

CAMBUSLANG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday 15th September 2015

Venue: Cambuslang Institute

Present

J Taylor Chairman
D Thomson Vice Chairman
H B Allan Secretary
J Bachtler Treasurer
M Gurling
I Frame
D MacDonald
M Farmer

In Attendance

Sgt P Bucknall (Police Scotland)
J Kelly, MSP
Cllr C McColl
Cllr R Tullett
L Wallace
S White
B Loney
S Ewart
D Sinclair
E A Allan (Minute Secretary)

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Members, Elected Representatives, Representatives of Police Scotland, and others attending to the Meeting.

The Secretary advised the Meeting that he was sorry to announce the sad death of longstanding Community Council Member Susan Smith since the last Meeting and asked that all present be upstanding for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Apologies

H Allison, R Allison, Cllr W Brogan, Cllr P Clearie, Cllr R Clearie

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of 19th May were read.

Corrections

There were no corrections.

Matters Arising

Mark Henderson - The service of dedication for the plaque to be placed in the War Memorial section of the church with Mark Henderson's name on it took place in St Andrews Church on 14th June. The Chairman thanked Mr Thomson for all the work he had put in to enable this to happen.

The Minutes were approved by Mr Bachtler and seconded by Mr Thomson.

Police Report

See Appendix 1.

Questions to Police Representatives

The Chairman thanked the Police representatives for their report and opened the Meeting to questions.

Mr Bachtler asked if the hub was physical. Sgt Bucknall said there is a meeting in Cambuslang Gate at 9.30 on weekday mornings. It is flexible as to who attends. There are representatives of police, fire and South Lanarkshire Council. Inspector Gillespie chairs the meeting, but when he is on holiday Sgt Bucknall will become involved.

Mrs Farmer asked if there were any issues with youths to see if there is anything that can be done in any particular area. She asked if Cambuslang Park could be one area. Sgt Bucknall said there were a few youth disorder problems around Birch Drive. There is a derelict school in that area. He said there will be more definitive patrol structure around the area of Holmhills Park in the future. He said the police are moving back towards more traditional community policing. Mrs Farmer said a police officer from East Kilbride is going to come down and go through Holmhills Park to have an assessment of what may be helpful there.

The Minute Secretary asked for an update with regard to thefts of lead. Sgt Bucknall said this is a continuing problem, although there has been a significant reduction.

Cllr Tullett said that in Whitlawburn the residents seem to be noticing that there is less anti-social behaviour.

Mrs Wallace said there is a house in Buchanan Drive towards the junction with Main Street where there are often a number of business vehicles parked which can be a hazard and make it difficult to pass. Sgt Bucknall said he will check this out.

There being no further questions to the Police representative, the Chairman thanked him for his attendance and the Police representative left the Meeting.

New Members

Mr Bachtler said several people are interested in becoming associate members of the Community Council and introduced Dominic Sinclair and Sean Ewart from Universal Connections. They have been helping with the survey and are hoping to work out a way to involve the youth with the Community Council.

Mr Bachtler said Scott Smith has been living in Cambuslang for 12 years. His partner is involved in Project 31.

Chairman's Correspondence

The Chairman said he had received three letters from South Lanarkshire Council concerning the green space at Stewarton Drive/Douglas Drive. The last letter had said that South Lanarkshire Council will not proceed to dispose of this site at the present time.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary said he was sorry to advise the Meeting that a letter had been received from Mr Brian Hartel submitting his resignation from the Community Council. The Secretary and Chairman wished to place on record their thanks to Mr Hartel, who had been an active member of the Community Council for a number of years and had been instrumental in keeping Members up to date with developments at the site of the former Cambus Court. The Meeting extended thanks and good wishes to Mr Hartel.

Correspondence in relation to planning matters was a routine matter of house extension.

Notification had been received since the last Meeting of a number of parades, most of which have now taken place.

Treasurer's Report

May balance	£799.10
Balance today	£1254.03

Expenditure since last month a wreath for Remembrance Sunday and the expenses for Summerfest.

Annual statement of accounts has been signed off by South Lanarkshire Council and the administration grant of £500 for the coming year has now been received.

There are still some outstanding matters of income and expenditure including £78 which has to be paid to SurveyMonkey for the survey.

Bike Project

Mr Bachtler gave an update on this. The feasibility and viability of a new walkway and cycle path along the south bank of the River Clyde is confirmed by a feasibility study. This would run from Cambuslang Bridge to Dalmarnock Bridge. Work continues on looking at the creation of a regional/national cycle centre in Cambuslang on land off Bogleshole Road. There is informal agreement with Scottish Enterprise for a 60 year lease of the land. A feasibility study is in progress.

The Chairman asked how many Community Council areas the proposed walkway along the bank of the Clyde would go through. Mr Bachtler said it went through Cambuslang and Rutherglen Community Council areas. Rutherglen Community Council have been kept informed of developments.

Cambuslang Green Network

Mr Bachtler said this is a project to link up green spaces in the area and to map the open spaces in the area, especially small ones which could be otherwise overlooked. Trinity, Cairn and Calderwood Schools are involved. Response from Cathkin High School is still awaited.

It has grown into a bigger project to look not just at green space but how people use the green space. The schools are going to build this into the curriculum. The schools are currently drawing up an action plan.

Summerfest and Cambuslang Park Events

Mrs Wallace said that, as stated at the May meeting, Cambuslang Community Council had taken a stall at Summerfest, and also participated at an event in Cambuslang Park in August. The idea behind this was to raise the profile of Cambuslang Community Council and also to promote the Cambuslang survey. The Summerfest stall cost £12 and £80 profit was made as a result of a competition, for which sponsored prizes were received. The Community Council took a stall next to Camglen Bike Town at Summerfest. Mr Bachtler has a contact in a publishing company who produced the promotional literature for the event. Mrs Wallace said both events had been very successful. Over the two events, over 200 surveys were completed.

Town Centre Communities Capital Fund

This is a relatively small fund from the Scottish Government. The money in this has to be allocated by March 2016. Cambuslang Community Council have submitted an application for almost £130,000 to the Scottish Government under the above scheme to fund improvements to the Main Street. Main Street was a concern which came up in the recent survey. Following two focus groups and extensive consultation with residents and the businesses in the Main Street, the application was lodged. It is seeking funding for a new planting programme such as street planters, hanging baskets, and barrier baskets; enclosures for the waste bins; trying to create a more uniform colour scheme for railings, barriers and shutters; welcome signs at either end of the Main Street; and virtual shop fronts for the vacant units. Local garden centre business Urban Al Fresco have been helpful. Cllr Tullett said if the bid was submitted directly by the Community Council. Mr Bachtler said, yes, that was the case.

Land at Stewarton Drive/Douglas Drive

The Chairman invited Mr Loney to address the Meeting. Mr Loney gave a background on the site known as Douglas Park and explained how the local community had become involved when South Lanarkshire Council had proposed selling this site. He said Cambuslang Community Council had supported the residents very strongly and had been able to represent the residents. A letter was subsequently received saying South Lanarkshire Council were suspending the sale of the land and were willing to engage with the community to try to work out a solution which would let the community keep the land as an open space.

Through Mr Bachtler and the Community Council the residents have responded to say they are interested in this and are trying to arrange a meeting to understand what South Lanarkshire Council's intentions are. A preliminary meeting has been arranged for early October. It is also intended to try to discover what the wishes of local residents are for this small green oasis. It is hoped to be able to develop the site into the community resource it once was.

Mr Bachtler said the local residents have asked if Cambuslang Community Council would act on their behalf in discussions with South Lanarkshire Council going forward, potentially creating a sub-committee of the Community Council which could be called Friends of Douglas Park but in due course this would become an independent body. The Community Council will enter into discussions with South Lanarkshire Council and will report back.

Cllr Tullett said this is a good opportunity to make something of this piece of land and he wished the residents luck. Cllr McColl echoed this.

Friends of Holmhills Park

Mrs Farmer said there continues to be progress at Holmhills Park. The community payback team have finished their work there. They have improved the pathway. They have widened it and upgraded it. Work has been done to crown-lift and trim trees. On the advice of the SLC arborist, branches were cut back to the trunk to prevent offshoots growing.

A grant has been applied for from Pride of Place for bird and bat boxes and bulbs to be planted round the entrance points. It is intended to create a sign with the park name on it.

A Bat Walk was held on 11th September. They are working with local schools and with South Lanarkshire Council on initiatives such as "Get Walking".

Work is being done in connection with Environmental Services on litter. Environmental Services will be going round Cathkin, Trinity and Stonelaw High Schools to raise awareness of litter issues.

Community Survey

Mr Bachtler distributed results of the Community Survey. Over 1,100 replies were received. National and local elected representatives, Universal Connections and many others helped to promote this survey.

People felt positive about transport, friendliness and the community spirit of Cambuslang. A considerable number of replies were from people who have lived in the area for a long time. There is a low rate of mobility compared to the rest of the Scotland the United Kingdom as a whole. Parks and green environment are also valued but are seen as threatened by development.

With regard to what people did not feel positive about, the most important conclusion of the survey is the level of dissatisfaction with Cambuslang Main Street, both with regard to appearance and also the limited range of shops. The current layout of the Main Street is

widely regarded as a mistake; concerns were raised over parking, and the large waste bins are unsightly and contribute to the drab appearance of the street. Other concerns raised were the level of crime and anti-social behaviour and lack of visible police presence, the lack of sports/leisure facilities, and the level of traffic congestion.

Mr Bachtler said the Community Council should use these findings to develop a community strategy, identify a range of partners, areas of expertise and develop some sort of vision. It may be possible to do something to improve some aspects of Main Street, eg waste bins, and work with other partners to help do things about crime and look to which private providers could become involved.

Universal Connections

Mr Sinclair said he worked with secondary school pupils but now works with pupils in Primaries Six and Seven. They have been recruiting new members for their Youth Council. He would be interested in seeing if there was some way the youth could become involved with the Community Council.

Any Other Business

Mr Bachtler said there is an ongoing issue with the land at Bridge Street opposite James Aiton School. He had a meeting with Forrest Media to see if anything could be done to make this area look better. One possibility is to cover it with soil and make a wild flower meadow. If this could be done, the community payback team could do some of the labouring work and make planters.

Mr MacDonald asked if there was any progress on the possibility of a Park and Ride facility in Cambuslang, possibly at the old Mitchells site. Cllr McColl said she had heard this site might be about to be sold.

Mr Thomson advised the Meeting that a branch of the Royal British Legion is being set up in Cambuslang. He will be liaison while this is being done.

Closure of Meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the Meeting, thanking all present for their attendance and reminding Members that the next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th October 2015 in Cambuslang Institute, Greenlees Road, Cambuslang at 7.30 pm.

APPENDIX ONE

Police Report Given to Cambuslang Community Council on 15th September 2015

Sgt Bucknall said he had attended a performance meeting in East Kilbride. There was a good set of performance figures for this area. Disorder and anti-social behaviour was down by 24% on the previous set of figures. He is not saying that anti-social behaviour is a thing of the past, but is really pleased at the way the police have managed to target this and improve on previous figures.

Violent crime has been reduced. This sub-division has had the best figures in relation to violent crime.

Sgt Bucknall said there is nothing in particular outstanding to report at this time. There are currently no hot spots in the area as there had previously been.

There has been one notable change in the way the police do business with the launch of the Community Safety Hub. This is an initiative where the police work in partnership with the Fire Service and South Lanarkshire Council and share information on the daily hub and task each other with what needs to be done. This speeds up communication and tasks are being identified and information being shared more freely. This has currently been running for just over a week and they are seeing opportunities which can come from it. He is optimistic that it will make a difference locally with regard to the way South Lanarkshire Council, the police and other emergency services work together.

Sgt Bucknall said house breakings are down by around 50 per cent. Four or five individuals have been identified in the area plus individuals travelling into the area for the purpose of house breakings. Car thefts have also gone down although last week there was a small spate of opportunist thefts from vehicles. The favourite way of stealing cars at the moment is not by forcing open locks, it is looking through letter boxes or windows, seeing car keys and using a fishing rod to steal the keys and take the car away. The police are asking that, again, people continue to be vigilant in locking cars and houses and not leaving keys visible.