas within the Pay and Display parking zones in Paisley has already been approved, the proposed review is actually part of the implementation process, rather than a *volte-face*.

This was again noted pending further feedback.

Road Markings at Kelburn Oval/Whitehaugh Avenue.

Further to previous discussions on this issue, it was reported that the road markings at the junction of Kelburn Oval and Whitehaugh Avenue are still in need of attention.

Cllr Sharkey confirmed that he would take this up again with Drew McNab of Environment & Communities

This was again noted pending further feedback.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary then went on to report in relation to the following items; a copy of the relevant documents having been circulated to members in advance of the meeting: -

***Letter from Jim Sneddon
Head of Democratic and Partnership Services, East Renfrewshire Council
Holocaust Memorial Day - 23 January 2018***

In recognition of the enduring and universal significance of the Holocaust, East Renfrewshire Council will jointly host a Holocaust Memorial event with Renfrewshire Council in St Ninian's High School, Eastwood Park, Giffnock on Tuesday, 23 January 2018 at 7.30pm.

The theme for National Holocaust Remembrance in 2018 is "The Power of Words" and the joint Council event will reflect that theme with a presentation from Dr Elwira Grossman of the University of Glasgow.

Members who were interested in attending should let the Secretary know as soon as possible so they can be duly registered.

Councillors Graham and Sharkey indicated that they would be attending the event.

This was noted.

***E-mail from Anne McNaughton
Renfrewshire Council
Glasgow Airport's Airspace Consultation 2018***

As reported in December, members were reminded that at the last meeting of *Renfrewshire Community Council Forum (RCCF)*, the guest speakers had mentioned the consultation on Airspace Change Proposals, which is due to go live shortly

Anne has since forwarded further information from Glasgow Airport Limited regarding the background to the forthcoming consultation, as follows: -

“At Glasgow Airport we are proud members of the communities within which we operate. Together, we have worked in partnership to achieve a great deal and as we look to the future we want you to remain at the heart of our business and decision-making processes.

In September, we wrote to you to let you know about our upcoming Airspace Change Proposal and Noise Action Plan consultations.

The Airspace Change Proposal forms part of an industry-wide drive, the Future Airspace Strategy, mandated by our regulator – the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) – to create airspace infrastructure fit for the 21st century. This will modernise our arrival and departure procedures and is the biggest change in how the industry manages its airspace in over 50 years.

Another key element of this work is the withdrawal by our air traffic control provider, NATS, of our traditional ground-based navigation aids. These will be replaced with new state-of-the-art Global Navigation Satellite Systems – a move which will enable us to better manage the airspace around the airport without compromising the safety of aircraft, while also ensuring smoother and more efficient arrival and departure routes. It will also minimise the amount of time planes queue, both in the air and on the ground, reducing overall emissions and helping to improve flight punctuality for our customers.

It is critical to us that our communities and stakeholders are fully involved in this modernisation process. We would therefore be grateful if you could take some time to share your views as part of our 13-week public consultation which launches on 15th January 2018 and runs to Friday 13th April 2018.

It is important to stress that we will only make changes to the arrival or departure flight paths once we have considered the views of all those who respond. We have a dedicated website for this consultation and the documents associated with it will be available from the launch date at www.glasgowairport.com/airspace

As we are committed to growing the airport responsibly, we will also be consulting on our Noise Action Plan. This 13-week consultation will enable you to share your views on how we best mitigate the impacts of noise in and around the airport and we will provide further details about this consultation on our website ahead of its launch in January 2018.”

It was agreed to continue this item until after the consultation has been formally launched so that members can consider the specific issues that arise from the exercise.

***E-mail from Anne McNaughton
Renfrewshire Council
Improving Public Services – Local Governance Review***

E-mail explaining that as part of its wider initiative to improve public services, the Scottish Government has announced a Local Governance Review.

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/improving-public-services/local-governance-review/>

The e-mail also contains a statement from the Scottish Government as set out below:

[A nation with ambition - the Government's Programme for Scotland 2017-2018](#) set out the importance of empowering communities, large or small, to make more decisions for themselves. Our ambition is to place much greater control in the hands of the people who know best what a community needs: those who live or work in the community itself.

On 7 December 2017 the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities, together with Cllr. Alison Evison, President of COSLA, launched the Local Governance Review. This process will involve everyone with an interest in an inclusive dialogue on the future of local democracy in Scotland.

The review brings a wide range of Scotland's public services into scope. This will include some of those powers and functions held at national level. We will work closely with the public, private and third sectors to explore what changes to decision-making arrangements can improve people's lives in different places across Scotland. However, the most important test of every change that is proposed will be what citizens themselves want to see happen.

The Review will hear as many different voices as possible by bringing the conversation out into local communities. The engagement process will run throughout 2018 with people's views being used to inform new legislation that will be introduced within the lifetime of this parliament.

Anyone who has ideas about how to open up the conversation as far and wide as possible, or about the type of changes they think should be part of the discussion, should contact the Local Governance Review team at LGR@gov.scot.

This was continued for possible participation in due course.

***E-mail from Anne McNaughton
Renfrewshire Council
Implementation of "Empowering Communities" in Renfrewshire***

E-mail explaining that at the Council's Leadership Board meeting on 12th December a report entitled "Empowering Communities" was approved. The report sets out a high-level approach to transforming the relationship the Council has with the communities it serves

The "Empowering Communities" approach is supported by proposals in two reports that will be considered by the Council at its meeting on Thursday. These are (i) Support for Community Organisations; and (ii) Review of Community Level Governance Arrangements (LAC report) - copies attached. These reports, are expected to be approved, and both signal the Council's commitment to consulting and involving communities.

There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done to effect transformational change - and Community Councils should be ready to make their voices heard by participating in any reviews/consultation events that are arranged.

The e-mail was accompanied by copies of the respective reports referred to

This item was continued pending the formal launch of the Consultation on Community Level Governance in Renfrewshire (LACs).

***E-mail from Anne McNaughton
Renfrewshire Council
Consultation - Statement of Licensing Policy***

At a meeting of the Licensing Board on Monday, 18th December, the Board agreed to carry out an initial, informal consultation on the terms of the existing Statement of Licensing Policy, including the assessment of overprovision of liquor licensed premises which is also required in terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

Details of this consultation are published on the Licensing Board's website at:-

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/6913/Consultation-on-Statement-of-Licensing-Policy>

This initial, informal consultation is intended to ascertain views from as many interested parties as possible, seeking comments on the existing policy, both in its general terms and in respect of specific areas of the policy which consultees may wish the Board to address in its updated policy. The existing policy can be located at:

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/media/1623/Licensing-Policy-Statement-2013---2016/pdf/cs-ae-StatementofLicensingPolicy2013-2016amendedaug15.pdf>

The initial, informal consultation will also enable the Licensing Board to obtain information to allow it to identify localities which may be overprovided in terms of liquor premises (either for consumption on, or off ("off sales") the premises), as relevant to the requirement to assess overprovision in the policy.

The information obtained should facilitate the preparation of an updated draft policy statement which will thereafter be the subject of formal consultation.

While the Board encourages responses on all parts of the policy, topics which may be of particular interest, as well as overprovision which is mentioned above, are:

- liquor licensing hours
- children and young persons' access to licensed premises
- extended use of occasional liquor licences
- extended licensed hours

The initial, informal consultation will run till 2nd February 2018, by which date any responses which people may wish to submit in relation to this consultation are due.

This was noted.

***Crime Statistics for Seedhill/Glasgow Road Area
8th November until 12th December 2017***

Further to the discussion earlier in the evening, the Secretary narrated the crime figures for 8th November until 12th December 2017, which had been sent to him by PC Stewart shortly before the meeting. Apparently, PC Stewart had tried to send the e-mail previously, but that seems to have failed

Of 30 Crime Reports raised during that period, 16 of those had been detected. Those can be broken down as follows: -

4x Vandalisms (1 detected)
2x Attempt theft (both detected)
4x Thefts (0 detected)
1x Attempted housebreaking (0 detected)
2x breach of Bail (both detected)
1x breach of the peace (detected)
1x common assault (detected)
1x misuse of drugs (detected)
1x Fraud (undetected)
3x Road Traffic crimes (1 detected)
1x Robbery (undetected)
9x Shopliftings (7 detected)

This was noted

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that, as forecast at the previous meeting, the balance at the bank on 22nd December 2017 stood at £4,429.45.

This was noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Traffic/Safety Issues at Glasgow Road/Lacy Street/ Kelburne Oval

It was pointed out that on Glasgow Road there are two sets of traffic lights; one outside the former Bank of Scotland at No 59 (now occupied by ROAR) and another set around 30m or thereabouts east on the central reservation opposite the premises occupied by Graphic Hairdressers and Bet Fred. If a driver proceeds through an amber light at the first set of lights then encounters a red light at the second set they will stop. Vehicles that are entitled to emerge from Lacy Street on a green light are then essentially obstructed from completing their intended right turn.

Going from Glasgow Road into Lacy Street there is a filter, so a query was raised as to whether or not another filter at the top of Lacy Street might help overcome this problem.

During that same discussion, concern was again raised over the safety of pedestrians, particularly children and elderly or infirm people, while trying to cross Kelburne Oval at its junction with Glasgow Road. While the Community Council had previously suggested installing a Speed Advisory sign in Kelburne Oval to highlight to drivers their speed as they approach the bend just before this junction and to monitor the situation, so far that has not been forthcoming.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to ask Environment & Communities if they might be prepared to organise a site meeting with the local elected members with a view to examining these issues and exploring possible solutions.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council is due to take place on 14th February 2018.