



Dennistoun Community Council

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DENNISTOUN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD AT WHITEHILL SCHOOL 12/11/13

Present: Stephen Birrell (chair), Lauren Amazeen, John Bones, Andrew Campbell, Brian Johnston, Ruth Johnston, Anne McKenna, Vicky Melvin, Frank Plowright, Wesley Wright (Council Members) Councillor Frank Docherty
Bernard Elliott, Joe Scott from Milnbank Housing, PC Julie Orr

Apologies: Jane Clarke, MSPs Paul Martin, John Mason and Humza Yousaf, Councillors Jennifer Dunn and Alison Thewliss, and Barbara Fernside.

Minutes provided by Frank Plowright

- POLICE REPORT:** a) A map detailing Dennistoun police beats was supplied in a format too large to circulate, and the information provided didn't match the Community Council area. b) Dennistoun crime figures show a seasonal rise in break-ins, but police have been relatively successful in apprehending perpetrators, including those responsible for school break-ins. There was no information about a break-in at Seton Terrace nursery. Fires in the area have increased, although this is expected leading up to bonfire night. The most serious was at the flats on the corner of Roslea Drive and Hillfoot Street. Traffic offences continue to be successfully targeted along Alexandra Parade. c) Ruth reported incidents in the Necropolis collated by staff in September and October and passed to the police. They included filming of simulated sex, vandalism, shooting up and Milnbank Housing Association gardeners dumping grass cuttings. d) No information about investigating drinking and anti-social behaviour at the football pitch in Alexandra Park as reported by Bernard Elliott. This was again noted for a response, although Mr Elliott reported incidents have diminished with colder weather. This was also passed to Community Safety Services for the trimming of overgrown foliage, but they instead attended a disused football pitch at the BP petrol station on Alexandra Parade. All the information from September's walkabout has been fed to Community Safety Services for action. e) Councillor Docherty praised a successful police operation in Cranhill with knock-on effects throughout the area.
- PUBLIC INPUT:** Bernard Elliott's concerns detailed above, and he noted that the water has now been drained from the fountain in Alexandra Park.
- MINUTES OF A.G. M HELD ON 10/9/13:** Pending some spelling corrections, and the addition of Lauren to those who submitted apologies, the minutes were proposed as accurate by Wesley and seconded by Brian.
- MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 10/9/13:** Pending the alterations noted for the A.G.M. and a minor piece of re-phrasing, the minutes were proposed as accurate by Ruth and seconded by Anne.
- MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:** a) City Park Trees & Finlay Drive The City Park overhang was reported and has been dealt with. The overgrown hedge in Finlay Drive

formed part of the walkabout report passed to Barbara Fearnside for action. It was suggested that in future we have a table on our website noting raised concerns and when they've been dealt with. Wesley considered this feasible.

b) Advance notice of tree-cutting. Land Services again refused a request to provide advance notice of trees due for removal in Dennistoun. Councillor Docherty had been discussing tree removal at Wellpark for a considerable period and was surprised to hear Frank was told by Land Services there was no paperwork regarding the removal of the trees. The feeling among most community council members was this had been taken far enough, and would be re-visited if further widescale removal of trees occurs. In response to a recurring question with a consistent answer Frank stated for future reference that anything he discussed at Community Council meetings was on behalf of the community or a matter he felt should be brought to the Community Council's attention.

c) Potholes. Frank was contacted by Land Services and told their ability to deal with potholes was prioritised and limited by resources, which is why potholes reported in April remain. Repairs to a section of Duke Street are being held-up by a significant pothole outside Tennents. This area is used 24 hours a day, so Land Services are reluctant to proceed before consulting with Tennents, and their contact hasn't responded to several messages left over a period of months. When asked how he considered they should proceed in these circumstances Frank believed the greater population shouldn't be inconvenienced and work should go ahead. Councillor Docherty noted he has been in discussion with Tennents over other matters and he guaranteed that Duke St repairs will go ahead.

d) Christmas Cards. Stephen hasn't circulated the revised design solicited from Stuary Murray in 2011 and suggested we use Dennistoun Conservation Society cards again this year. We send out around 20 cards.

e) Licensing consultation. Stephen hadn't circulated a draft response, but has responded in work capacity, recommending closer liaison with Community Councils. Frank noted the deadline has been extended on the Glasgow Council website to December 13th*. Councillor Docherty considered the completed report as the most comprehensive ever carried out on the topic in Scotland and underlined the importance of responding to the suggestion of extended pub opening hours during the Commonwealth Games, which he considered will be hotly debated.

f) After dark Dennistoun walk. Stephen felt this was better discussed in conjunction with the Duke Street audit.

g) Poster Circulation/Meeting Venue. It was suggested that rather than having to alternate between premises DCC could hire the Gingerbread Hall on Armadale St throughout the year. If approved by the Gingerbread committee, the £30 fee would fund a summer events programme. Whitehill is cheaper, but hiring Haghill to date has also been £30. John will liaise with Gingerbread and members were asked to weigh pros and cons for a decision next month.

h) Dog Fouling report. Stephen reported that Barbara Fearnside at Community Safety had been unable to produce the report on the summer's dog fouling initiative in Dennistoun in time for the meeting. He will circulate via e-mail and noted changes coming to Community Safety will provide an opportunity for the Community Council to engage. This could be at a public meeting early next year along with other services promoting the positive aspects of their engagement. Councillor Docherty mentioned a project started in Haghill enforcing littering and dog fouling regulations. There was some surprise that this hadn't been mentioned to the Community Council beforehand and we'll write noting no information was passed to us.

i) Community Council Liaison Group. Recent friction and resignations have left the group below quorate, and a request has been sent for input from other Community Councils. It's hoped there will be new members at the December 7th meeting.

j) Protection From Eviction Bill There was no enthusiasm for taking this on to provide a draft response.

6. **ACTION PLAN:** a) Day Out In Dennistoun. Andy reported that the next stage is to engage with schools, and requested contacts if we have them. b) Duke Street. No briefing has yet been prepared, but the working group met in October, deciding to present early in the

new year. There should be discussion about the balance of shops, and painting shutters with both children and established artists suggested. A sampling of shopkeepers on Duke Street are to be consulted, and funding is available to engage in workshops.

7. **PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DCC MEMBERSHIP:** a) Our plan to increase membership to 17 overall has been approved, and we should actively spread the word with applications from Haghill, Wellpark and Reidvale desirable as they're under-represented on the Community Council. b) The new scheme of establishment for community councils has been approved with the more controversial aspects of the draft version removed. This should be circulated by the December meeting.
8. **FINANCE:** a) Jane was unable to attend but e-mailed, noting our current bank balance as £1588.64 and £194.20 petty cash. The only payment since last month has been venue hire of £10.60. b) Councillor Docherty was surprised that we had chosen a new bank account outside the local area. It was explained that Jane had ascertained none within the area provided the account we required, and the Co-Op account enabled banking via the local post offices. However, in light of the recent changes at Co-Op bank it was agreed the signatories would discuss the situation and report back to the next meeting. c) Frank was surprised to learn at the AGM that our annual admin grant had been withheld due to our accounts for 2011-2012 still not being approved. Stephen knows of no specific problem, but will check correspondence from Lee Handlin and report back to the December meeting.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** a) Planning. There have been no contentious planning applications over the past month, and an application for a box sign display at Lidl enables a query regarding lack of applications for similar signs. Brian noted the plan for a glass structure with stone cladding in the grounds of the former nursery on Circus Drive as very interesting and Tennents plan to open a Williams microbrewery with restaurant, off licence and bar in an existing structure on Drygate. A planned roof garden seating area has been withdrawn due to the building not being structured to support it. We objected to the construction of a new block of flats in an existing air space on Aberfeldy Street, but this has been approved with the proviso that the new structure is not white. b) Licensing As per policy, Wesley has written letters of objection to applications for two new HMOs at 13 Armadale St and 49 Roslea Drive. c) Correspondence i) The Church of Everlasting Arms wrote regarding establishing a food bank to be dispensed on the first Saturday of every month. Donations can be handed in between 10am and 2pm on Sunday and 7.30-9pm on Wednesday. ii) The Good Morning Service sent a leaflet about a free telephone alert and befriending service. Established since 2000 and recognised by the Scottish Parliament, they can be contacted on 0141 336 7766 or 0333 101 0036, which is a local rate number. iii) George Square will be closed on November 14th for the switching on of Christmas lights. iv) Glasgow Housing Association' Community Housing Plan Forum have sent a questionnaire, but Dennistoun is not mentioned among the areas listed.
10. **REPORTS:** East Area Partnership There has been no meeting since our last meeting.
11. **ELECTED MEMBERS:** a) Councillor Docherty has been in prolonged discussions with Tennents, and the new microbrewery is one of the matters agreed. Tennents are agreeable to wider projects in the local community, possibly instituting an annual Christmas tree in the Wellpark area as a welcome to Dennistoun. b) The introduction of a wrestling club has been a great success, as the wheelchair rugby on the all-weather pitch. Even greater participation is encouraged, and it's hoped the continuing success of the Dennistoun Amateurs football club will result in more spectators on Saturdays. c) Private sponsors who wish to remain anonymous have been arranged for St Anne's Chapel Community Day

and for the meal being held to raise money towards the cost of sending Whitehill pupils to Malawi in October 2014. Whitehill also plan to invite local residents to an open day during which pupils will handle the catering. d) Councillor Docherty now heads Glasgow Council's petitions committee and is actively soliciting petitions. Leaflets on procedure are available from the library or in downloadable format. e) There has been a change of policy regarding the property at 2 Westercraigs, which will now not be leased as this will ultimately cost the council extra money. f) Regarding wider council business, Councillor Docherty stated there was no truth to widely circulated rumours that there were plans to raise the plinth of the Duke of Wellington statue outside GOMA to prevent cones being placed on the head, and the 2014 MTV Awards will be in Glasgow. It's hoped this will be a regular venue.

12. **A.O.B:** BUPA care homes are willing to contribute towards short-term community allotments in the grounds at 20-22 Circus Drive.

NEXT MEETING: At 7pm Tuesday December 10th at Whitehill School. Please notify Wesley if unable to attend.

* The following day Stephen pointed out that Frank had confused this consultation with another and the closing date had been October 31st.