

PAISLEY EAST & WHITEHAUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

<p>MINUTES of a meeting of Paisley East & Whitehaugh Community Council that was held via Zoom Technologies on Wednesday, 9th December 2020 at 7.00pm.</p>	<p>09/12/20</p>
<p>Present: John Bell; Gaynor Corry; Graham Paterson; Robert Moore; Andrew Ramsay; Jean Ramsay.</p> <p>Attending: Councillor Jim Sharkey (Renfrewshire Council) and Angela Hope (Paisley Grammar School Parents Council)</p> <p>Apologies: Margaret Cowie, Catherine Scally; Diane Watt; Jhulia Watt; Cllr Jeniffer Adam-McGregor & Cllr John McNaughtan (Both Renfrewshire Council)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Andrew Ramsay</p>	<p>Outcome/Action</p>
<p>1. Chair's Opening Remarks</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending this last virtual meeting of the Community Council of 2020.</p>	
<p>2. Police Scotland</p> <p>The Chair advised that he has received updated crime statistics from Sgt Carter and reported these as follows</p> <p>In the last month since 9th November, there have been 56 crime reports raised with 25 detected at present with further ongoing enquiries into the other incidents. The crime breakdown is as follows.</p> <p>Assaults - 6</p> <p>Housebreaking - 1</p> <p>Misuse of Drugs - 7</p> <p>Road traffic - 6</p> <p>Theft including shoplifting & sneak-in theft - 15</p> <p>Misc. crimes - 6</p> <p>Vandalism - 10.</p> <p>There had also been 49 incidents of anti-social behaviour, neighbour complaints, public nuisance, disturbance, loud parties. All of these did not result in a crime report being raised.</p> <p>Sgt Carter was unable to provide an accurate figure for the issue of fixed penalty notices for Covid related matters.</p> <p>Finally, the annual Festive Drink Drive campaign is due to start as well as the Festive Plan for Paisley Town Centre</p> <p>On a separate but related issue, the Secretary confirmed that following the last meeting he had been in touch with Anne McNaughton at Renfrewshire Council and consequently their website has been updated with the dates of forthcoming Community Council meetings</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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3. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th November 2020

A few minor anomalies as well as an omission from the record were highlighted.

Firstly, in the index tab in the top right-hand corner of the first page, the date should read 11/11/2020.

Secondly, while she had intimated apologies for her absence at the last meeting and this had been duly noted, Catherine Scally's name had also inadvertently appeared in the sederunt,

Apart from the foregoing, it was also pointed out that during the discussion regarding the COVID Protection levels (Item 4 - Page 3) a question had been asked of Councillor Sharkey as to whether or not there is any information available regarding the behaviours driving the increase in the infection rate in Renfrewshire. However, this question had not appeared in the minute. Councillor Sharkey confirmed that this question had been put to him, so it was agreed that this should have been duly recorded in the minute.

The Secretary conceded these points and apologised for these anomalies.

Subject to the foregoing amendments, the minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as an accurate record by Gaynor Corry and this was seconded by Jean Ramsay.

Minutes approved subject to adjustment along agreed lines

4. Business arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 11th November 2020

In relation to matters arising and his subsequent report, the Secretary referred members the papers that had been circulated electronically in advance of the meeting.

Governance issues surrounding proposal to explore the formulation of a Renfrewshire Wide Strategy on HGV Movements

The Secretary referred members to a response received recently from Gordon McNeill, Director of Environment and Infrastructure via the Council Leader, Cllr Iain Nicolson.

The Director had responded to the Community Council's concerns in the following terms: -

“Traffic movement is a key component of Local Transportation Strategy. The Council will look to produce a new Local Transport strategy following the publication of the Regional Transportation strategy taking account of the regional movement of transport and traffic to and from Renfrewshire. This strategy was scheduled to be completed by 2020 but is now not likely until late in 2021.

It has been a number of years since Police Scotland or (Strathclyde Police) as it was at the time were asked for their view on HGV movements in Renfrewshire, we are going to take the opportunity to get a current position from Police Scotland on HGV movement.

It is a number of years since an HGV movement survey was conducted in Renfrewshire and in particular around Paisley East & Whitehaugh. The department intends to undertake a new survey to understand current movements from April next year. We will review in April where traffic movements are at with regard to the current pandemic as traffic movements are reduced at the current time and would

Secretary to respond to Cllr Nicolson in appropriate terms – continued pending further developments

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want to conduct this when traffic movements are more representative of a normal time period for Renfrewshire, so this may take us into the summer before we start this”

Over the last few years there have been local measures that have been undertaken to support this community with traffic speeds and we will continue to seek to do so.”

Following discussion, while members were encouraged to note his assurances, members agreed that Mr. McNeil’s response fails to address the central point about a failure of governance in the past.

It was felt that the information previously conveyed by officers to Sandra Black and, in turn, to the Community Council appears, at best, to have been misleading.

Following discussion, the consensus was that as issue has now dragged on for some considerable length of time. If the Directorate is prepared to concede that Council’s decision of 23rd April 2012 was not followed through to any satisfactory extent then members would be inclined to regard the matter as concluded.

It was remitted to the Secretary to draft an appropriate response to the Council Leader along the lines discussed

Changes to Roads Infrastructure to assist with COVID19 Distancing/ Concerns over implementation of Spaces for People Initiative

The Secretary confirmed that following the last meeting he had, as agreed, written to the other Councilors who had not yet reported to the representation made to them regarding this issue.

Members were dismayed to note that no response or acknowledgement whatsoever has been received from either Cllr Will Mylet or Cllr Carolann Davidson.

However shortly before commencement of the meeting the Secretary had received emails from two other Councillors as follows:

1) Cllr Adam-McGregor had written to apologise for not being able to attend meetings recently and sent on a response received from Gerard Hannah with regards to the Spaces for People program, in the following terms:

1. Footway Widening – The original budget allocated to the scheme was £105,000. Of this £58,000 was utilised prior to the barriers being removed. This includes all costs for erecting the temporary barriers and their subsequent removal.
2. Temporary Cycle lanes – The original budget allocated to the schemes was £460,000. Of this, £36,000 has been spent to date on design costs and other commitments. The vast majority of spend in this area will occur due to the physical works associated with the schemes.
3. Road Safety around schools – The original budget allocated to this was £150,000. To date £15,000 of this has been spent, again the majority of this spend will occur as the physical works at the schools take place in the coming weeks and months.
4. In terms of the effectiveness of the measures. Physical counters will be installed on the cycle lanes at various points to measure the usage of the cycle lanes, although you would expect seasonal variations with weather. In terms of the safety around schools we are responding to concerns raised by schools and one of the key measures is around the perception of safety around the schools – this can be anecdotal rather than statistical. Another

It was agreed to note the responses so far received pending further developments

key measure for us will be to revisit the school survey we asked parents to complete prior to any measures being introduced. This will allow us to assess if the improvements we have made have increased active travel levels among school children.

Cllr Adam-McGregor had also pointed out that at the last full council meeting she had tabled the amendment to have the barriers removed as she had serious concerns over the lack of consultation. After speaking with many shopkeepers & local residents we were all in agreement that they should be removed with immediate effect.

2) Cllr John McNaughtan has also replied to say that he does not sit on neither the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Board nor the Emergencies Board and had assumed that the questions were directed more to Ward 3 Councillors where the controversy was centred. The questions you raise are entirely legitimate and, if you have not yet received answers to these, I am happy to raise these with the Director.

He goes on to say that with regard to his views on the proposals, he is fully supportive of expanding cycling and active travel around schools. He sees less value in the widening of footways although does recognise the intention behind those measures.

Cllr McNaughtan concludes by saying that he hopes to attend the meeting this evening if he is able to connect.

Cllr Sharkey reported that due to a breakdown in communications, he has not yet had an opportunity to discuss concerns surrounding this with Gordon McNeill, the Director of Environment and Infrastructure. However, he is due to meet with Gerard Hannah tomorrow at Williamsburgh Primary School and will ask him to convey to the Director that he still needs to speak with him regarding these issues him regarding these issues.

Covid-19 Protection Levels

Members were referred to an email from Dave Low, Democratic Services Manager at Renfrewshire Council issued on 19th November advising that the Scottish Government have confirmed that with effect from Friday, 20th November at 6pm, that Renfrewshire would move in to Covid Protection Level 4. The First Minister indicated that these measures would last for three weeks until Friday 11 December. To reassure you, our essential council services are still operating during the Level 4 restrictions and our staff are continuing to work exceptionally hard to keep our schools and nurseries open and provide all the required support to our local communities and businesses.

It was noted that since that time it has been announced that Renfrewshire will move back to Level 3 with effect from Friday, 11th December at 6pm although retail previously designated as non-essential under Level 4 will be able to open from 6am that morning.

Further to the earlier brief discussion regarding the question raised at the last meeting (Item3 – Page 2), Cllr Sharkey explained that he has not managed to obtain any feedback regarding the types of behaviours that were likely giving rise to the surge in the infection rate locally. It is not clear if there is any data available regarding this as the focus appears to be on treating the infection and endeavouring to limit the spread, although he will continue to make enquiries and report back regarding any further information obtained

Continued
pending further
developments

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<p>It was noted that up the past month or so, 41 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued for contraventions of COVID regulations</p> <p>A further lively discussion took place regarding issues surrounding the spread of the disease, including the wisdom, or otherwise, of having rigorous restrictions in place yet at the same time having the schools open. It was noted that Paisley Grammar School are trying to do their utmost to mitigate the spread through making masks and sanitising stations available.</p> <p>It was also mentioned that there appears to be some concern about the infection rate in the Johnstone area giving rise to the Community Asymptomatic Test program in the town during the past week or so.</p> <p><i>Crossing at Glasgow Road.</i></p> <p>It was noted that on 12th November, the day following the last meeting, works were in progress to repair the inoperative lights at the crossing on Glasgow Road at Greenlaw Avenue.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>5. Donations to local Projects</p> <p>The Secretary reminded members that at the last meeting it had been agreed to make donations to organisations which are providing support to those affected by the pandemic.</p> <p>A paper was tabled as a basis for discussion in which five local organisations were mooted but not specifically recommended as potential beneficiaries.</p> <p>After discussion, and it was moved by John Bell and seconded by Graham Paterson that the following organisations each receive a donation in the sum of £200 to support their work during these challenging times.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ROAR2. Renfrewshire Foodbank3. Renfrewshire Careers Centre4. Women's Aid5. The Star Project6. Accord Hospice7. St. Vincent's Hospice <p>This was agreed without dissent.</p> <p>It was also highlighted that a Newsagent in Paisley Town Centre has facilitated a Community Fridge and cabinet in their shop where people in need can obtain fresh and other produce.</p> <p>Donations are welcome in kind rather than cash.</p> <p>The Secretary suggested that as a project such as this could be a potential recipient for a donation, he would make further enquiries and report back to the next meeting so that a decision can be regarding a possible donation.</p> <p>Jean Ramsay confirmed that if a decision is made to donate then she would be happy to take a selection of items into the shop over several weeks and pass the relevant receipts back to the Treasurer.</p> <p>It was remitted to the Treasurer and Secretary to distribute the payment to the agreed recipient</p>	<p>Agreed donations to the relevant organisations with a donation to another project continued until further information available</p>

6. Secretary's Report

E-mail from Fraser Carlin Community Councils (Pre-Consultation) – Developing Renfrewshire's new Local Housing Strategy

Housing performs a fundamental role in meeting the needs of local people, communities and the economy. The Local Housing Strategy sets out a framework of action, investment and partnership working to deliver local priorities. It is a key planning document that sets out Renfrewshire's strategic vision and priorities for the delivery of housing and housing related services and the outcomes we want to achieve and the range of actions the Council and its partners will take to achieve this. It covers all tenures and types of accommodation and reflects both national priorities and local needs. To develop the next Local Housing Strategy, the Council will be working with local communities and a wide range of partners to assess local needs, agree priorities and define ideas and solutions to deliver our shared vision for housing in Renfrewshire.

It was noted that the period to respond had been extended from 21st December until 8th January 2021

A brief discussion took place during which concern was expressed that in order to contribute constructively, it was important to be aware of the strategy currently in place. Each of the competing priorities are clearly important in their own right. To this end, given the extent of the strategy and associated documentation and the detail contained therein, it was felt that it is somewhat unwieldy for lay-people to fully assimilate. It was suggested that an Executive Summary would have provided a useful overview and this is something that the Council may wish to consider including in any draft and also in the strategy that is formulated and agreed.

On the secondary point, while the period afforded for interested parties to participate in the pre-consultation activities has been extended until 8th January, this was to no practical effect as most organisations do not meet during the extended period.

It was agreed that the Secretary should respond to the Strategy & Place Team in these terms

E-mail from Dorothy Kerr, Renfrewshire Council o/b Gerard Hannah, Infrastructure, Transportation & Change Manager, Spaces for People – Temporary Cycle Routes.

Renfrewshire Council recognise the important role active travel can play in our resident's mental and physical health and, as such, is committed to providing appropriate infrastructure to allow people to walk, wheel or cycle safely in Renfrewshire. It is also a key driver towards our climate change ambitions as we encourage people to think of alternative ways to travel than using their cars, vans or motorbikes. As part of the Scottish Government's Spaces for People Fund, the Council plans to create temporary cycle routes in Renfrewshire to enhance active travel opportunities for local people during the Coronavirus pandemic. This funding will allow pop-up cycle lanes to be created at key commuter routes which will make our roads network safer for those who wish to walk, wheel or cycle and ensure this is an attractive and viable commuting choice for those going to work or school. An initial summer survey shaped the design process of these cycle routes and they are now sharing the project plans with local businesses, schools and residents whose feedback will guide their implementation.

Secretary to respond in agreed terms

Noted

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The proposed plans can be viewed here <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/SpacesForPeopleCycleRoutes>

An online meeting will take place with the route consultants to allow all residents and interested parties to ask questions about the details of the route. That is due to take place on Thursday 10 December at 7pm,

E-mail from Gerard Hannah, Infrastructure, Transportation & Change Manager, Williamsburgh Primary School – Measures to assist Social Distancing

Environment & Infrastructure have been approached by Williamsburgh Primary School with a view to assessing the potential for installation of some barriers around the entrance to the school on Lacy Street to allow social distancing for the parents collecting and dropping children off at the school. We have implemented similar measures in Newmains Primary School which have been successful in improving the safety for the children and parents. In terms of the footway widening, it would mean removing the pedestrian guardrail in the photographs below and installing the temporary barriers down the bus stand shown below which is used by parents to park in at pick up and drop off time. The school advised that they have discussed with parents and they have received a good level of support for these measures.

Noted

The Department are seeking concerns or comments about these proposals. After discussion it was agreed that there were no particular concerns or reservations regarding this proposal.

***E-mail from Anne McNaughton
Virtual Community Council Meetings***

E-mail explaining that although we are working through some challenging times, it is important that Community Councils make every effort to ensure basic compliance with the terms and provisions set out in the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, including the Community Council Constitution and Standing Orders. Compliance is just as important for virtual meetings. Compliance ensures that Community Councils can demonstrate accountability and maintain public confidence and providing guidance thereon for members of Community Councils.

Noted

It was also mentioned that during this pandemic, it is for each Community council to decide whether to suspend face-to-face meetings. Similarly, it is for each community council to decide, based on its own capacity and capability, whether virtual meetings can be held and if these can be open to members of the public to attend.

However, it was noted that members of the public are welcome to attend virtual meetings of this Community Council and that the details required to access the meeting can be obtained from the notice of the meeting; are displayed on the Facebook Page or on application to the Secretary

***E-mail from Tracy Slater
Renfrewshire Council
Scottish Open Government Conference - free places for Community Councils***

Forwarded email from Gail Hannah, Director, MacKay Hannah Ltd regarding a conference taking place next week - Scottish Open Government: Delivering on the Scottish Government's Programme of Reforms - on 15th December in the morning. They appreciate that the cost of such events can be prohibitive to

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community groups. As they have some spaces left for this conference and, since Community Councils clearly have an interest in this subject matter, they wonder whether some Community Council members might like to take these spaces up, at no cost.

Noted

The conference will discuss the development of open government in Scotland's public bodies and services against the backdrop of the Open Government in Scotland Action Plan published by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Open Government Network. It will look at open government in Scotland in three parts: • Scotland's Open Government journey • Core challenges in delivering open government in Scotland • Engaging everyone - doing and thinking differently

***E-mail from Anne McNaughton
COVID Cross Sectoral Connections Survey***

Forwarded email from Brian Davey at the Improvement Service who have been asked by SCDC (Scottish Community Development Centre) to share the information below in relation to their COVID cross sectoral connections survey. SCDC is working with The Red Cross, Ready Scotland and other public sector resilience networks, together with key national Third Sector networks, to promote and support coordinated approaches between public third and community sector organisations working on COVID. Our third sector partners include Third Sector Interfaces, SCVO and Volunteer Scotland,

As such, they have launched a short survey and ask that interested parties to participate before the 14th December. Stakeholders' experience and views will contribute to further strengthening the working links between all those delivering the ongoing COVID resilience effort and will be instrumental in shaping how different sectors and organisations work together to understand what has worked well and improve the collective effort for future challenges.

Noted

***Letter from Councillor Lorraine Cameron
Provost of Renfrewshire
Provost's Community Awards 2020/2021***

Information regarding this year's Provost's Community Awards, which is now a highly popular event in the Renfrewshire calendar. The Awards recognise the contribution and achievements of special individuals and groups in our local community

Cllr Sharkey took this opportunity to mention that, sadly, former Provost Nancy Allison who had launched the awards during her period of office and had sponsored the Carers Award, had recently passed away. As Nancy had latterly resided in the Greenlaw area, he felt it entirely appropriate to pay tribute in this forum to her decades of contribution to public life in and around Renfrewshire. It was agreed to record Cllr Sharkey's comments in the minute as a mark of respect to the former Provost.

Noted

***Email from Strategy & Place Team
Renfrewshire Council
Draft Renfrewshire Core Path Plan 2020 – Consultation***

Renfrewshire Council have recently published a draft Renfrewshire Core Paths Plan 2020 for consultation.

The draft Plan identifies a network of recreation and travel routes across Renfrewshire and will replace the existing Core Paths Plan which was adopted in

Noted

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2009.

Both the draft 2020 Plan and the existing Core Paths Plan can be viewed on the Renfrewshire Council website at the following address: -

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/CorePaths>

Representations to the Plan are invited and a consultation response form can also be found at the above webpage.

The closing date for representations is 5pm on Monday 1 March 2021.

Should you have any queries in relation to the Plan, please contact the Strategy and Place team at the above email address.

Email from Community Councils

Renfrewshire Council

Scottish Water Works at Seedhill Road/Park

Forwarded email from Laura Boyce, Corporate Affairs Officer, Scottish Water regarding roadworks in Paisley in connection with their ongoing £3.5m investment to help improve the water quality and natural environment in the White Cart Water.

The next phase of works, which involves upgrades to a Combined Sewer Overflow (a sewer which is designed to spill in storm conditions and allowed to do so under SEPA regulations) in Mill Street and improvements to the waste water infrastructure in Seedhill Road, begins on Monday 11th January 2021.

From Monday 11th January, Seedhill Road will be closed at its junction with Mill Street for approximately three months.

From Monday 8th February, the southbound carriageway of Mill Street will be closed at its junction with Seedhill Road for around two months. Traffic will be diverted onto a contraflow on the northbound carriageway during this time.

All road traffic management has been agreed in conjunction with Renfrewshire Council.

The above information will be well publicised. Information will be available on our website for members of the public and a press release will be sent to media outlets covering the Paisley area. In addition to that, Scottish Water will be running a radio advert, local newspaper advert, and issuing content on social media to make sure they reach as many people as possible.

Noted

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported, the balance on the account stands at £5454.16, in line with the previous forecast.

While the Treasurer is still endeavouring to register with the RBS for Digital Banking, the bank has provided a paper statement in the meantime, the charge for which was £3.00, which will be applied to the account.

It was also explained that while RBS has sent a further email to the Treasurer to enable her to apply for access to Digital Banking, unfortunately WHA's security software is blocking the link to the registration page. The Secretary suggested that the email be forwarded to him to try to access the link so the Treasurer

Noted

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<p>confirmed that she would do so. An update in this connection will follow at the next meeting,</p>	
<p>8. Any other Business</p> <p><i>Begging outside Greggs at Glasgow Road</i></p> <p>Concern was expressed regarding a female who regularly lingers around Glasgow Road, in the vicinity of Greggs, begging for money from people passing and, in particular, she seems to be targeting school pupils visiting the shop.</p> <p>A discussion took place during which several members acknowledged seeing the woman in question and that she has clearly been engaging in begging. However, it was pointed out that the individual in question, who appears not to be of UK origin, is possibly vulnerable and perhaps subject to exploitation by traffickers so there could be a wider, more serious issue here.</p> <p>The Chair suggested that he would have an informal word with the Police so that this possibility can be investigated. Obviously, if there is no evidence of underlying exploitation then the Police or Wardens can move her on if this is deemed appropriate.</p>	<p>Chair to consult with Police</p>
<p>9. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Community Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 13th January 2021 at 7pm.</p> <p>Before closing the meeting, the Chair took the opportunity to extend festive greetings to everyone and expressed the hope that the year ahead will bring better tidings</p>	