

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 15 February 2010

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Councillor Gordan Low
Donald Macdonald (Chairman)
Councillor Alan Moir
Anne Mullin
Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)
Tom Russell

Jack Scott
Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)
Gillian Telfer (Biodiversity Officer
East Dunbartonshire Council)
John Timoney

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Constable Peter McNicol (Campus Cop,
Bishopbriggs Academy)
Councillor Michael O'Donnell

Welcome

Donald welcomed everyone present and in particular Gillian Telfer, Biodiversity Officer within East Dunbartonshire Council.

AOCB

Donald asked that the following items be included ie (a) removal of Community Support Officers (b) the history project, (c) the setting up of a "hustings" prior to the forthcoming general election and (d) viability of copying in **all** members of the Group in correspondence.

Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Wednesday 27 January 2010 was proposed by Jackie and seconded by Jack.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2010 was proposed by Tom and seconded by Jack.

Matters arising

There were no "matters arising" from the meeting on 18 January 2010.

Caterpillar Corridors

Since Gillian had attended the meeting specifically in connection with Caterpillar Corridors, Donald brought this item forward on the agenda. He then invited Gillian to introduce herself to the Group.

Gillian gave the Group a brief background to her post which she carries out jointly for East and West Dunbartonshire Councils. Her main duties relate to the preservation and, where possible, the reversal the loss of wild species and their habitats and to increase awareness and understanding of biodiversity. She is also heavily involved in the creation and implementation of the Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan. She is aware of the Group's aspirations regarding the local environment and offered help in whatever way she could.

A brief discussion then took place during which Donald indicated that he felt that the Group should perhaps concentrate more on educating/informing residents of the plants etc to put in their gardens

which would benefit the environment. The Group had already received funding of £200.00 which could be used for this purpose.

Gillian then offered to provide a list of plants which would assist with this and following a request gave the names of suppliers who could provide species appropriate to the Scottish environment. Unfortunately most of these suppliers were some distance from Bishopbriggs and Glasgow and she confirmed that she would endeavour to source suppliers closer and inform Donald accordingly.

Woodhill Primary School – Wild Flower Planting

Donald asked if she was able to update the Group on the position in Woodhill Primary School as it appeared that the planting of the wild flowers had not yet taken place. Gillian informed the Group that the 1000 plants which had been available had been damaged by ice and snow during the recent bad spell of weather. Indeed when they had been taken to the school for planting, it was discovered that many of them were frozen to the base of the containers. They were now “thawing out” in the Jellyhill Farm Nursery and it was not yet known if they were now, or would be, in a condition to be planted in the near future. If this was not the case, Gillian said that she would endeavour to source finance for other plants.

Donald thanked Gillian for her attendance at the meeting and looked forward to future contact with her in this regard.

Chair’s Report

Donald reported the following undertaken by him since the last meeting.

- Attended a history project meeting with Auchinleck History Society.
- Met with Woodhill Evangelical Church regarding monthly film show.
- Raised subject of “Snow Clearing” at meeting of Community Council.
- Updated website.
- Produced leaflet for extraordinary meeting invitation (distributed by Jackie).
- Contacted Gillian Telfer, Biodiversity Officer, East Dunbartonshire Council regarding Caterpillar Corridors.
- Chaired extraordinary meeting held regarding Menteith Avenue.
- Reported to Bishopbriggs Herald on extraordinary meeting.
- Met with Jo Swinson MP regarding election Hustings.
- Made bookings for concert (verbal confirmation).
- Made contact with possible hirer for Fun Day 2010.

Treasurer’s Report

Wilma reported that since the last meeting monies had been received for the hire of the Group’s PA system, together with a cheque from East Dunbartonshire Council Community Grant Scheme. This latter amount was to be used in connection with the forthcoming Bands in the Briggs event..

She confirmed that, on behalf of the residents of Torr Road, she had paid out to a third party for services rendered, the total sum which had been lodged by the residents in July 2009.

The funds of the Group continue to remain in a healthy position.

Menteith Avenue – Traffic/ Police report – Parking/Parking Bays

Donald referred to the recent e-mail sent by Inspector O’Neill to residents of Menteith Avenue in which he informed them of the work which had been carried out to date in the avenue, together with the actions he proposed to take over the coming weeks. This would include resources from the Traffic Department and specialist resources from the Operational Support Division: these officers would be in the area from early morning to mid-afternoon on Friday 12 February. He also invited a couple of residents from the avenue to join the officers to monitor speeds. Unfortunately there has been no feedback on any of the foregoing and Donald suggested that further discussion on this particular aspect of the subject should be left meantime.

A brief discussion then took place during which Donald expressed his disappointment that to date there had been no contact from the Roads and Neighbourhood Services with particular regard to the six “priority” areas ahead of Menteith Avenue which had been mentioned at the meeting along with the criteria which had been used to effect this.

Concluding discussion it was agreed that until further information was available, the matter of Menteith Avenue should be set aside meantime.

Bishopbriggs Academy

It was drawn to the attention of the Group, that on a recent occasion at the crossing on Wester Cleddens Road, pupils were crossing against the lights, weaving in and around oncoming traffic from both directions. It was agreed that this was neither safe for the children or the motorists and should be drawn to the attention of the Head Teacher. Donald agreed to do this.

Thomas Muir Building

Mention was made of the recurring vandalism to the boundary safety fencing. This is pulled down on a regular basis at weekends. The fact that the school gate is left unlocked adds to the ease with which individuals enter the school grounds. Although it is accepted that it would be easy to climb over the gate, it would certainly impede their flight when the police arrive on the scene. This was duly noted.

Community Support Officers

Donald referred to the article in the press regarding the proposed reduction in number of Community Support Officers. A lengthy discussion followed during which it was confirmed that the reduction had been necessitated by the stringent cuts in the Council’s budget. It was also pointed out that this was one of several areas of front line services which would be affected by these cuts, many of which would adversely affect the everyday lives of all residents within East Dunbartonshire. How the reductions in staffing levels were to be effected, was not yet known.

Concluding discussion on this item it was acknowledged by everyone present that the contribution made by the Community Support Officers had been considerable and would be missed in the areas from which they would be depleted.

General Election 2010 - Hustings

Donald asked that consideration be given to the Group holding a hustings before the General Election due to be held in the Spring/Summer of this year. This was greeted by general approval. However, it was pointed out that as other groups etc would be holding similar events it would be wise to proffer invitations to candidates to attend immediately following the announcement of the date of the election. This was noted by Donald. In the meantime Donald indicated that he had already had a favourable reaction from the current MP Jo Swinson. Further discussion on this item would take place at a future meeting.

Town Centre/Sports Hall

Donald intimated that he was unable to provide anything further on this matter meantime except to say that it was clear that residents close to the proposed development were extremely unhappy. He added that it was apparent outwith this locale, residents were completely unaware of what was proposed for the Town Centre. He did, however, stress the importance of getting the “champions” together with Muse Developments as soon as possible so that the views of the residents can be put forward. He hoped to report further on this at the next meeting.

Community Cinema

Donald intimated that he had submitted to officers in the Woodhill Evangelical Church details of proposed films to show in the “community cinema”. To date he has not heard any back. However, in the meantime he had become aware of the possibility of using facilities within Bishopbriggs Academy and this may be an alternative option. However, he would await the decision from the church and would report further on this at a future meeting.

Concert

Donald referred to the grant of £500.00 which had been received from East Dunbartonshire Council Community Grant Scheme. In making up the budget for the event, this amount had been set aside for expenses incurred in providing advertising and security. The proposed date was Friday 23 April 2010 and verbal confirmation of the let in Bishopbriggs Academy had been received. A small independent donation had been received from Kelvin Delta Music which would be used to provide hospitality in the “green room”. Donald would report further on this item at the next meeting.

Family Fun Day 2010

As indicated in his Chair’s Report, Donald was currently seeking prices for bouncy castles etc and has recently received a quote from a potential supplier which looks favourable. However, he would report further on this when he had had an opportunity to compare costs, etc with other suppliers.

Boundary Issue

Councillor Low confirmed that a final decision on this matter was still awaited.

Dropped Kerbs

Although work had not yet commenced, Councillor Low confirmed once more it was scheduled for inclusion in works to be carried out within this financial year.

Crossing – Woodhill Road

Councillor Moir confirmed that commencement of work on the crossing was imminent.

Snow clearing

Donald intimated that he had raised this matter at the recent meeting of the Community Council. Following discussion it was suggested to Donald that he should view the Council’s website on which he would be able to ascertain information on the “priority” areas. Unfortunately although he viewed the site this information was not available. Councillor Low indicated that he would pass to Donald a list of the areas of priority etc for clearing/gritting.

History Project

Donald stressed the value in having an oral history of Bishopbriggs and to this end he had met with archivists in the William Patrick Library who informed him that there was very little material regarding Bishopbriggs in the 1950s and the 1960s. Donald felt, however, that there was an abundance of information which could be gleaned from local residents which could perhaps lead to a permanent display/interactive display in the local library. He hoped also to tie this in with the local schools in the area.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in English English Classroom (F014) Bishopbriggs Academy on Monday 15 March 2010

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.