

Paisley, 8th November 2017

Minutes of the meeting of **PAISLEY EAST & WHITEHAUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL** held at Sherwood-Greenlaw Church, Paisley on Wednesday, 8th November 2017 at 7.00pm.

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

Attending Cllr Jim Sharkey;
Cllr Jeniffer Adam-McGregor (both Renfrewshire Council);
PC Stephen Reid (Police Scotland – until end of Item 2 only);
Elizabeth Alexander (Manager, Renfrewshire Foodbank – until
end of Item 3 only)
John Egan, Mary Egan and John Bell (Local Residents)

Chair: Andrew Ramsay

1. In the absence of the Chair, Andrew Ramsay, in his capacity as Vice Chair, welcomed members to the meeting. He went on to remind those present that Community Councils are essentially non-political in nature and will consider proposals and issues on their own merit without regard to any party political considerations.

Apologies have been submitted by or on behalf of Helen Dykes; Jhulia Watt; Cllr Neill Graham and Cllr Carolann Davidson (both Renfrewshire Council.)

2. **POLICE SCOTLAND**

The Chair invited PC Stephen Reid from the Community Policing Team to address the meeting

For the benefit of those were not present at the last meeting, PC Reid briefly introduced himself as one of the Community Officers now operational in Whitehaugh and Gallowhill.

Since the last meeting, in Whitehaugh there had been 10 crime reports raised. From those reports there have, so far, been 3 detections.

Those have largely consisted of acts of vandalism spilling over from youths congregating and loitering around Barshaw Park and the Golf Course.

The officer went on to explain that there have also been instances of housebreaking and attempted break-ins in the Ralston area. These highlight the need for everyone to

be security conscious, ensuring that doors, windows garages and sheds etc. are kept locked and valuables kept out of sight

There are still a number of bogus callers/workmen frequenting the local area so everyone needs to be vigilant and be prepared to press any uninvited callers for identification.

People should also bear in mind not to leave car or house keys hanging just inside their front doors as that is an open invitation to opportunist thieves.

Gaynor Corry advised that Williamsburgh Housing Association have included in their Newsletter the advice that was set out in the leaflet recently circulated locally by the Police.

PC Reid asked if there was any additional information members would like to see included in his report. It was explained that as the Community Council also includes the Seedhill area, it would be useful to have the crime statistics/trends for that area and also the number of incidents specifically recorded as Hate Crimes across both both Seedhill and Whitehaugh.

On a separate issue, it was reported by a member that they had recently had a disconcerting experience when someone had followed them in the vicinity of Causeyside Street/Orchard Street, persistently begging for money.

A query was also raised about the rules that apply to the use of CCTV systems by householders. There are concerns that a specific property in Arkleston Road has 6 or 7 cameras sited around it. PC Reid explained that residents can use CCTV systems to protect their dwelling from acts of crime and anti-social behaviour. However, the cameras should not be intrusive and householders need to operate those in a responsible manner to respect the privacy of others.

After a brief discussion of the issues raised from PC Reid's report, the Chair thanked the officer for his informative input.

[PC Reid left the meeting at this point]

3. RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK

The Chair welcomed the speaker, Elizabeth Alexander, as Manager of Renfrewshire Foodbank and invited her to address the meeting.

Elizabeth thanked members for the opportunity to come along to speak about the work of the Foodbank and also expressed gratitude to the Community Council and Williamsburgh Housing Association for the support they have shown to the organisation in the past. She then went on to explain that Renfrewshire foodbank is

part of The Trussell Trust network of over 400 foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in our local communities up and down the UK.

It is estimated that UK-wide there are over 13 million people considered to be below the poverty line; around one person in five

The Foodbank Network was founded in 2004 after four years of developing the original foodbank based in Salisbury. Since then The Trussell Trust has helped communities work together to launch foodbanks nationwide in a wide range of towns and cities, including here in Renfrewshire. For a relatively modest charge, Foodbanks operating within the network can use the Trussell Trust branding etc. Individual Foodbanks also work in co-operation with each other to help bridge gaps in stock etc.

In 2016/17, The Trussell Trust's Foodbank Network provided 1,182,954 parcels of emergency food supplies and support to UK people in crisis. Of these, over 430,000 went to children.

At a local level, this amounts to some 7215 emergency food supplies being issued over that same period; largely due to changes in the benefits system. However, not all people who need to use the Foodbank are entirely dependent on benefits as some people who are in low-paid employment can also struggle to make ends meet.

While the Trussell Trust is primarily a Christian organisation it will help people of all religious faiths and none.

Locally, Renfrewshire Foodbank employs only Elizabeth as Manager. Everything else is carried out by a dedicated team of volunteers.

The organisation rely on donations from members of the public and community organisations and also benefit from relationships that have been built with local companies.

Locally, the Foodbank dispense food parcels from the Central Baptist Church in Paisley and have storage premises based in Abercorn Street in Paisley and in Renfrew. There are also other distribution centres n Renfrewshire.

People can be referred to the Foodbank under a Voucher System. Those can be issued by Church Ministers; Parish Priests; Doctors; Social Workers; Housing Associations; Advice Works and CAB and RAMH.

Each person eligible to receive help receive a balanced parcel containing at least three days' worth of healthy, balanced meals, tailored for individuals and families.

Volunteers take the time to listen and support those who are referred to the foodbank. They are specially trained to know about local services and offer practical

guidance so that those who are in need have access to the right support, helping them to address the underlying problems that brought them to the Foodbank in the first place.

A lively discussion then took place concerning the issues highlighted by Elizabeth's presentation. During that it was pointed out that some local churches provide breakfasts and other hot meals for people who need those.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair thanked Elizabeth for coming along and for her informative insight into the work of Renfrewshire Foodbank. As those in attendance had brought along a number of donations in kind for the foodbank, the Chair suggested a brief recess so that those donations could be conveyed to Elizabeth's car.

[Elizabeth Alexander left the meeting at this point]

[At the conclusion of the brief recess, the Chair reconvened the meeting]

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2017

Since publication of the minutes, a few minor errors have come to light, specifically:

In the preamble to the minutes, it should state the time that the meeting commenced as 7.15pm, as the start had been purposely delayed due to the AGM.

Item 2 -Paragraph 4 substitute the word "that" with "than" to read *"This included two serious assaults in Howard Street and Lang Street which appear to be more targeted than indiscriminate attacks"*

The headings of items 4 and 5 should read *"Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 6th September 2017* and *"Business arising from minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 6th September 2017"* respectively.

The Secretary apologised for these inadvertent errors.

Subject to inclusion of those amendments, 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, 11TH OCTOBER 2017**

Toilets at Hawkhead Cemetery

The Secretary referred members to the latest correspondence via e-mail that has passed between Cllr Carolann Davidson and Mark Faichney, Land Services Manager at Renfrewshire Council regarding the concerns that were expressed at the previous meeting.

The Secretary confirmed that, as requested, he had written to Cllr Davidson confirming the Community Council's position on this matter. That, in turn had been forward by Cllr Davidson to Community Resources

Mr Faichney's position as set out in his e-mail of 3rd November, essentially remains as before, specifically: -

"Further to your recent correspondence, I can confirm that we will not be installing directional signage for the toilet at Hawkhead Cemetery as the majority of the land surrounding the roads / pathways is lair / burial space. It would therefore be inappropriate to install signage at this location. However, I can confirm that we will laminate a copy of the location plan and display this near to the old waiting room at the main entrance gate. I can also confirm that we will send a copy of the plans to our local funeral directors so that they can share this information with bereaved families. I can confirm that the toilet is cleaned by the supplier on a weekly basis"

Members again expressed concern that the Department appear to be making every effort possible to thwart an entirely reasonable request for signage.

After discussion, it was agreed to pursue this matter further, Accordingly, in Cllr Davidson's absence, Cllr Sharkey agreed to discuss with her how best to escalate this matter with a view to finding a resolution.

This was noted pending further developments.

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

The Secretary referred members to the paper setting out an overview of concerns surrounding the structures at 74 Arkleston Road, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This had been prepared by Mr John Egan who had kindly come along to the meeting with Mrs Egan and another concerned to address those.

The Chair invited Mr Egan to address members.

Mr Egan briefly recapped on the issues set out in the paper following which a discussion took place. Local residents' main concerns can be summarised as follows: -

- *The large boundary wall to the side of the property in Avondale Drive has been built on the line of its predecessor with no foundations and no ties to the boundary wall behind or to the building to which it forms a boundary. There are no support piers.*
- *There are serious concerns about the nature and quality of the outbuilding and the future purpose/use to which it will be put*
- *The structure does not appear to be compatible with the area, its amenity and residential nature.*
- *The inherent disregard for the local area and Planning and Building Regulations*
- *On the basis of existing guidelines, the property is already overdeveloped before taking into account the unauthorised outbuilding*

Cllr Sharkey explained that the authority's Planning Officers need to follow procedures and protocols scrupulously to avoid exposing the Council to legal action. So far, no retrospective applications have been submitted by the person concerned. If there is then interested parties such as the occupants of neighbouring properties and the Community Council can make formal representations. If no retrospective applications are submitted then it will be for the Department to commence appropriate enforcement action in accordance with statutory provisions.

If and when any retrospective applications are lodged a meeting could be arranged with the Planning Department to explain concerns over the integrity, safety and appearance of these structures. Cllr Sharkey confirmed that he would be prepared to broker such a meeting at the appropriate time

The Chair thanked Mr & Mrs Egan and Mr Bell for their input and for sharing their concerns regarding these issues.

This was noted pending further developments.

HGV Strategy in Renfrewshire

Further to previous discussions regarding this issue, Cllr Adam-McGregor explained that she has had no further feedback on this issue.

Graham Paterson, who had not been able to attend the previous meeting, pointed out that he found it difficult to fathom how the Police could indicate that they were not

supportive of a Renfrewshire-wide HGV policy, which, to the best of the Community Council's knowledge, had never been formulated. He went on to ask if Cllr Adam McGregor could ascertain whether or not a draft policy was actually ever written.

This item was continued pending further feedback.

***Responsible Dog Ownership
Regulation/Licensing of Professional Dog Walkers***

Further to previous discussions regarding dog-walkers the Secretary reminded members of a recent story in the media about two dogs who died while supposedly being looked after by a dog-walker.

[Legal action against Glasgow dog-walkers after animals died in its care](#)

While this article does not relate to a local business, it was felt that cases such as this do exemplify the need for some form of regulation. At the same time, it is recognised that many dog-walkers who offer such a service do take good care of the animals for which they are responsible.

Councillor Sharkey explained that having considered matters further following the previous meeting, he feels that the most appropriate way forward would be for this matter to be looked at by the Council's Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board. That way, the viewpoints of interested parties, including individuals and businesses providing dog-walking services, can be considered before deciding what kind of local regulation, if any, would be most effective and appropriate. Accordingly, he will look at bringing this forward for consideration at a future meeting.

The matter was continued 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: -

Administration Allowance for 2017/2018

The Secretary reported that following the AGM, he had received an e-mail from Anne McNaughton advising that following submission of the audited accounts by the Treasurer, she had arranged for a cheque to be issued for the annual administration allowance. While that was expected to arrive within a few days, it did not transpire. Accordingly, that was reported to Anne who has since arranged for the original cheque to be cancelled and a replacement issued.

It has come to light that the original cheque was despatched to the wrong address, which seemed rather odd given that the Council's Finance Department have been sending cheques in respect of the allowance to the Secretary's home address for a number of years. However, hopefully this will not be an issue in the future as the Finance Department are moving towards remitting payments via BACS. An appropriate form has been received from the Council's Finance Department requesting the Community Council's bank details, and that, in turn, has been passed to Gaynor, as the Treasurer, to action accordingly

The Secretary confirmed that once the replacement cheque is to hand, he shall also arrange to pass that to Treasurer so that it can be banked.

This was noted.

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

The Secretary confirmed that, as agreed at the last meeting, he had written to Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport imploring her to reject the Health Board's recommendation, thereby keeping the ward open. As was also agreed, the Community Council's representations had also been copied to the First Minister

A copy of the submission that was sent and also the acknowledgment subsequently received from the Scottish Government had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

The matter was continued pending further feedback

***E-mail from Anne McNaughton
Renfrewshire Council
Renfrewshire Community Council Forum (RCCF)***

E-mail from Anne McNaughton advising that the Annual General Meeting of the Forum will take place on 27th November and that will be followed by the routine quarterly business meeting.

Members were referred to a copy of the minutes of the Forum meeting that took place on 21st August circulated in advance of the meeting

Nominations are being sought for membership of the RCCF Management Committee on which the Community Council's Treasurer, Gaynor Corry, has served for several years. After seeking Gaynor's consent, it was agreed unanimously to nominate her for membership of the RCCF Management Committee for 2017/2018.

The Secretary confirmed that he would notify Anne McNaughton of our nomination to the Management Committee.

***E-mail from Anne McNaughton
Renfrewshire Council
HSCP Brighter Futures Event***

Forwarded e-mail from Roisin Robertson, Community Link Team Manager at Renfrewshire Council regarding an event on 16th November to publicise the range of services and activities that the work that the Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership carries out locally. There will also be a chance for people to talk about careers in the HSCP and try some gentle exercise taster sessions. There will be some activities for children and info on a lot of the community groups and resources that are around to support people locally.

Assistance was also sought from Community Councils in publicising the event. The Secretary reported that the poster promoting the event had been shared via the Community Council's Facebook Page.

This was noted.

***E-mail from Anne McNaughton
Renfrewshire Council
Boundary Commission for Scotland***

E-mail advising that the Boundary Commission for Scotland have launched a further period of public consultation in respect of their review of the UK Parliamentary Constituencies. This arises from the proposal to reduce the total number of MPs in the UK from 650 to 600, and the number in Scotland from 59 to 53. The Commission are not seeking responses on the reduction of seats. They are tasked with the revision of boundaries to implement the planned reduction.

Their initial proposals for the Renfrewshire area would have seen some changes to the two existing seats in Renfrewshire, namely Paisley & Renfrewshire North and Paisley and Renfrewshire South. Both seats would have increased in size by taking in parts of East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde as the intention is to create seats containing around 75,000 voters.

However, the Boundary Commission have now revised their proposals and are launching a further 8 week consultation that closes on 11th December.

The revised proposals are substantially different from their previous proposals. They now suggest the creation of a burgh constituency (Paisley) which would take in Paisley, Renfrew, Inchinnan, Linwood, Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor.

A second county constituency (Renfrewshire West) would take in Johnstone, Elderslie, Houston, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch. The remainder of the constituency would then take in a large geographical area extending down the coast and in to Ayrshire, including Largs and West Kilbride and the islands of Great Cumbrae and Little Cumbrae.

The area of Renfrewshire including Erskine, Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank would fall in to a new constituency otherwise made up by the Inverclyde Council area.

Interested parties wishing to respond to the consultation can do so on the Boundary Commission's website.

http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/2018_westminster/

Additional information, including access to maps and a link to the Commission's website, can be found on the Council's website at:-

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/6301/UK-Parliamentary-Boundary-Changes>

The Secretary explained that on closer inspection of the proposals, it seems that the proposed Burgh Constituency will in fact exclude part of the town, specifically, the south west of Paisley. While bringing Paisley together as one constituency does clearly make sense, it seems odd that a sizeable portion of the town itself is being transferred into a different Parliamentary constituency, while, at the same time, the Boundary Commission are proposing to bring in parts of East Renfrewshire as well as Renfrew and Inchinnan

It was generally agreed that creation of a Paisley Burgh Constituency is welcome in principle and while the proposals don't immediately affect the local area, other than bring Seedhill and Whitehaugh into the same parliamentary constituency, it does not make sense to subsume neighbouring communities while, at the same time excluding part of the town itself.

It was remitted to the Secretary to respond to the consultation along those lines.

Review of Car Parking Provision and Charges

The Secretary explained that he had been asked by the Chair to raise the issue of Parking Charges, which had been subject to consideration at the Council's Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board earlier in the day. Based on a report tabled by Shona McDougall, as Director of Environment & Communities, the most pressing concern for the local community was the proposal to introduce charges for Residents' Parking Permits, such as exist in Zone 3, within the Seedhill area.

Cllr Adam-McGregor explained that she had managed to amend the proposal so that the provisions relating to charges for Residents' Parking Permits would not be introduced without a thorough review of this aspect.

This was noted pending further feedback on the issue of Residents' Parking Permits

Proposed sale of Former Whitehaugh Barracks

The Secretary reported that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board had today also considered a report by the Director of Environment & Communities recommending the sale of the former Whitehaugh Barracks in Whitehaugh Avenue.

Cllr Sharkey spoke briefly regarding this proposal, which has been agreed by the Policy Board.

The Barracks were recently designated category "C" listing by Historic Environment Scotland, as a building of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

The buildings are still currently used as a storage facility for Paisley Museum. However, the museum storage facility is to be moved to 7-11 High Street in Paisley, by 2018. The conversion of the basement of the former Littlewoods store to form a new museum storage facility was completed at the beginning of October.

Renfrewshire Leisure, are currently in the process of taking steps to relocate the artefacts from Whitehaugh to the new facility and hope to return the former Whitehaugh Barracks to the Council during January 2018, thereby providing an opportunity for the re-development and re-use of the site.

This was noted and it was agreed to monitor further developments in relation to the future development of the site.

***E-mails from David Montgomery & Lee Donnelly
Scotland Transerv
Resurfacing of M8 at Blackstoun Mains and Arkleston***

The Secretary referred members to further bulletins circulated previously from Scotland Transerv about recent resurfacing works on the M8. Those were duly noted.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that there had been no statement from the bank in October as there had been no transactions since the statement issued on 22nd September 2017. Accordingly, the balance at the bank will amount to £3,584.45 as reported last month.

Once the cheque for the Administration Allowance amounting to £845 is received from the Secretary then that will be duly banked.

In the meantime, the Treasurer confirmed that she will duly complete and return the form issued by Renfrewshire Council requesting the Community Council's bank details so that in future years the Administration Allowance can be remitted directly to the account.

This was noted.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Former Bank of Scotland Premises at 59 Glasgow Road.

A query was raised regarding the future use of 59 Glasgow Road, formerly occupied by the Bank of Scotland. Members were pleased to note that the premises are to become the new base for *ROAR* (Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire) which until now has been located at Underwood Lane

Road Markings at Kelburn Oval/Whitehaugh Avenue.

It was observed that the road markings, specifically the give way lines at the junction of Kelburn Oval and Whitehaugh Avenue, are in need of renewal as those are not obvious.

The Councillors in attendance noted this issue to follow it up

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will take place on 13th December 2017 at Sherwood-Greenlaw Church. It was suggested that as this is the last meeting before the Festive Period, members might wish to go along to Caffé Royale for some refreshment following conclusion of the business.