

CAMBUSLANG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday 21st February 2017

Venue: Cambuslang Institute

Present

D Thomson Chairman
M Farmer Vice Chairwoman
H B Allan Secretary
H Allison
R Allison
I Frame
M Gurling
D Porter
D MacDonald

In Attendance

PC D Galbraith (Police Scotland)
PC K Edwards (Police Scotland)
Cllr R Tullett
S Findlay
M Campbell
M Boyle
E A Callaghan
D Dickie ("Reformer")
E A Allan (Minute Secretary)

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Members, Elected Representatives, Police Representatives and others present to the Meeting.

Apologies

J Bachtler, L Wallace, M Cameron, S Smith, Cllr W Brogan, Cllr P Clearie, Cllr R Clearie, Cllr C McColl, J Kelly MSP.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of 15th November were read.

Corrections

There were no corrections.

Matters Arising

Mr MacDonald raised the issue that very few elected representatives now attend Meetings.

The Minutes were approved by Mrs Allison and seconded by Mr Allison.

Police Report

See Appendix 1.

The Chairman thanked PCs Edwards and Galbraith for their report and opened the Meeting to questions.

Mrs Farmer asked if thefts from cars or break-ins were occurring in any particular area. PC Galbraith said these issues were fairly general but some areas do attract more potential car thefts or housebreakings.

Dr Porter said issues relating to security, such as crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour, had been raised in the recent survey concerning Town Centre Regeneration. He gave a copy of this survey to PC Galbraith, who said it would be passed on to Inspector Gillespie. Dr Porter said in a survey carried out among members of the community two years ago, a number of people were wary of using the Main Street at night.

PC Edwards said the restructuring mentioned by Sgt Lee has now been put back from February to May. At that time, there should be two officers who are beat officers, so police presence should be more visible in the Main Street area. PC Edwards said once the beat officers are in place if anyone needs to contact them, they can still do so by calling 101 and asking for a message to be passed on to the community officers.

There being no further questions to PCs Edwards and Galbraith, the Chairman thanked them for their attendance and the Police representatives left the Meeting.

Chairman's Correspondence

There was no Chairman's correspondence.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary said there have been the usual planning applications for domestic conversions. There was also notification of Persimmon erecting signage and flag poles at the site which they are now starting to develop for new housing towards the top of Greenlees Road.

Treasurer's Report

November balance	£62,949.80
Balance today	£61,739.43

The Minute Secretary read a report from the Treasurer.

The Treasurer had asked that the Meeting be advised that since the last Meeting, two new sub-accounts have finally been opened by Royal Bank of Scotland for Cambuslang in Bloom and Friends of Holmhills Park respectively. To compensate for the long delay, RBS put £250 in each of the new bank accounts.

RBS also sent a luxury food hamper of Christmas fare to raffle but because this was received so close to Christmas it was not possible to arrange a raffle. With the agreement of Community Council office bearers, the hamper was given to Fr Paul Morton of St Brides RC Church for distribution to needy in Cambuslang.

Withdrawals from the main bank account since last meeting: Urban Alfresco (TCCCF) £398.00 and purchase of canes (TCCCF) £7.47. Interest paid in was £5.62.

The bank account for Cambuslang in Bloom has received the £250 RBS compensation mentioned above, plus £87.92 raised from fundraising. A donation has also been received from Cambuslang Allotment Gardens.

Friends of Holmhills Park bank account has the £250 compensation received from RBS.

Cycle Project

This was carried forward to the next Meeting.

Friends of Holmhills Park

Mrs Farmer said they are looking at a constitution. Office bearers have been nominated, but a meeting is needed to make it official. Pupils from Rutherglen High School are working on sign posts for the park. The pond was restored before Christmas.

There has been vandalism in the park. Mrs Farmer said drug remnants, tin foil, cans and glue have been found on quite a big scale. Nurseries which use the park have not been able to use it because there have been a lot of smashed bottles.

Application has been made through the Greening Cambuslang project for a vandal resistant bench to site at the viewing spot. A grant will be received if the project receives 200 likes on Facebook.

Letters have been received from Margaret Ferrier, MP, advising that Andy, one of those working on the park, has been mentioned in Parliament.

Friends of Douglas Park

Dr Porter said in early December a response had been received from Estates Management at South Lanarkshire Council. This was very positive in most respects. They still expressed concerns about the proposed structure but did outline in some detail the terms they are likely to offer. The proposal is a lease basis for 12 years, with a nominal rent of £1 per year, if asked for.

The main change being proposed is to move from a single tier structure to a two tier structure. This will involve holding an AGM and maintaining a list of members.

The group is hopeful that approval will be received from the Scottish Charities Foundation, following which they can enter into the final round of negotiations with South Lanarkshire Council.

Greening the Main Street/Cambuslang in Bloom

Mrs Allison said work is underway for the new season. A letter will go out to shopkeepers at the end of this month asking if they want a hanging basket again, the cost of which would be £25 and also asking those who did not have one last year if they want one. Urban Alfresco will help again. Last year's baskets will be reused if possible and new ones will be purchased if necessary. May/June will be the biggest time for planting, depending on the weather.

It is hoped to hold a bag packing event in Sainsburys on 8th April to help with fundraising.

The Chairman raised the issue of the garden area in the old precinct and what any future plans may be for this. This was originally done by Pride of Place.

Town Centre Regeneration

The Chairman said a Freedom of Information request had been submitted with regard to the slabs on Main Street. There have been four recorded incidents so far in 2017 due to the condition of the slabs.

Dr Porter said Mr Bachtler deserves tremendous credit for the survey carried out, with a response rate of almost 90 per cent completing the questionnaire. The Community Council were very grateful to the "Reformer" for their coverage of this issue.

Among the issues raised were parking, security and also the mix of shops. There are numerous hairdressers and fast food shops but no longer a grocery type small mini-market.

Mr Bachtler has sent letters to the MP and MSP for the area and to the Scottish Government in an attempt to get some action. The report makes several proposals on how to take matters forward. The Chairman said a letter has been sent to South Lanarkshire Council but no reply has yet been received. Dr Porter said he has looked at the South Lanarkshire Development Plan but there is very little in relation to Cambuslang. Ms Findlay said the road system on Main Street is far from user-friendly.

Cllr Tullett said the report was really good and highlighted a lot of issues which need to be addressed. South Lanarkshire Council are hoping to get funding through SPT to do a proper parking study for Cambuslang. The proposal seeking funding for the parking study had gone before SPT on 10th February and is expected to be ratified at a meeting in mid March. He agreed that the 30 minute limit needs to be reviewed. More generally, the report gives a good basis for trying to do something new in difficult times, highlighted by issues such as the closure of the three bank branches and uncertainty about the Job Centre. Any forthcoming discussions need to be multi-agency.

Air Quality

Dr Porter said this arose from information received by the "Reformer" from a report by Friends of the Earth, showing that air quality in Cambuslang was among the worst in Scotland. The monitoring was carried out outside the former Royal Bank of Scotland building. If air pollution is above a certain level, it is breaching regulations. What is of concern is the possible trend in this regard and how serious a threat to health this could pose as traffic pollution can adversely affect people with conditions such as asthma or COPD. Exposure to pollutants from traffic and other sources can undermine health over the long term. The community should be kept informed and steps taken to improve education concerning such matters.

The Chairman said that if Rutherglen is an Air Quality Management Zone, then Cambuslang should be too. Dr Porter said this is the first year figures have been available for Cambuslang.

Any Other Business

The Chairman said the recent announcements from Clydesdale Bank and TSB mean that within the next few months all bank branches in Cambuslang will have closed. Banks just seem to want everyone to switch to technology to carry out their banking needs. Dr Porter said he had gone on to the TSB website which talked about the changing pattern of banking. Banks should consult widely within the community, but Cambuslang Community Council was not involved in any consultations prior to the announcements of closures.

Cllr Tullett said this would be his last Meeting as a councillor and he wished to express his thanks to all on the Community Council for their efforts during his time of attendance as a local elected representative. He has found the Meetings interesting and enjoyable.

Mr MacDonald thanked him for being the only elected representative who regularly attended Meetings.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tullett for his work and updates on a wide variety of issues which had been raised during his period of service on South Lanarkshire Council.

The Secretary added his thanks to Cllr Tullett for the work he had done for Cambuslang during his time as a South Lanarkshire Councillor and wished Cllr Tullett every success for the future.

Closure of Meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the Meeting, thanking all present for their attendance. The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st March 2017 in Cambuslang Institute, Greenlees Road, Cambuslang at 7.30 pm.

APPENDIX ONE**Police Report Given to Cambuslang Community Council on 21st February 2017**

PC Edwards said new penalties for use of mobile phones while driving will come into force on 1st March. These will increase from 3 points and a £100 fine to 6 points and a £200 fine. While there is discretion which can be applied regarding these penalties, in practice, this is rarely, if ever, used. Drivers with provisional licences and drivers who have held a licence for less than two years can only have six points on their licence before a ban would apply.

There have been some recent thefts from cars. In some cases it seems as if people are leaving cars unlocked. PC Edwards emphasised the importance of ensuring cars are locked, and also the importance of ensuring house doors are locked even if someone is in the house. It is not unheard of for someone to go round the doors on the pretext of delivering literature but trying the doors as they go. If anyone is seen acting suspiciously, the police should be contacted. Legitimate people delivering literature will not object if police speak to them. If the public do not report their suspicions, the police will not know if something like this is happening.

There are still some instances of cars being stolen to order. This can be high value cars such as Range Rovers or BMWs.

Keys should not be left in sight of a door. It is a simple matter for a fishing rod with a magnet to be put through a letterbox in order to attach to the keys.

PC Edwards said Sgt Lee had mentioned the ongoing drugs initiative. An individual has been charged in relation to £500 of heroin, a Class A drug. This was discovered as a result of dealing with a road traffic offence.