

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13th May 2013

Apologies: None.

Present: Eleanor Kellock (Chair), Anne Johnston (Minute Secretary), David Thomson (Treasurer), Maureen Russell (Vice Chair), Ian Thomas, Kenneth Barr, Christian Potter, Kirsten Oswald, Cllr Alan Lafferty, Cllr Alastair Carmichael, Cllr Stewart Miller, Sgt Matt Gemmell, Sgt Jim Boyle, Debra Clapham (Clarkston BID), Jackson Carlaw MSP.

Public present: Tom Aitken, Shirley Henderson, Adam Elliott, Susan Rodger, Lynsey Cochrane, June Lamont, Mary Lamont, Shirley Ashe, Philip Moseley, Helen Petrie, Carolyn Dewar, Mairi Gallagher.

A vote was taken at the start of the meeting regarding the use of electrical equipment at the table during Community Council meetings. The majority vote decided that no electrical devices would be used during meetings. KO stated that she felt that this was unfair and wanted this noted.

Minutes of previous Meeting: KO raised an issue at last month's meeting in April regarding statements made during a discussion on bus services and after further comment it was decided by a majority vote to move on. KO raised the issue again at this meeting and after further discussion it was agreed that all members of Clarkston Community Council will operate and represent themselves and the Community Council in a way that could not call into question Community Councillors conduct. It was agreed by all to move on and a line was drawn under the matter.

The minutes were proposed by KB and seconded by MR.

Police Report: Crime Statistics for Clarkston April 2013

There were 15 reports with 9 detections.

Crime	Reports	Detections	Notes
Thefts	4	2	House broken into during day. M/V stolen with true key stolen during sneak in theft during night. Door left unlocked. 1 male arrested also charged with two housebreakings in Busby area. HBWI business premises. Male traced nearby and detained but insufficient to charge. Awaiting DNA results and will be charged when results returned. Sneak in theft during night. Door left unlocked.

Vandalism	4	0	2 relate to graffiti sprayed on walls Scout Hall Aiden's Brae and shop on Busby Road. Not connected. 1 window damaged by stone. 1 car scratched along the side.
BOP	1	1	2 males arrested for fighting.
Street Drinking	1	1	
Other notable	5	5	2 persons reported for Road Traffic Offences. 1 person arrested having been found in garden with intent to steal. 2 males reported for Offence of selling goods round doors.
Crime/detections			

Debra Clapham had raised concerns at last month's meeting with PC Miller about a local youth and his friend, who were sitting on the BID bench outside the social work offices eating chips, when they were approached by the Police and had their names taken. Sgt Gemmell and Sgt Boyle said that this is not police policy and it was difficult to comment on the circumstances behind this without being aware of all the facts. They explained that names were sometimes taken if something had happened nearby and they will look into this.

DT highlighted the great response from the police after recent reports of people who were going around the area suggesting work on locks/electrical equipment. Another resident witnessed people in a white van on Hillend Road last week trying to sell a memory foam mattress. The police urged people to phone them to report any suspicious incidents.

Sgt Boyle and Sgt Gemmell left the meeting.

Correspondence: ERC Gillian McCarney- Re: Telecommunications Pole, Mearns Rd, Clarkston
 Email to John Wilson, Director of Education Re: Carolside Primary
 Emails to MSPs, MP Jim Murphy, CEO Lorraine McMillan, Charlie Armstrong ERC Re: Decriminalised Parking Enforcement.
 Letter from ERC regarding Decriminalised Parking Enforcement.
 Email from concerned resident Re: Clarkston BID benches.
 Emails from concerned residents Re: Parking issues
 ER PPF Eastwood Health Centre
 PPF Bulletin ERH&C Partnership

Discussion with Jackson Carlaw MSP. Jackson Carlaw MSP introduced himself and spoke about his role as a list MSP representing the West of Scotland. He suggested that Community Councils send copies of the minutes to all MSP's as sometimes there are common issues that could be brought to their attention. Jackson highlighted a couple of issues directly affecting our area.

1. The new Southern General Hospital which is due to be finished in 2015 and will be the largest in Europe. Many people are concerned about the accessibility of the new SG hospital as it is not as convenient as the existing Victoria Infirmary. There will be a subsequent Public Traffic Infrastructure Plan and it is vital that everyone will be able to access the new SG Hospital. Jackson has spoken to architects regarding the proposed new Health Centre in Clarkston and it is not quite the same facility as Barrhead.
2. Decriminalised Parking Enforcement. Jackson has written to ERC suggesting that Councillors sought an earlier review. He has asked the Council to look at residential parking permits. There was a discussion with local residents and Community Councillors highlighting their issues and views regarding the parking situation in Clarkston.

Jackson mentioned the present work at the Scottish Parliament including the future of Scotland within the UK and the referendum, the Scottish Equal Marriage Bill, which has progressed very little, and the proposal to extend the vote to 16 year olds. Other issues are the pressure on the Community with the Local Development Plan and flood insurance, which could lead to potential difficulties for homeowners.

EK thanked Jackson Carlaw MSP for attending the meeting and he then left.

ERC Councillors Report: Cllr Lafferty attended the recent information meeting regarding the proposed new Health Centre. He reported that the general feedback was positive with the main concern being about public transport provision. Many people would also like the new Health Centre to be more centrally located. EK reported that she and AJ had also attended a recent information meeting with the architects and listened to a presentation. There were concerns raised about the site and entrance being really dangerous as the traffic there is horrendous. A resident commented that the site is on a marsh, which could have resulting drainage problems, and there is a possibility of mine shafts located there. Another suggestion was for the proposed new Health Centre to have a Minor Injuries Unit.

LRV Update: None.

Local Issues: There was a lengthy discussion on the parking problems in Clarkston. The recent implementation by ERC of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement has resulted in safety concerns, congested streets, displaced parking on residential streets and concerned local businesses and residents. There is also complete confusion over the regulations. Several local residents attended tonight's meeting and highlighted the problems in their streets. Particularly affected areas are Carolside Gardens, Mayfield Avenue, Hillview Drive, Greenholm Avenue and Stewart Drive. Residents cannot park outside their own homes and are concerned about the safety aspects of the congested streets as it is dangerous when coming out of driveways. Cars are parked near the end of streets that should remain clear and over driveways. There were also reports of undertaking and increased speeding occurring in the clearways. There is serious concern that there will be an accident. EK urged all residents to phone the police regarding dangers arising from the congested streets and to write to ERC to highlight their concerns. It was suggested that residential parking permits be considered although this would restrict parking for shoppers which could then impact

further on local businesses. Several local businesses have closed recently and there is concern over the future of Clarkston Town Centre.

One resident asked who the new parking regulations were meant to benefit as they are inconveniencing residents and businesses and both are ultimately suffering.

Residents have also noticed that businesses and their employees are parking outside the shops and the local streets all day. DC replied that she is acutely aware of this and has been actively dealing with it. She has emailed all the businesses frequently asking them to park sensibly elsewhere. In future, vehicle registration numbers may be taken and the matter pursued by ERC.

DT suggested running a local bus loop service to drop commuters/shoppers at Clarkston to avoid the use of cars and free up parking.

Cllr Miller has been regularly updating CCC on his efforts to resolve the issue with Council officials. He has been trying to get an urgent review and a relaxation of parking enforcement.

Cllr Lafferty highlighted two aspects;

1. Reviewing traffic orders arising from the decriminalisation
2. Parking in residential areas has been a long standing problem. Residential parking permits are a highly contentious issue.

Cllr Carmichael stated that the parking regulations have been there since 1961 and parking in certain areas has been breaking the law. He also said that he had heard the argument for shoppers.

DC highlighted the need for a review to try to achieve a sensible resolution to the situation. She has organised the first of several Public Forum Meetings on the 22nd May 2013 at 7.15pm at Clarkston Hall. It was agreed that CCC would fully support this and approval was given by all Community Councillors present to work with the BID to resolve the parking issues. It was also agreed that Ian Thomas and Maureen Russell will attend the public meeting as representatives of CCC.

The footbridge over the railway is still not completed. Work is continuing after several set-backs. There is a significant reduction in parking spaces at Clarkston Car Park due to the on-going work.

One resident has contacted CCC with concern over youths congregating at a Clarkston BID bench outside the social work offices. They were advised to contact the Police should any further incidents occur.

Area Forum Report. None.

A.O.C.B. Adam Elliott confirmed at tonight's meeting that he has moved out with Clarkston Community Council's ward area.

CCC is still waiting for the Notice Board that was agreed to be funded several months ago by the Area Forum. EK will chase this up.

David Thomson, Treasurer, gave a report of the Accounts for CCC to the 31st March 2013 which were approved at last month's meeting. There was income from ERC of £409 with expenditure (miscellaneous) of £13 and secretarial fees of £395 with deficit of £2. This leaves a balance of £2240 representing the bank account. The Accounts have now been audited and it was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Accounts will be sent to ERC now, prior to the AGM in September, to avoid any delay with CCC's grant. The Accounts were proposed by IT and seconded by CP.

It has been brought to the attention of CCC that ERC made statements to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman that were not factual. ERC have stated that CCC was consulted regarding the design, location and installation of the Clarkston BID benches last year. It was unanimously agreed that this was not the case and a letter would be written to the SPSO noting this and the fact that CCC were misrepresented. EK and AJ will action this.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd June 2013 at 7.30pm at Clarkston Hall.

Planning Matters: The proposal for the telecommunications pole and base station adjacent to Mearns Road has been granted. Cllr Miller is concerned at the location of the pole for access/maintenance as it is situated at a dangerous bend on the road.