

## **Draft Minutes 15 April 2024**

1. **Welcome/housekeeping**  
Cindy Berry (CB) opened meeting explained it was being recorded, welcomed those present and explained housekeeping.
2. **Apologies**  
Iain Wilkinson (IW)
3. **Members present**  
Cindy Berry (CB), Mairi Beers (MB), Allan Steele (AS)
4. **Councillors present**  
Provost Montague (PM), Cllr Gordon Wallace (GW)  
CCLO Andrew Reid (AR)
5. **Minute taking**  
MB
6. **Approval of amended February minutes**  
proposed by CB seconded by AS.
7. **Approval of March draft minutes**  
proposed by CB seconded by AS.
8. **Matters arising from previous meeting**  
CB reminded members not to breach GDPR by sharing members private information at a public meeting.  
CB reminded members that the purpose of GCC is to be representative of the residents of Giffnock and not based on personal opinion.
9. **Planning**  
PM brought to CC's attention that a new build on Ayr Rd had been approved. The application for demolition of the existing building, despite it being in a conservation area, which was previously refused by DPEA, is still to be decided.  
Cllr Wallace said he has asked for this decision to be reviewed. PM said generally once these decisions have been made, cannot be reversed. Cllrs said they would keep GCC informed. PM suggested that ERC Cabinet meetings are available to view on the ERC website.
10. **Police report**  
Report was read. AS suggested the police statistics did not take into account unreported incidents or consider online harassment. AS requested police presence at GCC meetings in order to question and push back on the figures and question the working behind them. CB has been told by the police that they do not work on Monday evenings and will be unable to attend and did offer to write to them in due course.
11. **Bus email**  
CB suggested that GCC share the bus strategy email with the wider community on social media groups. This was agreed by GCC.
12. **Fireworks email**  
CB suggested that GCC share to the wider community on social media about use of fireworks within ER and the new discretionary firework control zones. This was agreed by GCC.
13. **ERC plans for Giffnock village**

A healthy turnout from local businesses and members of the public in attendance voicing concerns over the proposed plans for Giffnock Village (GV).

Business owners very upset that despite previous assurances they would be kept informed of any proposed plans for the area, have not been contacted. It was made reference that had it not been for the Chair imparting information to local businesses they would have no idea of any consultations taking place.

A member of the public questioned can GCC make sure that all are included/involved in any future plans.

Cllr Wallace stated that this display in Giffnock Library was just a consultation with no set plans yet. He said he could not guarantee that the plans would not take place but that this was just a consultation to find local views to enable ERC to move forward.

Cllr Wallace agreed the life blood of Giffnock is unique in that the public walk about and interact and the relationship with the shop keepers is beyond that of a customer. He fully supported that Giffnock remain status quo. Members of the public then asked what would be the process to make their voices heard to ERC. PM replied and asked the attending business owners and residents to email their concerns to herself and local ERC Cllrs. A business owner with considerable marketing experience raised concerns that ERC online consultations could not be definitively acknowledged as whether residents were in favour or not of such proposals as no definitive questions were asked nor are there any opportunities within the online consultations to express personal opinions or views. Concerns were raised that the consultation process does not reach the majority and therefore is not wholly reflective of the majority of residents views. It was suggested and questioned that the fact that ERC are able to send Council Tax Bills by post to every resident within ER and also have recently sent by post to every resident a letter about bin charges along with, in the same envelope, a leaflet containing the same information as the letter (double the cost for same info). ERC refuse to send out information and requests for answers in the same manner citing they do not have the funds to do so. Yet, they continue to spend millions on tick box consultations which do not represent the majority of residents views within ER.

A member of the public highlighted there is not enough parking available currently which supports local businesses. There was concerns raised that of the parking spaces available sometimes members of the public and some shop keepers park in the spaces all day knowing they will not be fined or are willing to accept the fine if they are.

Business owner stated that all three suggestions at the consultation would cause chaos within Giffnock on so many levels.

A member of the public said no one has been asked for their consent or whether they approve or not of the proposed plans or any funds being spent on designs or consultations before being sanctioned.

A member of the public stated not equal opportunity on social media/Facebook (FB). Letters should be sent to every household prior to any monies being spent on consultations with proposed plans and that air quality in ER is particularly good, that we do not need this and we have a right to be consulted before ERC begin expensive spends on these projects and said 'don't take our liberties away. Ask us first what we want before deciding on our behalf.'

Cllr Wallace said he did not disagree and it is clear that communications re consultation process is not good.

Cllr Wallace said that comments will be taken back to council.

A business owner stated his difficulty in finding information of GCC meeting dates and time. AR stated that it should all

be clear on the ERC website and would double check it was and would update if necessary.

Chair commented that GCC have been in a similar situation in August last year so called and held a Special Meeting in

September. ERC attempted to invalidate that meeting. Tonight it is all new people present who are concerned, therefore

proof of previous alleged allegations of personal agenda can be negated.

Cllr Wallace said Cllrs are there to challenge ERC and the reason why the public need to let their views be known.

A business owner asked about the timeline for conclusions. Cllr Wallace said he is under the impression it will only take a couple of months to pull the consultation together.

A business owner asked where will results be publicised to which

Cllr Wallace said he would feed back info through GCC.

A member of the public raised concerns re planners lack of knowledge of the local area ie position of Care Homes, Supported Living accommodations etc. Concerns were also raised about parking on side streets.

AS said he cannot get on Go Giffnock Fb group. CB said that this would not be discussed.

The general consensus of the public was leave Giffnock alone and make what we have is fit for purpose.

Concerns were raised of proposed plans for Eastwood Toll changing from roundabout to similar to new road layout at Maidenhill/Malletsheugh. It was stated that since the implementation of the new layout in NM there have now been six accidents whereby previously there were none.

PM questioned to AR whether it would be competent for GCC to spend its administrative grant on a notice board to communicate with residents. CB stated GCC currently have no access to funds. AR agreed to find out if any notice boards were available and able to be used.

AS suggested a proposal be put on the table that GCC work in consolidation with the BID and that GCC as a statutory body would lead. CB stated GCC already works with the BID and previous meetings have taken place.

A member of the public stated that cycle lanes are government led it is up to local council how to implement them. They also said all community councils should be working together on this to discuss. The Chair said that GCC has been in communication with other CC's in the past and that ERC has said they should work together but then they told us we shouldn't. AR said not sure why anyone

would say don't work together. The Chair questioned the instruction to not attend each other's meetings? AR said I don't see that anyone would say don't attend meetings, don't get involved in operational matters of a CC – totally different. No one can tell a CC

or member of the public they cannot attend a CC meeting.

A member of the public said that other councils have withdrawn from many of the implementations including Active Travel and have managed to reallocate and reassign the ring fenced funds back to the community for the betterment of the residents. A business owner

googled and found two examples. PM asked if these were in England or Scotland as that may alter the outcome. The two examples found were in England. However it was explained that England are further along with their implementations than Scotland.

GCC said they would forward on examples of other councils who have rejected the implementations, to the ward councillors.

Member of the public raised concerns that the consultation took in the holiday period. PM replied that the council would still take into consideration comments submitted after the closing date.

AS suggested a proposal to vote on that GCC use its funds to set up a consultation in alliance with BID asking questions simply yes or

no do you want this. Member of the public expressed concern that this was rushing into something that had not fully been discussed or agreed and that precise planning of questions needed to be addressed. AS advised that we approve the proposal first as specific

details could be worked out later during a six week concerted effort to obtain public views. CCLO requested we move on with the agenda as time was running out. As agreed to move on.

**14. GCC membership**

AR addressed the need for new members to GCC. AR said he can offer support but cannot do it for us. He said GCC has to get its heads

together, move past the block in GCC. CB explained previous recruitment measures which resulted in a healthy membership. An A5 leaflet was drawn up to hand out at school gates, leisure centre, library etc to ask shop keepers to put in their windows and to take in

leaflets to hand to any interested parties. AS was asked to come up with wording for such a leaflet to be considered for approval by GCC members.

MB invited any of the attendees if they wished to join GCC. AR invited anyone interested to email him.

AS thinks BID membership should be represented and also would be useful to have head boy, girl, captains (senior pupils) of the big schools albeit Woodfarm is just over the way. CB pointed out this has been discussed before which AS acknowledged he was just flagging it.

**15. Date of next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 @ 7pm**