

DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL 13/3/12

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair), Lauren Amazeen, Jenny Boyd, Annette Fowler, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Helen McCarthy, Anne McKenna, Jenny Mulholland, Frank Plowright, Louise Williams, Wesley Wright (Council Members)
(representing associate members)
Councillors Jennifer Dunn, Elaine McDougall
Police Community Liaisons PC Jim Kydd & Sharon McPeake

Apologies: Jane Clarke, Janette Cochrane, Mary McCabe, Sarah Welford, Councillors Frank Docherty, Alison Thewliss, MSP Drew Smith.

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

1. POLICE REPORT: a) In response to requests that crime figures provided correlate with the area covered by Dennistoun Community Council they were broken down into three areas covering February 14th to March 13th. In Reidvale 13 of 20 reported crimes had been detected, but the most serious was the abduction, assault and robbery in Bathgate Street. Police have descriptions of those involved and enquiries continue. In response to a query from Annette, they noted the continued presence of a police unit in the street was intended to reassure the public rather than any indication they expected further incidents. b) In Haghill 21 of 50 reported crimes had been detected including 5 of 8 reported assaults. Other serious incidents included break-ins (8 in cars and 4 in houses) and thefts. c) In North Dennistoun there have been 23 detections of 85 reported crimes. Only 1 of 13 incidents of vandalism to cars has been closed, and there have been 8 assaults, a figure including domestic incidents, of which 3 have been detected, and only 1 of 10 incidents of house break-ins has been detected, although this figure may be higher as these are automatically the purview of C.I.D. The remainder of the crimes are primarily for incidents such as disorderly behaviour and road traffic incidents.
2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14/2/12: Pending a few corrections the minutes were approved via Brian Johnston proposing and Jenny Mulholland seconding.
3. MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: a) As per the last two months Stephen has still not been able to arrange a meeting with Milnbank and Reidvale Housing and intends to follow up before the next meeting. b) Prior to the meeting a working group met to discuss the Big Lunch proposal following the community clean-up on June 2nd. It's intended that there are regular follow-up meetings. Stephen reported that £400 of an applied for £800 had been granted by the East Area Committee. It was reiterated that some items required could be sourced rather than purchased. c) There was much discussion regarding response to the consultation on extending of licensing hours to permit pubs to open at 11am on Sunday, with views pro and con. Two respondents on Dennistoun Forum had seen no reason to object, but it was noted that this was not a number of replies significant enough to represent the views of the community as a whole. A vote was agreeing we should respond, and a further vote agreed by 6 to 5 to object to the licensing hours being extended. d) Helen detailed the ludicrous duplication of resources in the new bulk uplift system with regard to her property with collectors only picking up listed items on the basis that their load was determined by weight, then returning the following week for items already collected. This is apparently also connected with legal action taken with regard to removal of a pram from a back court. Both Elaine McDougall and Jennifer Dunn agreed to follow up on this and associated problems. This is largely restricted to the drives as the housing associations have their own systems in place. Clare Darlastan who initially raised the issue of bulk uplift as a problem has now contacted

the Council directly, but it was agreed Wesley would submit the solicited research to the appropriate department and ask for a response to matters raised in time for our next meeting. e) Some Community Council members are not receiving minutes and agenda through the post. Stephen volunteered to do this as Frank was happy to hand-deliver items, but didn't want to go through the nuisance of queuing for stamps and claiming back money as some Community Council members insisted he should. Frank re-iterated that he considered it extremely insulting to be viewed an unwelcome intruder by some members of the Community Council when hand-delivering. Stephen denied this was the case prior to Helen noting she considered Frank delivering minutes equivalent to a cold caller detailing the circumstances under which she considered Frank an unwelcome caller. It was decided the relevant people would discuss the procedure before the next meeting.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: a) Stephen has not yet passed all paperwork to new Treasurer Jane, and Jane has therefore still not completed the paperwork enabling her as Treasurer to be a signatory to the bank account. With regard to the previous month's proposal to increase the number of potential cheque signatories, Helen noted she believed that the bank restricted the number to three, but Frank does not think this is the case. b) Since last month £20 has been paid to W.A.S.P.S. For February venue hire, and £8 to cover the hire of Whitehill. c) Stephen has still not submitted accounts to the Community Council Resource Centre and has received two letters about this. He will photocopy receipts and send them off.
5. CORRESPONDENCE: a) Planning Applications. Brian reported that over the past month two applications, one for demolishing a kitchen at 23 Westercraigs and another for work to pave over a garden at 21 Broompark Drive. As this is in the conservation area an objection had been raised to a previous application, but an illustrated plan of the proposed alterations is not yet available online. Brian will follow up. Despite several objections permission has been granted to convert the former church on Alexandra Parade opposite W.A.S.P.S. into hotel accommodation. This comes with a stringent list of conditions attached to ensure any conversion is for a bona-fide hotel and consent being conditional on these being met. b) Licensing Applications. There have been none. c) The only correspondence has been via the website. Amanda McMillan from STV Local asked for comment regarding the Onslow Square development and was directed to the December minutes. One person commented how sad it was that the first topic of conversation from recent visitors was the dog fouling in the area, another had concerns about the bulk uplift, and another copied us into correspondence re dumping of rubbish to which they've had no response. All were informed about this meeting and directed to correspondence elsewhere. Parkhead Citizens Advice Bureau asked DCC to participate in their annual survey, Transport Scotland informed us of roadworks on the M8 by Glasgow Airport likely to cause considerable delay until the end of May, and someone asking about council housing was directed to the housing associations in the area.
6. EAST CENTRE AREA COMMITTEE: Anne McKenna was present at the March 7th meeting where there was a talk about health services focussing on housing. It was noted that Dennistoun's crime rate, up 18 points on last year, among Glasgow districts is second only to Riddrie, where figures are heavily skewed by including details from Barlinnie. St Denis' Primary school were awarded £540 for a flagpole, Golfhill £1000 for the annual trip to Lochgoilhead and Dennistoun Community Council £400 for the Big Lunch. Support for the Alexandra Park Summer Festival was given in principle, to be considered further at the first 2012/13 meeting. At this point Jennifer Dunn, Jenny Boyd and Jenny Mulholland left.
7. COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP: Stephen said community engagement training is available, and a meeting on March 31st to enable members to meet counterparts from other areas. He felt that there was still no clarity about the future, though, and the Community Reference Group might be under-supported and undervalued.

8. CRIME PREVENTION PANEL: Louise noted there is a grant for posters about cold calling, partially funded by Glasgow Housing Association. Frank Whitaker hasn't yet called Stephen about this. The bike marking scheme will now occur at Whitehill School. Smithycroft, St Mungo's and Whitehill pupils will all serve on the Youth Crime Prevention panel. Legislation regarding purchase of scrap metal will come into force in April, outlawing cash payments. Manhole thefts have become a problem, and break-ins to new housing in Carntyne are re-occurring as soon as the previous metal thefts have been made good. Elaine McDougall contacted GHA about regarding a security system security than drive-bys, which she considers insufficient.
9. ELECTED MEMBERS: Elaine McDougal reported that contrary to reports in tonight's Evening Times, local Citizens Advice centres now know their budget for 2012-13, and the need for non-disclosure has been removed. b) The Scottish government has altered the system of diesel subsidies to bus companies. It will now be calculated on a mileage basis, in effect prioritising rural services at the expense of city services. Elaine predicted cuts of 20% to Glasgow's buses, the largest service cut in 40 years. c) Community Safety Services totted up 1422 removals of graffiti in the area over the past year along with 87 clean-up events involving 1750 volunteer hours. d) 7 fixed penalty notices were issued for dog fouling at the last initiative. It's now possible to phone a hotline if someone is seen letting their dog foul the streets if that person is known to the caller, and this will result in a fine. Concerns were raised about possible abuse of this system. e) Whitehill School's Home Economics department provided an excellent Burns themed lunch in February, after which Milnbank Housing donated a set of culinary knives in thanks. Whitehill are entered into a competition to cook for the Queen as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. At this point Annette Fowler, Helen McCarthy and Anne McKenna left.
10. DENISTOUN TREASURE HUNT: It was agreed that the Dennistoun Treasure Hunt for primary school children should continue despite fewer participants last year. Both Frank and Wesley are willing to continue the admin. Wesley suggested a theme to prevent repetition of pirate designs. Frank noted the wider topic of funding, believing the event should not draw on Community Council funds. Should the Community Council approach local shop keepers or organisations for funding on an individual basis or as part of a holistic programme?. It was decided that the minimal costs of this event could be funded by individual grants, with the Scottish Community Foundation and the Area Committee suggested as possibilities. Frank will put together a funding proposal for one of them by the next meeting.
11. A.O.B. a) Stephen suggested we should have a policy regarding communication to avoid possible conflict issues. A spokesperson might be the solution. b) Frank mentioned the constitutional directive to supply draft minutes, and his concern that these then become official documents subject to FOI. He's been corresponding with Ian Law at the Community Council Resource Centre about this, and this was seemingly an issue that hadn't been considered when compiling the constitutions. Ian Law told Frank on the phone that the constitutions would change, and submitting draft minutes would not form a part of any revised Community Council constitution.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be at Whitehill School at 7pm on Tuesday May 8th. Please note that there will be no official meeting in April as the School is closed, but there will be a meeting of the Big Lunch working group at a venue to be decided.