

**DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF A.G.M. HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL**  
**9/10/12**

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair), Lauren Amazeen, Janette Cochrane, Jane Clarke, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Mary McCabe, Helen McCarthy, Anne McKenna, Frank Plowright, Louise Williams, Wesley Wright (Council Members), Naila Akram, John Bone, Vicky Melvin (new Council members), Councillors Frank Docherty, Yvonne Küçük, and Alison Thewliss, Stewart Burns

Apologies: Jenny Mulholland, Councillor Russell Robertson, Andrew Law from Strathclyde police

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes from the 2011 A.G.M. were already approved in November 2011 and there are no matters arising.
2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Provided in writing and appended.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT: The accounts have been calculated to 9/10/12 and show a balance of £2412.42 with no cash in hand. Beyond our annual grant there has been £400 provided for specific items from the East Area Committee, a £200 donation to the Big Lunch from Edzel, and 96p interest. Expenditure has been £1564.16, primarily on the Big Lunch, and the 2011 Treasure Hunt. Stephen mentioned dipping into the reserves accumulated over the years as signifying greater action from the Community Council, and noted this has resulted in community assets for future use in the form of gazebos, plastic tables and chairs.
4. AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS. Apologies were given for the accounts not being audited as yet, and it was proposed by Councillor Kucuk that a suitable independent auditor would be John McKechnie from the Glasgow Regeneration Agency who is certified to audit accounts totalling up to £100,000.

This was the final act of the pre-election Community Council, and all office bearers were at this point considered to have stood down. Stewart Burns from the Glasgow Community Council Resource Centre then took over the meeting.

5. Stewart announced that there had been 15 applications for the 15 vacancies on the Community Council. Jenny Boyd, Janette Cochrane, Annette Fowler and Mary McCabe would be stepping down, and Naila Ackram, John Bone, Andrew Campbell and Vicky Melvin were duly elected as new members unopposed.
6. OFFICE BEARERS: Stephen Birrell was proposed as Chair by Helen McCarthy and seconded by Anne McKenna. Louise Williams was proposed as Vice-Chair by Stephen Birrell and seconded by Jane Clarke. Wesley Wright was proposed as Secretary by Brian Johnson and seconded by Ruth Johnson. Frank Plowright was proposed as Minute Secretary by Wesley Wright and seconded by Brian Johnson. Jane Clarke was proposed as treasurer by Helen McCarthy and seconded by Louise Williams. Brian Johnson was proposed as Planning consultant by Frank Plowright and seconded by Stephen Birrell. Anne McKenna was proposed as representative to the East Centre Area Committee by Ruth Johnson and seconded by Helen McCarthy, with Ruth Johnson proposed as substitute by Stephen Birrell and seconded by Frank Plowright. Stephen Birrell was proposed as representative to Community Reference Group by Brian Johnson and seconded by Anne McKenna. All were elected unopposed. The decision on a substitute delegate to the Community Reference Group was deferred.

There followed a brief discussion on the proposed closure of the Royal Mail Cubie Street sorting office and the impact on not just Dennistoun residents, but those of surrounding areas. It had been proposed by e-mail that a public meeting on the matter follow the A.G.M., but there hadn't been time enough to organise this. Councillor Jennifer Dunn has written to Royal Mail regarding the closure, and Frank Plowright contacted Royal Mail's Scottish Press officer Julie Pirone, who said that she couldn't provide anyone to attend a meeting with just a week's notice. Stephen Birrell commented that the reason for the recent rises in first and second class postage was to provide a more efficient service, but the closure of local sorting offices hardly indicated this was the case.

Yvonne Kucuk noted her background with Royal Mail, and her previous success in averting the closure of a Bridgeton Post Office. Contrary to the Evening Times article, the proposed move for Cubie Street was not to Cambuslang, but a facility in Carmyle that she noted as 20 minutes walk from the nearest bus stop.

Alison Thewliss had been a Cubie Street on Saturday morning to collect a package, and there were approximately 25 people queueing up.

Frank Docherty has written to Royal Mail's Chief Executive regarding the closure, but as yet there has been no response. He was certain the decision was not to be reversed as the unions are backing the move. The Cubie Street premises was formerly a telephone exchange, and as such not particularly fit for purpose. He noted that packages can be re-delivered to a local post office for a fee, but that this was still not acceptable for the ill and elderly, and that he would continue attempts to engage with the Chief Executive regarding closure.

Frank Plowright noted that two local postmen informed him the story about Carmyle was untrue as they had been informed quite a while ago about the move being to Cambuslang. He was of the opinion that while any campaign might not ultimately be successful, it would be worth doing on the basis that an effective protest diminishes the chances of a similar occurrence proportionately.

Councillor Elaine McDougall has already started a petition, and it was suggested that this could be circulated to local shops, and it would be worth engaging people arriving to collect packages from Cubie Street.

It was agreed that any action required rapid co-ordination, and a working group should look towards having a public meeting next month. Wesley will notify Julie Pirone to permit plenty of time for Royal Mail's presence. Stephen Birrell, Frank Doherty, Yvonne Kucuk, Frank Plowright and Alison Thewliss will form the working group, and invitations will be extended to surrounding community councils also affected by the closure. There was some debate about the venue for a public meeting, with Helen noting people would be reluctant to visit otherwise suitable facilities around Crownpoint Road at night.