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Minutes of the Dennistoun Community Council Ordinary Meeting

held on Tuesday 11th November 2025, from 7:00pm
at St Andrews East Church Hall, 685 Alexandra Parade, G31 3LN.

Cllrs Present Frank Plowright (FP) [Chair]; Tom Dickson (TD); Wesley Wright (WW); Robert Dawson Scott (RDS *minute taker*); Elaine Weir (EW), Callum McLennan (CMcL)

Others Present: GCC Cllrs Anthony Carroll (ACarr), Alan Casey (ACas), 2x Police officers, Bill Stark, SWP (BS), 10 x members of the public

ACTION

1 Welcome / Introductions / Attendance / Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Brian Johnston (BJ); Ruth Johnston (RJ), David McDonald (DMcD); Valerie Tough (VT), Cliff Shearer, John Mason MSP (JM), Elaine McDougall, MSP (EM)

2 Approval of Minutes

October 2025 Ordinary Meeting minutes proposed by WW, seconded by VT.

Although the AGM had also taken place at the October meeting, normal procedure was for AGM minutes to be approved at the 2026 AGM.

4 Police Update (this was taken out of sequence to allow officers to leave early)

Police notified council that a new Inspector, Lindsay Scott, had taken charge of Community Policing. Otherwise, apart from fireworks, football and youth disorder disturbances, there was nothing exceptional to report. The recent incident in Duke Street was described as a 'targeted attack'.

Cllr Casey asked about underage drinking. Police acknowledged that 'agent purchasing' was an ongoing issue esp in Alexandra Parade. Police urged public to use the online reporting tool [Online Reporting Form | Police Scotland](#) to report any incident or suspicion of such an incident to enable Police Scotland to build up a picture.

3 Matters Arising

- a. **Save Whitehill Pool:** BS reported that the Option Appraisals had been completed in October. A business plan around three of the original five options was due to be delivered by Nov 26th to the Capital Planning Board. Costs were estimated to be in the region of £40m which meant that the City itself would be unable to fund it independently. BS advised that the Capital Planning Board was only part of a chain of boards through which proposed capital expenditure passes at GCC. ACarr and ACas advised that the discretionary capital spending across the whole city in any given year was around £10m. BS said that he now understood more of the wider picture but

pointed out that no new swimming pool had been built in Glasgow in the 21st century.

- b. **FOI request:** The result of the FOI request to Glasgow Life about capital expenditure on leisure facilities in Dennistoun was as follows:

2017-18 £753,718

2023-24 £462,630

- c. **Alexandra Parade Pedestrian Crossing:** Chair advised that GCC Monitoring Officer had confirmed that Cllr Casey's refusal to challenge council official's professional expertise was in line with GCC Councillors' Code of Practice. Cllr Casey shared the Monitoring Officer's response: "Having considered matters fully, I am of the view that this is a technical, operational matter for council officers with the required qualification, skills and experience to make an informed professional judgement. Respectfully, it would not be appropriate for you as an elected member to question or challenge that professional judgement. To do so, could, in my view as the Council's Monitoring Officer, leave you open to an accusation that you have breached the Councillors Code of Conduct in relation to both the protocol between Councillors and Elected Members and the principles around duty and respect."

WW argued that the problem with the relevant officials' report was not its professional expertise but that it relied on factually incorrect information and measurements. It was agreed that the issue should be escalated to senior management within the Roads dept rather than through Councillors.

- d. **Community councils:** Chair reported on City wide meeting of Community Councils which he had promoted. 13 Community Councils were represented and several more sent Apologies.

One immediate positive was some councils being able to advise others on possible solutions to their problems.

It was suggested the Community Councils should ask for a Code of Practice to be adopted by Glasgow Council when dealing with Community Councils. The most frequent problem highlighted was lack of or poor communication from council officials and a general box-ticking attitude to Community Councils. Some Community Councils were better served by elected officials. It was pointed out that sometimes, whether Community Councillors like it or not, the answer is going to be "no".

Area partnerships were mentioned several times, with a feeling that the minutes prepared by GCC staff are not fit for purpose and sometimes plain wrong, and that there is a general lack of transparency. Some Community Councils also feel vested interests are accorded too much weight on Area Partnerships.

It was felt the new staff in the Community Council Liaison Office were learning on the job and can give wrong advice.

Other problems raised were abandoned cars not being moved; dumping; housing associations speaking for the community; NIIF funding projects being led from the top down rather than the bottom up; recycling bins not being supplied and the drains maintenance programme.

Everyone present felt meeting was a good idea and the process should continue. Another meeting has been scheduled for February 2026.

e. **Minute Taker:** Given the difficulty of finding a regular minute taker among Councillors, it was resolved to seek quotations for a professional minute taker.

5 Officers Reports

a. Chair/Vice-chair

Chair had received an invitation to meet with local MP Maureen Burke. Invitation extended to other members of council.

Chair pointed out that membership of council was falling following two resignations and the continued absence of the former Treasurer (see below).

Chair undertook to invite Eddie Scanlon to next meeting in the light of ongoing issues over bin collection.

b. Secretary

Passwords for social media, email etc had now been transferred.

c. Treasurer

Obtaining statements and changing signatories on accounts had been hampered by difficulties communicating with previous Treasurer (see above). It is now unlikely that the Council can deliver a fully audited set of accounts. However, progress is now being made and a reconstruction of accounts from statements, cheque subs etc will be available shortly. The Council's balance at bank is currently £3,164.90

d. Planning and Licensing

16th October – 8th November

The substantial development by Milnbank Housing Association of 50 new flats on the old Haghill Primary School site has been approved. There was disappointment about the provision of adequate car parking spaces.

16th October – 8th November

HMO 07626 2 Onslow Drive - Objection submitted Feb 2025

The above will be considered by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee at its public meeting to be held in The Burgh Court Hall, 40 John Street, Glasgow G1 1QZ on Wednesday **19th November 2025** at 9.30am.

New HMO 08158 - 2/1 5 Whitehill Gardens – Objection submitted

Planning Application 26/01992/FUL - 27 Onslow Drive
Use of dwelling house as HMO for up to 8 persons

Objection submitted to online planning portal as follows:

New HMO's I believe have to have a kitchen on the same level as all the living spaces. Rooms 3, 4, 5 & 6 do not have access to a kitchen on the same level.

Rooms 7 & 8 have neither toilet nor kitchen facilities on the same level - see above comment. To use toilet facilities they have no direct access from a hallway but have to approach via a kitchen where up to another 6 or 7 people could be preparing food. Room 8 is so small it does not have space for a chair for the occupant to sit once the room is furnished as indicated. Room 7 would only be suitable if a kitchen & toilet were inserted into room 8.

There is little social space for use by the 8 occupants who would potentially be spending almost all their time sat in one room as there is no living room which they can access.

Planning Application 25/02265/LBA – listed building application for a 'B' listed building
The former Eastern District Hospital

Conversion into flats with general repairs to all parts of the building by Loretto H/A
No comments required

Planning Application 25/02320/FUL 19 Onslow Square

Conversion to form 5no flatted dwellings, demolition of outbuilding, erection of extension to form additional dwelling and associated works. 1st December last date for comments. None submitted yet. This is second planning submission. Comments being considered.

Planning Application 25/02433/FUL 5-7 Westercraigs

Re-roofing, replacement leadwork and downpipes, stonework repairs and associated works. 28th November last date for comments. No comments required - all good.

e. Area Partnership

Nothing to report

6 Consultations

C

- a. **Necropolis Eastern Entrance:** The first of several planned local drop-in consultations had taken place at Dennistoun Library. Anecdotal evidence suggested the mood was positive. It was clear that GGC was promoting the scheme in terms of 'Access to Green Space' rather than as a short-cut.

WW said that if this was the case then the rest of neglected green space on Firpark should be brought within the scope of the scheme.

RDS said that national media had been alerted to the issue; the BBC had approached social media users for comments.

Contributions from the floor suggested concerns over a) exaggeration of anti-social behaviour by opponents: b) lack of clarity over control of access for all kinds of vehicles/appliances, both permitted and not permitted; signage alone would be inadequate: c) insufficient lighting: d) availability of CCTV.

The status of the proposal to make Ark Lane barrier free was also raised but no information was available.

7 Current Local Issues

- a. **Local Amenities / Glasgow Life / Whitehill Pool:** WW asked about new money for playparks. £5m had been announced as being available but only about £300k had been spent. Cllr Casey explained that there had been procurement issues. This was a cross-Scotland scheme and every local council had tried to upgrade their playparks at the same time leading to an undersupply. The programme was ongoing. (Glasgow Life FOI and Whitehill Pool were covered under Matters Arising (above)).
- b. **Homes / Housing Associations / Cleansing:** CMcL raised concern over the QR code on new bins which doesn't seem to impact on pick-ups. WW advised that it may not be recording the correct location. Issue to be raised with Eddie Scanlan (see Chair's report).
- c. **Transport / Roads / Parking – no updates**

8 Public Input

Clare Darlaston asked about the upkeep of Alexandra Park, in particular areas reserved for biodiversity and the pile-up of debris on the red blaze pitch at the east end.

ET said that the blaze patch had been cleared; it was mostly storm damage.

CllrAcas informed the meeting that the Council had recently created 50 new permanent jobs in the Parks department. Recruitment had only recently been completed so impact may not yet be visible.

After some sympathetic discussion, it was resolved to invite a senior Parks official to the January meeting, with a plan of the park, to explain both current operating procedures and future plans for the maintenance and upkeep of the park.

9 Elected Member Update

ACas said that the new Clean-Up teams would be moving into the area shortly.

A roundtable meeting on the future of the Bluevale Hall and possible funding for reopening it was expected in December.

ACarr said that he was expecting to hear details of proposals for the Sports Hub in Alexandra Park and about plans to bring more wildlife into city parks shortly.

There has been limited progress on the demolition/making safe of the sheds in Alexandra Parade Primary School yard.

Consultations on the Scottish Government's plans for the future of Council Tax are continuing. Plans for further housing development on the vacant site in Haghill (off Todd Street) had been published.

9 AOB

EW said that she and VT had had a further meeting with Charlie Kean on the issue of overgrown hedges. The problem was that the Council was treating the minimum required width of a footway as if it was standard width.

CMcL proposed that main door flats needed to be issued with brown bins if they were to have any chance of properly looking after front gardens

10 Next Meeting

Planning Meeting on Tuesday 9th December 2025 (not a public meeting)

Next public meeting on 13th January 2026 from 7:00pm-9:00pm at St Andrews East Church Hall

- Agenda will be circulated in advance and published to Dennistouncc.org.uk/dates.
- Apologies to be submitted via hello@dennistouncc.org.uk.
