



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MILNGAVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Annual General Meeting
Held in the Fraser Centre on Wednesday 7th May 2014

1. Present

Community Councillors – N Peacock, D Hamilton, E Crombie (Minute), M Prentice, M Millerick, C Christie (Convener), R Hooper, W Blakey, G Johnston, L Edwards, A Blain, C Diaz, J Pentland, L McCreadie, R Miller, M Reynolds,

Elected Members – Cllr Gotts, Cllr Gibbons, Cllr Henry

Others - PC Kerrigan, T Glen EDC, Two representatives of St Joseph's School Parent Council and 10 members of the public.
There were no apologies.

2. Convener's Opening Remarks

C Christie welcomed everyone with a special welcome to the members of the public who had chosen to attend. He introduced the elected members.

3. Approval of the Minutes of AGM OF 1ST May 2013

The minute was proposed by M Millerick and seconded by N Peacock. It was noted that outdoor sports provision had been discussed at that meeting a year ago but there had been no progress to date. It was noted that MCC meet on the first Wednesday of each month except January/ July / August.

4. Police Report

This had been circulated in advance to MCC. PC Kerrigan noted that Milngavie Police Office is closed at night but the police are still there on call. Stop and search is ongoing for drugs, offensive weapons and stolen property. The main concern at present is the number of house breakings. This often happens during the day but there are no particular hotspots. If the public see a suspicious van parked outside a house then they should take a photo or note of the number and call the police who will check it out. It was noted that currently there is a bigger problem with housebreaking in Bearsden than in Milngavie. PC Kerrigan was asked about anti-social behavior in Craigton Woods and he said that this was not a big problem and that information could be made available to evidence this. There are parking issues at Clober Primary and recently there had been an accident and a child was injured. PC Kerrigan was thanked for his report.

5. Conveners report

C Christie gave a summary of what MCC had done in the past year. He took over as convener in Nov 13 when the previous convener retired from the post after many years of service. MCC has gained 6 new members this year. The EDC primary schools improvement programme has caused a major controversy in the community as parents wish their schools to remain open. MCC had input to the local

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development plan and noted that there are increasing pressures from developers to build on our surrounding green areas which MCC wish to protect. We wish to encourage as many people as possible in the community to get involved and to express their views on the future of Milngavie. In June 2013 a public meeting attracted over 100 people to discuss this and Making the Most of Milngavie, a sub-committee was formed to take this forward. They are currently working on a proposal to seek funding for a community development plan and will be consulting with a broad range of the community during the course of this to ascertain their ideas and priorities for the future of the town

MCC has helped several local groups with grants and established regular articles in the Milngavie and Bearsden Herald to raise its profile and to engage more people. It was noted that we have one vacancy as a member has resigned in order to concentrate on the town centre BID which aims to enhance the town and increase footfall.

MCC plans to set up a series of working groups e.g. planning, welfare and education which will seek to involve members of the public who have an expertise in or a passion for an area. This will help to shape a positive future for Milngavie.

It was noted with great sadness that Ann Hunter had passed away. Ann had been a member of MCC and keen supporter of the Heritage Centre and other local groups.

6. Financial Report

The treasurer M Prentice was introduced. MCC has two accounts, The Administration Acc which has a balance of £ 10,655.47 and the Community Acc which has a balance of £ 659.47. The Project Account was closed earlier in the year and the balance transferred to the Milngavie Heritage Centre which was the intended recipient of the money raised by the sale of the local history book.

It was noted that a fitting tribute for Ann Hunter needs to be agreed. Grants were given to the Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games, Friendship Circle, Old Peoples Welfare, Heritage Centre, Chess Championships. A memorial planter had been purchased , a wreath for Remembrance Day and a report for Making the Most of Milngavie was commissioned.

The treasurer explained that any grants awarded should benefit the community of Milngavie. Last year they ranged from £50 to £1,200. Currently we do not expect recipients to provide evidence of how they spent the money however specific criteria and guidelines for this will be drawn up.

7. Future of the Allander Sports Centre

Mr Glen, the Director of Development and Regeneration was welcomed to the meeting to give an update on the position regarding the building of a new leisure centre. In 2011 EDC agreed to build a new centre with a funding contribution from the developers of the Kilmardinny site. They are currently in discussion with the developers and expect to bring forward a report on this shortly which will trigger the funding to assist the building of the centre from 2018. The Allander Champions group is working with EDC on helping to plan the centre. When a draft specification is ready it will be made available to the community for comment.

EDC will ensure that the old centre stays open until the new one is built. Mr Glen said that any developer will need to address the flooding issues in the area with an approved drainage scheme and also any site contamination. The new centre will not be on the site of the former bus garage. Mr Glen stated EDC's commitment to

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building a centre” that is as good as or better than the existing one “and he said that they planned to build a new facility rather than refurbish the existing one as they felt that was the best option and there had been public consultation on this in 2011.

A member of the public asked if it was legal to keep changing the master plan which erodes the reporter’s decision? E.g. when did the four storey flats on the main road become part of the plan? Mr Glen said that this happened earlier this year and that there was a clear audit of decisions which would meet all planning and legal requirements. He noted that there is a strategy for upgrading the A81 which will deal with the additional cars for 500 households.

Mr Glen said that EDC know that there will not be a financial contribution of £10m from the developers and this is likely now to be £6m as Waitrose has taken up some of the land. Phased funding is a normal model and it is not appropriate to ask the developers to post a bond to ensure that the funding would be there in the eventuality of them going out of business. A final agreement on how much Cala will contribute has not yet been reached but the Council will set out clearly how much will be contributed for each phase of the development. EDC are currently looking at the consultant’s report on the Allander Rail halt that was commissioned by Bearsden North CC to see if it is viable

8. AOCB**8. a) St Joseph’s Primary School**

MCC’s concerns regarding the proposed closure of St Joseph’s school by EDC were outlined. A letter expressing these will be circulated to all school parent councils as well as the EDC elected members and the local paper. MCC request that EDC works with the parents to develop other agreed viable alternatives to allow the children to continue to be educated in Milngavie. The chair of St Joseph’s parent council said that they had not been offered any opportunity to meet with EDC officials to discuss other solutions and as they do not have access to any costings it is impossible for them to produce costed alternatives. No assistance was offered by EDC to help them undertake this. She noted that there was no transparency in terms of which options might be viable as only one option is being presented to the Council. Cllr Gotts stated that several options had been discussed by the council but they had been ruled out at an early stage for financial or educational reasons.

It was noted that previously SRC would have considered several options at council level prior to making a decision on the future of a school. The chair of St Joseph’s school parent council stated that none of the options that the council had discussed had ever been set out as part of a consultation process.

A member of the public suggested the EDC would fall well below the mark in terms of the standards being set for “strengthening local democracy” in a government paper.

8 b) Craigton Woods Cala Planning Application

MCC had received notes of concern from several residents regarding this proposal to build houses in an area of significant environmental interest. The woodland is important and there are 19 yew trees that are over 200 years old. The owner has neglected the area and it is kept clean by local residents with assistance from EDC.

8 b) contd.

Anyone noticing the dumping of garden waste should report it on the EDC web site 'Report It'. Local residents noted that the woods meet many criteria: greenbelt, Ancient and semi-natural woodland, wildlife corridor with bats and many listed bird species on the RSPB red list.

It was noted that if EDC refuse planning permission then Cala cannot now take this to the Scottish government as this can only happen if the area falls outwith the scope of the local plan. EDC will set out the draft local plan in June which will detail potential areas for development. It will be finalized early in 2015.

The Cala presentation in the Town hall is advertised on the EDC website as 13th May however it has moved to the 14th May and Mr Glen was asked if this could be changed.

Mr Glen stated that if an application for planning is received then EDC must undertake a technical assessment of the area however if this area is found to be as has been stated then it is unlikely that planning permission would be granted. EDC will pass the technical report to MCC for information and the views of the community.

8 c) Kessington Travel Hub

There will be a Drop In at the shops at Kessington on Tuesday 27th May where the plans can be seen.

8 d) Making the Most of Milngavie

The group has been assessing proposals from consultancies who will undertake work to develop a community development plan. Nick Allan had withdrawn from these discussions as he knows several people involved in these consultancies.

8 e) Spinal Injuries Scotland, Clober Farm House

This facility is specially adapted for people in wheelchairs and can accommodate up to 6 people. It is available for respite breaks.

8 f) Closure of Brookwood Library

Mr Glen was asked what would happen to the archives stored in the library. He responded to say that the Leisure trust would ensure that this problem was addressed.

9 The Convener drew the meeting to a close.