

PAISLEY EAST & WHITEHAUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Paisley East & Whitehaugh Community Council that was held at Sherwood-Greenlaw Church on Wednesday, 19th April 2023	19/04/2023
<p>Present: Gaynor Corry; Robert Moore; Graham Paterson; Andrew Ramsay; Jean Ramsay; Diane Watt</p> <p>Attending: Councillors Graeme Clark; John McNaughtan (both Renfrewshire Council); PC Paul Lynch (Police Scotland – Item 2 Only); Sadie Dock; Alice Wilson; Irene Friel; Janet Muir; Jim Muir; Linda Strathearn (All local residents)</p> <p>Apologies: John Bell; Margaret Cowie; Andrew McGlynn; Christine McLellan Catherine Scally; Jhulia Watt; Councillor Neill Graham (Renfrewshire Council)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Andrew Ramsay</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Outcome/Action</p>
<p>1. Chair’s Welcome & Opening Comments</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present and thanked everyone for attending, commenting that it was encouraging to see a number of residents from the local community in attendance.</p>	
<p>2. Police Scotland</p> <p>The Chair invited PC Lynch to address the meeting.</p> <p>For the benefit of those who had not met him previously, PC Lynch briefly introduced herself as a Community Officer based at the Ferguslie Office</p> <p>The officer then went on give an overview of the crime statistics since the last meeting.</p> <p>During that period there had 19 assaults/crimes of violence in and around the area and so far, there have been 12 detections. Many of those complaints had related to incidents around the town centre area with sporadic fights during the weekends. We are likely to see an upward trend over the coming months with lighter nights and better weather.</p> <p>There had been 12 incidents relating to possession and supply of drugs - again those were largely clustered around the town centre area with a number of those cases involving possession of a small quality of substances.</p> <p>14 crimes of thefts and housebreaking had been brought to the attention of the Police; 11 of which had been of which had been instances of shoplifting at the Renfrew Road Retail Park.</p> <p>Over this period there had been some 16 complaints surrounding a range of road traffic issues</p> <p>Ant-social behaviour around the area involving pupils from Paisley Grammar at lunchtime, home time etc. remains an ongoing issue.</p> <p>PC Lynch mentioned that the local division management are currently re-organising Community Policing provision in the area.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Noted</p>

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<p>A question was raised from the floor about the prevalent issue of dog-fouling. However, it was pointed out that this was more an issue for the Community Wardens.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion regarding the report presented, the Chair thanked PC Lynch for his informative input to the meeting.</p> <p>[PC Lynch left the meeting at this point]</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of Meeting held on 8th March 2023</p> <p>It was noted that Catherine Scally's name had been inadvertently omitted from the sederunt although she had been present at the meeting. The Secretary apologised for this oversight.</p> <p>Subject to inclusion of that amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as an accurate record by Gaynor Corry and this was seconded by Graham Paterson and those were formally approved without dissent.</p>	<p>Approved subject to amendment</p>
<p>4. Business arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 8th March 2023</p> <p><i>Renfrewshire Wardens Report/Dog Fouling</i></p> <p>While no representative from the Wardens Service had been able to attend, for the benefit of the local residents in attendance, as this had been mentioned during the discussion with the Police officer, the Chair recapped briefly on the issue of dog-fouling, which endemic across the area.</p> <p>This issue has been a recurring theme at meetings in the past and an approach had been made previously to other Renfrewshire Community Councils for ideas on how they tackle this menace in their own areas. While it is a widespread problem throughout Renfrewshire and beyond, the response was underwhelming and it seems that there are no easy or effective solutions.</p> <p>The Warden's service has been stretched of late though it seems that they are involved in a drive to recruit new wardens, which has met with some success.</p> <p>It seems that they have found that the stencilled messages on pavements at hot spots are more effective at raising awareness than posters around the area and will continue with that</p> <p>Cllr Clark spoke briefly regarding the "<i>Take the Lead</i>" aimed at promoting responsible dog ownership in Renfrewshire. This is being launched in conjunction with Renfrewshire Council's wider <i>Team Up to Clean Up</i> initiative.</p> <p><i>Kelburne Hockey Club – Appeal against Refusal of Community Asset Transfer Application</i></p> <p>Members were disappointed to note that at the Sub-Committee's meeting that took place on 22nd March, the club's application was again refused.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

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Members were referred to the specific grounds for the Sub-Committee's decision, as set out in the copy of the formal notice that was included in the papers circulated in advance of the meeting.

Noted pending further feedback.

It is not known at this stage if the club intends to appeal beyond the current decision to the Scottish Ministers as part of the Scottish Government's process.

Speeding issues in Arkleston Road.

The Secretary reported that there has been no further feedback from Gerry Hannah in response to the issues that were discussed on 8th March.

An email has been sent to enquire if he has any update in this regard but, so far, no response has been received.

Noted pending further feedback/ Developments.

Hopefully a response will be received from the officer in the not-too-distant future, whereupon that will be circulated to members in the usual way.

Renfrewshire Community Council Forum (RCCF)

Members were reminded that at the meeting of RCCF on 13th March, it had been agreed to organise a special meeting of the Forum to consider potential amendments to its constitution.

That meeting was subsequently convened for 17th April and member Councils were invited to submit their proposals by no later than 7^h April for inclusion in the agenda.

Prior to that, the Secretary had circulated information in this connection to all members. Subsequently, Gaynor, who is one of the Community Council's representatives on the Forum and has served on its Management Committee for several terms, had formulated specific proposal ideas for consideration of members.

Noted pending further feedback/ developments

A copy of those was subsequently circulated to members for consultation and agreement.

As a majority (8 out of 13) of members expressed unqualified support for the proposals, those were submitted to Anne McNaughton for inclusion on the agenda for the special meeting.

None of the other members had expressed any objection or opposition to the proposals.

The agreed amendments were included with those submitted by some other Community Councils in the agenda, a copy of which had been circulated to members.

Gaynor then went on to report on the outcome of the meeting. None of the Community Council's proposed amendments had been adopted. However, Appendix 1 has now been included, addressing Roles & Responsibilities of the Forum, with an Appendix 2 also having been added setting out Standing Orders for Forum meetings.

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<p>The Constitution has also now been “future-proofed” with an “as required” qualification added to its financial management provisions.</p> <p><i>Email from Yvonne Reilly Sherwood Greenlaw Church New Life Magazine</i></p> <p>The Secretary explained that unfortunately, due to work commitments, he had missed the deadline for submitting an article for inclusion in their April edition.</p> <p>However, there is another issue due out in June, with the deadline being 25th May so an appropriate article highlighting the forthcoming elections will be drafted and submitted before that deadline. An article along those lines would probably be best to appear relatively closer to election-time rather than in April in any event.</p> <p><i>Review of Scheme for Community Councils</i></p> <p>Further to Cllr Clark’s report at the last meeting, he advised the cross-party meeting of councillors that had been due to take place on 20th March to discuss the revision of the scheme has been postponed pending publication of the Scottish Government’s Model Scheme.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>5. Secretary’s Report</p> <p><i>Curtailed of McGills No 20 & changes to Local Services</i></p> <p>The Secretary reported that earlier this week he been contacted by a concerned resident in Whitehaugh who has discovered that McGills are again planning to curtail the no 20 service but to a much more significant extent than before. These changes will become effective from 1st May.</p> <p>Another concerned resident has also emailed the Secretary since then.</p> <p>Specifically, from McGills website, it is noted that the section of route between Paisley Cross and Whitehaugh will no longer operate from the effective date.</p> <p>This follows previous curtailment of the service, which had formerly also extended to the Gallowhill area up until 2018 and subsequent rerouting through Whitehaugh back in 2021.</p> <p>Some less significant changes are being made to the No 10 [Hawkhead Estate to Royal Alexandra Hospital via Seedhill] service but no feedback or representations has so far been received from residents regarding those revisions.</p> <p>From past experience, the Community Council has found that, unfortunately, the operator seems to pay little heed to representations made regarding their services.</p> <p>Given the attendance by several local residents at the meeting this evening, it is clear that there is considerable and understandable concern regarding this issue.</p> <p>A lively discussion ensued.</p>	<p>Noted pending further feedback/developments</p>

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Cllr Clark explained that a motion had been submitted by his group on the Council calling for a meeting at the earliest possible opportunity with SPT, the Scottish Government, Local MSPs and the appropriate Councillors to discuss the impact of these changes and to seek any possible actions that would mitigate any possible negative impact on communities and the public who rely on bus travel.

There appears to be some cross-party concern and opposition regarding these proposals.

An initial meeting has already taken place with SPT but the wider meeting proposed has yet to be arranged and Cllr Clark confirmed that he will keep the Community Council informed regarding this.

SPT has funding, albeit limited, to provide services in some circumstances.

Cllr Clark also mentioned that Neil Bibby MSP has set up an online petition challenging bus cuts and rising fares, which is another concern for bus passengers. It also demands that local bus services be brought back under local control.

Cllr McNaughton undertook to let the local Constituency MSPs know that there is considerable concern in the community about the curtailment of the No20 service.

While members were clearly dismayed about the plans to curtail the service to Whitehaugh, it was agreed to await the outcome of the Councillors' awaited discussions involving MSPs, SPT and the Scotland Government etc.

Keegan & Pennykid Annual Insurance Renewal

The annual renewal of the Community Council's insurance cover is due by no later than 1st May, and the renewal premium for the coming 12 months is £96.37 (2022/2023 premium was £84.28). This cover is mandatory, but expenditure will need to be formally approved.

It was moved by Gaynor Corry that the renewal premium be paid and this was formally seconded by Jean Ramsay. There being no dissent, that was carried and the Treasurer was authorised to pay the premium.

E-mail from Morag Smith

Case Officer

Planning and Environmental Appeals Division

Planning Permission Appeal: Grounds of Dykebar Hospital Grahamston Road Paisley PA2 7DE

A letter has been received confirming that the Reporter, Mr. J Alasdair Edwards MA(Hons) MRTPI has formally granted planning permission to the applicants, NHSGG&C, BDW Trading Ltd, Bellway Homes & CALA Land Management for the development.

Following the last meeting when matters were discussed with Gerry Hannah, the Secretary had also asked if would still be possible for us to obtain a copy of the Construction Traffic Management Plan relating to the development. The Officer subsequently replied to say that he would ask colleagues in Planning to see if this is possible and will let the Secretary know.

Renewal
premium
approved for
payment.

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Some dismay was expressed about Environment & Infrastructure deferring to Planning in relation to providing a copy the Construction Traffic Management Plan. It seems inconceivable that Roads Officers would have no involvement in the development or approval of the plan While affected communities had been afforded no input into its formulation, it was generally felt that there should be no difficulty in making available a copy of the Construction Traffic Management Plan.

In light of this, the Councillors present confirmed that they would endeavour to obtain a copy of the Construction Traffic Management Plan and pass that on to the Secretary.

Moreover, at the same time, Mr Hannah had also been asked if he was able to advise at this stage what arrangements Environment & Infrastructure will put in place to monitor compliance by contractors and suppliers travelling to and from the site.

In relation to the role of the Environment & Infrastructure, Mr Hannah has explained that they have a team of Statutory Inspectors who monitor all developments across Renfrewshire. This role largely relates to the operations on the site and the impact they are having on adjacent areas e.g., if there are regular movements of site material they will get the developer to provide extra street cleaning. He has confirmed that he will also bring the Community Council's representation to the attention of his colleagues in Planning to ensure the conditions attached to the application are being adhered to.

***Email from Graeme Crawford
Renfrewshire Council
Mobile Vaccination Unit – Ferguslie – 18th April 2023***

The NHS had informed Renfrewshire Council that another mobile vaccination unit would be visiting Ferguslie on Tuesday 18th April 2023, located at Ferguslie Sports Centre, 106 Blackstoun Road, Ferguslie, Paisley PA3 1EX between 10am and 5pm.

They were offering a spring COVID-19 booster vaccination, providing it is a minimum three months since their last dose.

Those who have not yet received their primary dose would be afforded an opportunity to have that administered.

***Email from Anne McNaughton
Renfrewshire Council
Local Partnership Grants***

An email from Community Planning has been forwarded advising that Local Partnerships had been inviting applications for funding in 2023-24 up until midnight on 8th April 2022

***Emails from Gerard Devaney
Friends of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
Invitation to Annual General Meeting***

An invitation had been extended by The Friends of Clyde Muirshiel Regional

Noted pending further developments re Construction Traffic Management Plan

Noted

Noted

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Park to their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 12th April at The Corner Bar, Lochwinnoch, PA12 4AA.

A subsequent email had been received with an update on the outcome of the meeting together with a copy of the report by their Chair and the accounts tabled by their Treasurer. That was also accompanied by a copy of their latest newsletter.

***Email from Cllr Graeme Clark
Renfrewshire Council
Design for the Junction of Glasgow Road, Hawkhead Road and Arkleston Road***

Cllr Clark has written to say that on reading through the papers for the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board on 25 January 2023 he had noted the following under point 4.5.1 which may be of interest to the Community Council, specifically:

Sustrans have awarded funding to develop a detailed design for the junction of Glasgow Road, Hawkhead Road and Arkleston Road, whose concept design for improvements for cyclists was recently chosen after a public engagement exercise. Work on these projects will commence in the new financial year.

It was pointed out that while concerns have already been raised regarding this junction and changes have been requested about rephrasing of the traffic light sequence to improve the effectiveness and safety of the junction, this is the first occasion on which the Community Council has heard of any public engagement exercise.

Cllr Clark advised that he has asked for a copy of the plans for the proposed measures. He mentioned that Ralston Community also have no knowledge of any public engagement exercise having been undertaken.

A copy of the plans will be passed on once available.

***Email from Graeme Crawford
Renfrewshire Council
Grass Cutting Program 2023/24***

Email received on behalf of Ken Gray, StreetScene Manager explaining that the Department's grass cutting programme was scheduled to restart on Monday 27 March 2023.

Their teams work to a 14-day cycle and tackle a different area of Renfrewshire each day – although they will return the following day to finish *any section* that they weren't able to complete.

This means they cut grass panels, open spaces, school playing fields, public parks, cemeteries, and provide their grass and hedge cutting assistance scheme for council house tenants, at the same time in each area.

If the teams are unable to complete an area due to the weather, they will retain some of their resources to complete that area when the grass is able to be cut as normal.

Noted

Noted pending further feedback/developments

Noted

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The fortnightly timetable is contained in the appended email and is also available via the Council website – www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/grasscutting

Hedge cutting will continue to be provided twice a year and will operate in line with the grass cutting model, with communities seeing their first cut between May and July and their second cut between August and October.

Anne McNaughton has also circulated to Community Councils a similar email that was distributed to members of Local Partnerships.

***Email from Anne McNaughton
Renfrewshire Council
Online Workshops for Community Councils –
Community and Active Travel - Cost of Living - Climate – Cars***

Forwarded email from The Improvement Service advising that the Scottish Government is holding a series of free online workshops for Community Councillors on the theme of community and active travel. The workshops will cover topics such as:

- *the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on our travel choices and behaviours, not just as individuals, but for the communities we live in.*
- *what community organisations can do to take action on climate change.*
- *how cars impact on community life and how communities can help reduce car use in their local area.*

Noted

Participants can also find out how some of these issues are being addressed by communities around Scotland and how Sustrans can help them take action in their areas.

There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion around these issues – and for participants to think about how some of these issues might impact their own local community, or the communities that they work in.

All the workshops are scheduled to take place on Wednesday evenings 6-7:30pm and have been designed for urban as well as rural and islands communities so Community Councils are invited to participate in such workshops best suited to their needs.

***Email from Paisley Grammar School Community Campus Project Team
Renfrewshire Council
Community Council Briefing***

The new Paisley Grammar School Community Campus is due to open in summer 2026 in a new location near the town's Renfrew Road. Design work is progressing well, and a Proposal of Application Notice [POAN] was submitted last month as part of the planning process, with a full planning application to be submitted later this summer.

Noted

As part of that, the Council and their design team Ryder Architecture had hosted a briefing for Community Councils whose area includes part of the catchment area, to talk you through the development plans and hear your feedback.

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That took place on Tuesday 28 March in the dance studio at The Lagoon and an invitation was extended to attend.

Ryder had also hosted two public exhibitions on Wednesday 15 March, and Thursday 13 April at The Lagoon Leisure Centre, showing a brief overview of the plans, which parents from Paisley Grammar and its feeder primaries will be made aware of, in order to capture wider public feedback.

***Email from Community Council Mailbox
Renfrewshire Council
BBC Debate Night Studio Audience Participation Invitation***

Forwarded email from BBC Scotland's political discussion show extending an invitation to an episode on the evening of Wednesday 22nd March, to afford local people an opportunity to have their say.

Noted

***Email from Stuart Miller
Community Co-ordinator
Williamsburgh Housing Association
Update from Friends of Barshaw Park re visit by Angela from the RHS***

On Saturday, 8th March, Angela from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) was in the Community Garden with an introduction to the BigSeed Sow and the Grow to Eat projects.

Angela had explained to participants about the monthly workshops she will be delivering in the Community Garden from April to October.

Noted

April 1st was the official opening of the Community Garden and they had a Big Seed Sow event and seed swap with lots of activities for everyone.

Cllr Clark spoke briefly about the official opening of the new garden and about potential plans being looked at to acquire and develop the former bandstand area of the park through a Community Asset Transfer application.

Scottish Community Councils Newsletter

Copy of the April edition of the Scottish Community Councils Newsletter forwarded by Anne McNaughton.

Noted

***Email from Community Council Mailbox
Renfrewshire Council
Change in Tesco Funding Focus***

An email received from Tamara Hedderwick, Community Enabler at Greenspace Scotland has recently been forwarded explaining that Tesco have just launched funding that prioritises children and young people in schools. The priority for grants is now on supporting schools and organisations to deliver projects that provide healthy food and activities that boost young people's mental and physical wellbeing. Funding up to £1,500 is available and they are looking for applications from across Scotland.

Noted

Greenspace Scotland's team of Community Enablers can support applicants to apply or answer any questions.

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<p>http://bit.ly/TescograntScot</p> <p>www.greenspacescotland.org.uk</p> <p>Concern over RingGo App Charges</p> <p>The Secretary reported that he has been contacted with a query regarding the RingGo Parking app now in use in council-owned car parks as a method of paying for parking charges. The charges applied when using the app vary, albeit marginally, from the charges advertised on meters when paying by cash. It was felt that this differential pricing should be made clear to users.</p> <p>When raising this query with Environment & Infrastructure, the officer had responded to the Secretary to say that “.....the full price breakdown is shown to customers when booking a parking slot via the RingGo app, including the convenience fee for using the app and the optional SMS reminder fees.”</p> <p>The person who raised the issue has pointed out that to access this information a person would have to set out to use the app and would only know about the higher charges that apply once they had engaged with it.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Secretary should point this out to the officer concerned and ask if, in the interests of transparency, the Council, RingGo or whoever maintain the meters could possibly add a conspicuous sticker highlighting that there is a price differential, albeit a marginal one.</p>	<p>Noted pending further feedback/developments</p>
<p>6. Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>The Treasurer explained that as per her report at the last meeting, the balance at the bank currently stands at £3154.55, with no new transactions processed during the preceding month.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>7. Any other Business</p> <p>There were no unscheduled items of business.</p>	
<p>8. Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the session is due to take place on Wednesday, 10th May at 7pm.</p>	