



MILNGAVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the meeting of Milngavie Community Council held on Monday, 12th September, 2016 (postponed from Wednesday, 7th September, 2016) at 07.15 pm, in the Fraser Centre, Milngavie.

1. Present:

Mr I McAllister (Chair) Mr M Reynolds (Vice-Chair), Mrs M Prentice (Treasurer), Mrs C Diaz (Secretary), Mrs L Edwards, Mr J Goodall (representing MERA), Mr G Johnston, Mr D Hamilton, Mrs T McIntyre, Councillor E Gotts

2. Apologies:

Mr A Ainslie, Mrs J Pentland, Mr M Russell, Ms M Apczynski, Councillor J Gibbons, Councillor M Henry.

Resignations from the Community Council were received from Catriona Macintyre-Beon, Mrs S Kay and Mr C Christie. These resignations were received with regret; the positive contributions these persons had made to the work of the Community Council were noted. It was noted that Mr C Christie was in hospital currently and it was agreed that the Community Council should send him card to wish him a speedy recovery. He had submitted comments that he wished to be included in the minutes and these are appended.

The minutes of the Community Council's last meeting, its AGM were read and approved, subject to the second sentence of Item 2 of the 'major issues' section of the Chairman's Report being altered to include the word 'would' after 'MCC'.

Mr J Goodall agreed to operate as Minute Secretary for this meeting of the Community Council.

3. Police Report

There was no Police Report available. It was noted that Sergeant Julie MacDonald had been promoted recently and that she had moved to a post based in Pitt Street, Glasgow. Her duties here in Milngavie were being carried out now by Christopher Burnie.

With the approval of those attending the meeting, Item 7, Bears Way, as taken next on the agenda.

4. Bears Way

There was a wide-ranging discussion of this matter. Everyone attending the meeting contributed to it. Concerns were expressed about the first phase of this development and the need for further work to be done to address safety and other concerns which had arisen during its operation. There was, for example, continuing concern about junctions along its route, such as those at Sports Direct and American Golf and the Allander Sports Centre. It was agreed that a communication should be sent to the Chief Executive (CE) of East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) to advise him of these continuing concerns and of the Community Council's general concern that these matters should be dealt with first, before any action was contemplated in relation the second phase of the development. It was thought important to communicate in these terms since a paper on the first phase of the development was to be taken to a meeting of EDC which is due to be held on the 29th of September, 2016.

The Community Council understands that a paper on the second phase of the development is due also to be taken to that same meeting on the 29th of September. The Community Council understands that this paper will report on the outcomes of the consultations which have been held recently and that it will make a recommendation about what EDC should take as its next step(s) in relation to Bears Way 2.

It was agreed that a communication should be sent to the CE of EDC too indicate directly and unequivocally the Community Council understands the matter of Bears Way 2 to be problematic and that the recent 'consultations' could not be seen as providing a strong and unequivocal evidential basis upon which to make any such recommendations; on-line submissions through emails and other devices could not be seen as valid and reliable.

In a very real sense, the Community Council thinks that consultations on this matter have only just begun and that it would be wholly premature of EDC to decide on what its next steps should be in relation to Bears Way 2 and that it would be in everyone's best interests if consultations were to be continued allowing a more informed and evidentially sound paper to be presented to a later meeting of EDC, e.g. its November meeting. Such a course of action would allow the proposed extension of the cycle way to be put into the context of EDC's Active Travel Strategy and for more careful consideration to be given to, for example, how best to use cycling, public transport and walking as ways of promoting the health and well-being of all of Milngavie and Bearsden's residents, young and old.

In connection with the above matter, there was some discussion for action to be taken to reduce the extent to which the pedestrian precinct is being used a through route by cyclists, often to the danger of pedestrian users of the precinct, many of whom are vulnerable by virtue of their age. It was suggested that new, more visible signage might be useful in clarifying what is expected of users of the precinct.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Community Council has £2840.15 in its Community Fund and £5994.16 in its Administration Fund. The Community Council's insurance premium was paid over the summer. A 'Thank You' letter has been received from the organisers of Milngavie Week. A grant request has been received from Milngavie in Bloom; it is for a grant towards the costs of acquiring a poly-tunnel which would be located in fields behind Cairns Church. The grant requested is £1,000 with the total cost of the tunnel being £7,500. Recent advice from EDC suggested that community councils might want to limit individual grant awards to a maximum of £750. After some discussion, it was agreed to award Milngavie in Bloom a grant of £750 towards the cost of the poly-tunnel.

It was noted that in considering future grant applications it would be useful to check on what grant awards had been made previously.

It was agreed too that a contribution should be made to the funds being collected to support the family affected by the recent tragic fire in Catter Gardens. It was agreed that a contribution of £200 should be made. It was proposed also that awards of this and similar nature in the future would be discussed on an individual basis and the possibility of putting a maximum amount would be discussed.

6. Councillors' Report

The report was read and accepted after some positive discussion about the development of an intermediate care facility at Westerton Care Home; this will allow elderly people to be discharged from hospital, to recuperate and then return to their own homes.

7. Planning

EDC consultations on its Draft Green Strategy and Draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan are continuing; Members of the Community Council who had not passed comment to Mrs L Edwards were asked to do so expeditiously as the closing date for such was close. In connection with these consultations, it was noted that Milngavie Community Development Trust (MCDT) is holding a consultation meeting on the future use of Lennox Park in the Fraser Centre at 07.00 pm on 22.09.2016.

EDC is consulting also on its Town Centre Strategy; more information about this can be had by going to EDC's website.

It was agreed that the Community Council should object formally to the advertising which the new operators of 19 Station Road in the precinct, formerly Poundstretcher, are proposing to use.

It was noted that applicants proposing a 'sheltered' housing development on the Fire Station Field on Craigdhu Road are holding consultation events, drop-in events, in the Fraser Centre on 21.09.2016 (from 03.00 to 07.00 pm for local elected representatives, immediate neighbours and members of the Community Council) and a public exhibition event 29.09.2016 in a venue still to be decided.

The applicants will also be attending the next, the October meeting of the Community Council. It was noted that SEPA had expressed concerns about a previous 'application' for the development of the Fire Station Filed on the grounds that it would be likely to represent a flood risk.

8. Up-dates for Sub-Groups

It was reported that Milngavie Football Club (MFC) had been invited to attend a Football Forum on 26.09.2016 to discuss the emergent EDC Pitch Strategy.. A report on this meeting would follow in due course. It was reported too that MFC was continuing to have positive and productive discussions with West of Scotland (WoS) about the shared, future development of a 'Sports Hub; these had led already to MFC letting some pitch time from WoS.

MCDT, although not a sub-group per se, had reported that its recent events had been well attended and received. Its initiative on developing the use of Lennox Park was noted earlier.

9. A.O.C.B.

It was noted that discussions were proceeding in respect of the leasing of Gavin's Mill by Balmore Coach House (BCH). BCH has to vacate its current location in the next few months and hopes to be able to conclude a deal which will make it possible for it to move to Gavin's Mill. It was agreed that John Riches from BCH should be invited to attend a meeting of the Community Council to outline his hopes for the future of BCH and Gavin's Mill.

It was noted that parking problems were re-emerging as a difficulty at Clober Primary School. The school's Parent Council was looking to press for the early establishment of a Traffic Restriction Order to support the school in addressing these problems.

It was agreed that the Community Council's Chairperson would place a wreath at the Remembrance Day Commemorations.

It was agreed that correspondence about roe deer would be referred for action to EDC.

Appendix

Letter to MCC from Callum Christie - 5th September 2016

Dear fellow Members,

Please accept my apologies and absence from this month's meeting.

However, I would be grateful if the following comments could be included in the Minutes of the meeting on 7th September 2016:

Bearsway

This is without doubt a matter of great concern to many residents of Milngavie.

There are folk against the current existing design, but also those who support the idea of a safer shared environment for cyclists. Both sides need a fair hearing, now that the current design has been in place for a time.

Further, I would suggest that many residents have lost faith in the ability of EDC to broker any community consultations regarding designs of future proposed phases, mainly because there is a perception that feedback on the current Phase 1 is being ignored.

For this reason I would suggest that MCC as a matter of urgency set up a sub group to quickly and efficiently become the 'honest and impartial broker' in any further community consultations concerning Bearsway. It could be that MCC even employ 'impartial' professionals to run any public meetings. A sub group should at least look at establishing a new channel of communication between EDC and our community. New levels of mutual trust need to be built up, with both sides (EDC & Residents) confident that their opinions will be properly understood and acted upon. It is a real challenge which will take extra time and effort by all Members, but surely that is not beyond the scope or remit of a Community Council?

Concerning the Agenda note on signage banning cycling in the precinct: Whilst there is a current restriction, I would only draw your attention to the many non vehicular precincts in the UK and Europe that operate a clearly marked shared space area. Cyclists are allowed to use their bikes but only within marked 'tramlines' and at low speeds that respect pedestrian priority.

AOCB

With regret, I tender my resignation from MCC. I joined MCC a few years ago and have been lucky to work alongside some very dedicated Members. Unfortunately I cannot now dedicate the time and effort that I think it takes to be an effective and fully committed member of MCC. It is good that 'new blood' be involved with new energy and ideas!

However I would challenge all Members in a good natured spirit to ask what being a member should involve? Personally I am keen to promote the idea of ALL members volunteering as much of their own time to promote a positive effect in tackling whatever the various challenges that arise in the community. **MCC needs to be proactive and not just reactive!**

Clearly for that to happen, just turning up to monthly meetings to provide a personal opinion on issues cannot be deemed sufficient to becoming a committed Member of MCC!

Kind regards
Callum Christie