

**DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL 10/5/11**

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair) Janette Cochrane, Jane Clarke, Annette Fowler, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Mary McCabe, Helen McCarthy, Anne McKenna, Jenny Mulholland, Frank Plowright, Louise Williams, Wesley Wright (Council Members), Councillors Jennifer Dunn, Elaine McDougall and Ruth Simpson  
Police Community Liaisons Gary Aitken and Julie Walker  
Members of the public: Margaret Donarski, Elizabeth Shearer, Matty Sutton

Apologies: Lauren Amazeen, Jenny Boyd, Willie Bain MP

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

Before the business started Frank enquired whether the rule about Community Council members being considered to have resigned if they did not attend or provide apologies for a three month period applied to elected officials. Some have not attended or responded to notification of meetings since January. Stephen said this was not the case, but he would remind elected officials of the requirement.

1. POLICE REPORT: There have been 84 crimes reported in Dennistoun over the past month, of which 35 have been solved, investigation into the others is still ongoing. Finding witnesses for vandalism is a problem, but the police are connecting descriptions with people being searched for other matters. People should be vigilant about having number plates stolen as these are being used on cars stealing petrol from the filling stations on Alexandra Parade. Bogus callers are still an issue and should be reported to Crimestoppers on 512 3000, and people should never let anyone into their block without verifying who they are. The police are aware of drinking and abusive behaviour in the Necropolis, but those responsible apparently escape over the back wall when they see the police, and having someone waiting there is a resource issue. Julie Walker says that more complaints encourage action, and she's hoping new cycle equipment will be effective. Councillor Ruth Simpson said she'd contact Land and Environmental Services regarding the problems in the Necropolis. Operation Neptune has now concluded, but statistics aren't available as yet. The police make an almost daily report regarding licensed premises, and they are hopeful the underage drinking in the Masters Snooker Bar will be dealt with by changes in management. Crimes within pubs that have consequences on the street remain a problem as few involved are willing to talk with the police.
2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9/3/11: The meeting minutes from 12/4/11 were approved with a couple of minor corrections of names and dates. In future draft minutes will be clearly labelled as such.
3. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: a) Frank wrote a provisional article for East End Outlook, but forgot to circulate it to Stephen and Wesley for collaboration. He'll do so tomorrow (11/5). b) Louisa McDaid has said she will not charge for deaf transcription. Frank felt it would be taking advantage to suggest she attend every meeting just in case, and Stephen suggested she be invited along to the next meeting as a member of the public. c) Wesley thought Lauren had engaged with the photographic project mentioned at the previous meeting.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is now £3729.14 with £66.44 cash in hand.
5. CORRESPONDENCE: This item was unintentionally omitted.
6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS: Brian submitted a precis of applications to April 12<sup>th</sup>. He is hopeful that notification of more up to date applications will be provided in future.

Although the deadline for comments has passed, a majority vote of the Council agreed to support the concerns of Dennistoun Conservation Society regarding the plans for converting the former nursery on Circus Drive to a guest house. Stephen will write a letter. It was felt that at least three times the £80,000 budgeted would be required to bring the property up to standard, no provision was made for parking, and Dennistoun currently has enough guest houses. It is also part of the City Plan that should a business cease using a property it should return to residential use, and there was a conflict of interest in Glasgow City Council being both owner and granting planning permission. It was agreed as a matter of policy that any planning issues should come to the meeting for a decision.

The other applications were for extending a shop unit in Birkenshaw Street, and alterations to the Bristol Bar. Elaine McDougall mentioned that a new application had been made to transform the former Haddows shop on Alexandra Parade into a fast food business. The Community Council had previously made an objection. There is also a multiple occupancy application for premises on Craigilea Street. It's uncertain if this is a renewal or a new application. If the latter, it is the Community Council's default position to object.

7. LICENSING APPLICATIONS: None.

8. EAST CENTRE AREA COMMITTEE: Anne is now receiving notification of the Committee meetings, but deputy Ruth is still not. Kirsten Shearlaw is now responsible, and she will be reminded. There were no speakers at the last meeting, which dealt primarily with distributing grants. Impact Arts received a conditional grant to establish Art Zones in Dennistoun schools, but this subject to matched funding. St Denis' received a grant for a plasma TV and video equipment, Alexandra Park for the festival in July, and other grants went to the Milnbank Mother and Toddlers group, and the Scout Troop using Armadale St New Church hall. Calton area also contributes some funding, and there was an issue investigating whether an application from Reidvale Hall duplicates facilities already provided by Whitehill School.

There was a concern that there are too many applications from local authority departments attempting to recoup funding withdrawn from elsewhere, and local groups should be encouraged to apply. The next meeting will be on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

9. COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP: All local councillors present had been told that there has been no final decision about the community reference groups, and a review is ongoing. Some feel the Community Reference Groups are ill-attended, and talking shops with no real power. A suggested replacement is ten Community Focus Groups each consisting of 100 volunteers. Mike Thompson is to address a meeting on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> between 9am and noon, at which point more may be revealed. Stephen will attend and encouraged other Community Council members to come along as well. Future Glasgow will also be giving a presentation.

10. ELECTED MEMBERS: a) Jennifer Dunn has been told officials wrote to the Community Council regarding the failed application for Library illumination. They haven't. b) She had a meeting with Strathclyde Passenger transport last month. It is highly unlikely First Bus will be persuaded to run a bus service from Alexandra Parade to Parkhead Forge, and Fastlink ought to solve the problem of getting to STV and BBC buildings across the Clyde. c) There is a concern about medical services being transferred to Stobhill and the difficulty of reaching there via public transport. Elaine McDougall noted the new visitor transport scheme applies to appointments as well. d) It was suggested local NHS representative David McCreadie be invited to talk about health services in the area have been decimated. e) The Clean Dennistoun poster and leaflet campaign begins with a week of action on fly-tipping and dog fouling at the end of the month. The campaign is to be evaluated and may then be applied to other areas. f) The Alexandra Park Festival committee is looking for ideas. 3000 people attended last year. The Community Council is committed to participation and needs to submit an entry form by early July. g) Street bins are not being emptied

frequently enough, and refuse collections are not adhering to schedule. There is to be a return to collecting bulk refuse from back courts from July/August. h) Reidvale has applied for status as a recycling centre, and this will include cardboard recycling. i) Milnbank Housing have received a substantial grant from the Climate Challenge Fund and have circulated a consultation form. j) The camber on Duke Street is posing problems for drivers following the extreme weather conditions. Land and Environmental Services have been informed. k) Contracts are soon due to be allocated for housing from the Gallowgate to the railway track on Whitevale Street. There is agreement the aspect of the street needs to be improved, and the towers, one of which currently only has 30% occupancy, are due for demolition. The bridge is also to be tidied.

11. ACTION PLAN: a) It was noted that members receiving printed copies of papers hadn't enough time to comment on this, so the deadline has for comments has been extended to early June, with an amended draft to be circulated for discussion incorporating comments. b) Helen pointed out the grant we receive is discretionary, not of right as assumed in the plan. c) The possibility of a reduced agenda for June to enable matters to be fully discussed was suggested.

At this point Anne, Helen and Jenny left the meeting.

d) A suggestion to add the idea of holding monthly meetings in alternating venues to the plan was divisive, but can be discussed along with other matters next month. Ruth suggested we have a pop-up banner that can be displayed in other venues promoting meetings. e) Elaine suggested the Community Council should fill the vacant places. It was pointed out the only places vacant are for co-opted members linked to other organisations.

12. A.O.B: a) Janette noted that she needs printed copies of approved minutes for wider circulation. b) Ruth has funding for an oral history project, and would like to promote this along with DCC at the Alexandra Park Festival in July. c) Frank noted he was willing to deliver papers to everyone requiring printed copies, and was surprised that some Council members were insisting all papers be posted. As Frank's delivery would save Admin funds he felt could be better used elsewhere he wanted to know the reason people objected to his delivering papers. If still present, no-one who objected offered any comment. Frank was told admin funds are there for such purposes, that it was unreasonable to put people on the spot over this matter, and that he should respect the wishes of others. d) Wes noted that Dennistoun Diggers were were holding a craft fair in Dennistoun New Church hall on Saturday. e) There will be 150 trees available to the community this autumn from the Woodland Trust, and interested parties should express an interest. f) Glasgow Housing Association has £1 million of funding for environmental issues throughout the city. g) Dennistoun Conservation Society is keen to promote The Big Lunch on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>, although as yet have no specific plans for the event. See [www.thebiglunch.com](http://www.thebiglunch.com) for further details. They also run monthly litter clean-ups on the first Saturday morning of every month.
13. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is at Whitehill School at 7pm on Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup>.