

DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL
11/12/12

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair), Naila Akram, Lauren Amazeen, Andrew Campbell, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Anne McKenna, Vicky Melvin, Jenny Mullholland, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright (Council Members)

Members of public: Claire Darlaston

Apologies: John Bones, Jane Clarke, Helen McCarthy, Councillors Jennifer Dunn & Elaine McDougall, MSPs John Mason and Humza Yusuf

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. **POLICE REPORT:** There were no police present, and no written report has been submitted. Stephen noted this as disappointing following his meeting at London Road in November.
2. **MINUTES OF A.G.M. HELD ON 9/10/12 and MEETING HELD ON 11/11/12:** The A.G.M. minutes were approved subject to some minor changes, all Councillors being titled as such, and including a precis of Stephen's Chairman's address rather than appending it to the minutes. Brian proposed and Lauren seconded. The November minutes were approved subject to minor changes with Ruth proposing and Lauren seconding.
3. **MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
 - a) SOSO Campaign – Stephen and Frank are the primary DCC involvement in a partnership involving Bridgeton & Dalmarnock and Calton community councils. There was a public meeting on November 17th that drew considerable support from elected members. They provided significant input to Royal Mail representatives, who it was felt had only attended to tick a box. They appeared deaf to community hardship caused by removing a service to pick up packages if out when they were delivered. A particularly pertinent point was the refusal to even consider engaging in talks with Clyde Gateway regarding alternative local facilities. Since the meeting Royal Mail have backtracked on their commitment to meet with elected officials, and a conference call will now take place. The Community Council were retroactively asked to approve a contribution of £30 to the cost of venue hire for the public meeting, and did so. The petition has attracted over 2000 signatures, and a deadline was set of Monday 17th for collecting petition forms. There was a proposal to send other community councils a letter warning them of possible sorting office closure in their area.
 - b) John Bones was not present, so there was no update on the Alexandra Parade playing area.
 - c) Mitch Miller's exhibition at the Market Gallery opened on Friday December 7th. Work on the Duke Street project is continuing. Stephen noted that at some future stage DCC may be asked to contribute to funding for the purchase of the work. Amount is as yet unknown, and vote will occur at the time.
 - d) Stephen mentioned being approached by Greer McCulloch from Market Gallery regarding a contribution to a stalled spaces temporary exhibit on the corner of Duke Street and Millerston Street. A grant has been awarded from the East Centre Area committee, but there were concerns about the safety of the area, uncertainty regarding it falling within the DCC boundary, and a feeling that as an associate member Greer should provide a more concrete proposal, ideally in person, but failing that in writing. It was clarified that Greer knew about tonight's meeting, but that she's not on the DCC mailing list.
 - d) Naila is to take the lead on organising a social event for current DCC members and those who've recently resigned. A budget of £20 per head was approved, and a date in late January suggested.
 - e) It was suggested that all members take a look at the new Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils paperwork as there are

elements that significantly alter methods of operation. These include a declaration of interests list, powers to suspend Community Councillors, and the with-holding of the annual grant if a community council has more than double the amount of that grant remaining at the end of the financial year. It was noted that the language used in the documentation was very much local authority oriented, and required simplification, and the focus was very much on regulation rather than support. A working group consisting of Naila, Stephen, Wesley and Frank will meet before the next DCC meeting to provide a recommended response. The deadline is January 8th. f) Wesley circulated a list of proposed meetings for next year, noting his preference for meetings every month to ensure momentum.

4. **ACTION PLAN:** a) Brian, Lauren, Ruth and Stephen presented a revised action plan split into seven categories, a draft document open to additions and amendment. Among comments offered were that it was an ambitious timetable for a single year, that an improvement might be adding the names of community councillors willing to take a lead on certain items, and to offer an alternative prioritised version. It was suggested that one alphabetical section be discussed at each community council meeting in rotation, but this system would prevent prioritising. Regular additional action plan meetings between regular DCC meetings could provide a more focussed approach with a brief verbal update at each regular meeting, as could topic-based tasked sub-committees. Anne McKenna mentioned her surprise at the increasing amount of paperwork we were now generating, and some community councillors considered the Action Plan very difficult to understand. It became clear no consensus would be reached after a long discussion, so Naila, Lauren, Stephen, Brian, Ruth and Frank volunteered to meet before the next regular DCC meeting regarding the action plan, taking all comments on board.
5. **MEETING FORMAT:** Frank circulated a briefing document concerning dissatisfaction with the format of monthly meetings, considering too much time was occupied listening to material that raised no discussion and could be presented in written form. He specified the police reports and updates from Councillors. As a consequence there was little opportunity for public input, and Frank further felt, that while always acting in the best interests of Dennistoun's community, there was scant consultation with the community. In response to some community councillors having been annoyed by the briefing he apologised for unintended offence. Several members agreed some material could be provided in written form, and it was mentioned as procedure at other meetings they attended. Wesley suggested that the member of the public present may wish to comment on community consultation, but as chair Stephen preferred to restrict the discussion to community councillors. He disagreed about the lack of community consultation, citing notice of meetings on public noticeboards and an afternoon spent at the Alexandra Park Festival in the summer soliciting opinions. He considered Frank's briefing arrogant and believed the topic should have been raised as part of the action plan. When asked, Frank suggested monthly surgeries as a possibility for improved communication. As time was running out it was suggested we return to the topic in January with proposals about the meeting format if desirable it be modified.
6. There was no further time for official business, so no other agenda items were discussed. After the meeting, Brian noted there were no planning applications of concern.

NEXT MEETING: At Whitehill School 7pm Tuesday January 8th. Please notify Wesley if unable to attend.