

CAMBUSLANG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Tuesday 18th March 2014

Venue: Cambuslang St Andrews Church Hall

Present

H B Allan Secretary & Acting Chairman
I Frame Treasurer
D Thomson
B H Hartel
J Bachtler
R Rooney
T Stringfellow
J Taylor

In Attendance

PC L Robertson (P.S. Scotland)
PC M Belton (P.S. Scotland)
W Pringle
H Pringle
D Hamilton
J Brady
P Sands
K Smith (“Reformer”)
E A Allan (Minute Secretary)

Welcome

The Acting Chairman opened the Meeting, welcoming Members, Police Representatives and others attending.

Apologies

I McKenzie, E Wallace, S Smith, M Gurling, H Allison, R Allison, N Berry, Cllr W Brogan, Cllr P Clearie, Cllr R Clearie, Cllr C Deanie, Cllr C McColl, Cllr R Tullett, Sgt G McLaughlin (PS Scotland), T Greatrex, MP, J Kelly, MSP

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Meeting of 18th February were read.

Corrections

Mr Bachtler said that at the last Meeting, the idea of the Community Council setting up a website had been raised.

The Minute Secretary said that Mr Rooney had asked if the matter could be raised, in his absence, of the condition of the slabs on Main Street. This had been raised but accidentally omitted from the Minutes.

Matters Arising

Slabs on Main Street – The Minute Secretary said an email had been received from Cllr Tullett saying he has asked Council officers to examine the state of the pavement in Main Street and he is hoping to meet up with an officer to do a walkabout on this issue.

Website – The Minute Secretary said the Chairman had forwarded an email received on this matter. The cost of setting up a website would be £400. This would include a complete website and training in keeping it up to date. The Chairman recommended that this go ahead. Mr Frame asked if there were any links at present on the South Lanarkshire Council website. Nowadays people use websites regularly.

Bike Project – Mr Bachtler will provide an update on this.

Cambus Court – Mr Hartel will provide an update on this.

The Minutes were approved by Mr Taylor and seconded by Mr Hartel.

Police Report

See Appendix 1.

Questions to Police Representatives

The Acting Chairman thanked the Police representatives for their report and opened the Meeting to questions. Mrs Pringle identified herself as a Hawthorn Walk resident and said she was concerned about the issue of cars being parked completely on the pavement at the bottom of Hawthorn Walk on both sides of the road. She said some cars are left there all day. Staff and parents of the Three Bears Nursery are the main culprits. PC Robertson said a general guideline was that if a car was parked on a pavement there should still be room to allow a buggy to pass without any difficulty. The police will monitor this area.

Mr Taylor asked if it is legal to park a car on a pavement, either fully or partly. PC Robertson said there has to be some common sense applied in such a situation.

The Minute Secretary said that the Chairman had asked if it could be raised at the meeting, although he was unable to attend, that there appeared to have recently been an accident at the Brownside Road/Langlea Road junction where a traffic pole appeared to have been knocked over. Mr Brady, who said he is a lollipop man in this area, agreed that this had happened and said there have also been a number of near misses. He said speeds in this area are an issue.

There being no further questions to the Police representatives, the Acting 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 notification had been received of a planning application for 25A Central Avenue (the former Cambus Court)

The Secretary said there have been no recent updates in connection with the proposed Sainsbury development.

Treasurer's Report

February balance	£1,988.68
Balance today	£1,947.88

Payment has been made for the annual let of the hall. This is for £300.

The Treasurer advised there is still a small balance of £144.44 remaining in the Morriston Park Fund. This has been static for some months now.

Bike Project

Mr Bachtler circulated a report of recent developments. He has spoken to the Chair of the South Lanarkshire Council Cycling Partnership, Cllr Simpson, and may have a meeting with other councillors.

Free cycle check-ups are being organised from April onwards in different parts of the Rutherglen and Cambuslang area, on Saturdays between 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. These could take place in different locations.

Any Other Business

Mr Rooney said that a matter arose on Main Street a few weeks ago which he had thought was bound to happen at some time – that a bus broke down outside what used to be the Clydesdale Bank premises and blocked the whole road. Police had to come out and get the traffic organised. The lights had to be switched off, and traffic backed up to enable it to get round onto the other side of the street. He said this was a problem that was bound to happen sometime when you have only one lane on that side of the street and a bus occupies the full width of that lane. This matter needs to be raised with the Roads Department.

Mr Rooney said that the situation at Kyle Court with regard to cigarette butts is again disgraceful. He said he raises this issue time and time again. The police do not have any powers to deal with this problem. Mr Frame said it was difficult to know what more could be done to encourage people to use bins or sand boxes provided.

Mr Thomson said he had seen an article in the "Reformer" a couple of weeks ago concerning the area behind the County Inn. This area, where the old school hall was before it burned down, has now been fenced off for demolition.

The Minute Secretary said to Mr Taylor that the Chairman was keen to have a representative from VASLAN attend a Meeting and give details of the organisation's activities.

The Minute Secretary introduced Mrs Sands to the Meeting. She had attended at the invitation of the Chairman. She is setting up a charity in memory of her late son with the intention to raise funds to help with organ research. Mrs Sands gave the Meeting a brief outline of this.

Cambus Court – Mr Hartel said that since the listed building has now been lost, the developers are now working with a blank canvas. The current proposal is for three storey blocks of flats, comprising a total of 20 flats. Nothing much in principle has really changed from other proposals for that site which have been put forward over the years. The application has been lodged and plans can be downloaded from the South Lanarkshire Council website.

The previous development proposal has now been withdrawn and replaced with the new one. When the previous development was proposed, there were a serious number of objections. This area is a conservation area. Nothing should be built which detracts from the style of the area. Purpose built blocks of flats are an inappropriate development. The reason for this area being designated as a conservation area in the first place has to be borne in mind. It comprises mainly Victorian sandstone villas. There are still three listed buildings remaining.

Reasons for objections remain broadly the same as they were with regard to the last objection, i.e. density, mass, scale and height. The current average density of the area is 10 dwellings per hectare. On this site of 0.4 hectares, the density should be 4 dwellings, not 20.

Mr Stringfellow is worst affected by the proposals because his property would not only be overlooked but also looked down on. On the proposed north elevation there would be 70 windows and at least 35 of those would overlook his property.

Mr Bachtler said that he would draft a letter outlining the objections raised and circulate this draft to Members so that it could be approved and then objections could be submitted to South Lanarkshire Council. Mr Bachtler said there is a danger of such a development, if approved, setting a precedent.

Mr Stringfellow said that South Lanarkshire Council have previously said that they would not allow back-building behind existing properties, so he finds it strange that this size of development should be considered.

Mr Hartel said the residents realise that this is presently an unsightly site and requires to be redeveloped, but this should be done in such a way that is in keeping with the rest of the area. There would not be the same issue to be taken with a development of two or perhaps four dwelling houses, but three storey blocks of a total of 20 flats is totally out of proportion with the surrounding properties.

Closure of Meeting

There being no other business, the Acting Chairman closed the Meeting, reminding all present that the next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th April 2014 in St Andrews Church Hall, Main Street, Cambuslang at 7.30 pm.

APPENDIX ONE**Police Report Given to Cambuslang Community Council on 18th March 2014**

The police are still devoting resources with regard to the issues of housebreakings and bogus workers. Traditionally at this time of year the police anticipate a higher occurrence of bogus workers. In the last week there have been instances of this reported in Cambuslang.

Housebreakings are still at a high rate and a lot of them are geared towards high powered vehicles in driveways. People are asked to be vigilant with regards to keys and personal belongings. Two instances this week have been as a result of people leaving keys within sight of porch doors.

In the matter of youth disorder, there is likely to be an upturn as there is generally an increase in this over the summer months.

A traffic car has been deployed recently in the area of Main Street.