

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at St Ninian's High School

Monday 11 May 2009

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths	Tom Russell
Donald Macdonald (Chairman)	Jack Scott
Anne Mullin	Wilma Scott
Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)	

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Robert Lowe	Alan Moir
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Welcome

Donald opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

Minutes

Acceptance of the previous minutes was proposed by Jackie and seconded by Jack.

Before commencing Chair's Report, Donald asked if there were any items to be raised under AOCB. These were as follows, (a) new bus service for Bishopbriggs and (b) Fire Station event Saturday 13 June 2009. These were duly noted.

Chair's Report

Donald informed the Group that he had met with Gordan Mouldsdale, Head Teacher at the Academy regarding the appointment of a Campus Cop. He would report further on this under the item "Campus Cop".

Donald confirmed to the Group that he would not be standing in the forthcoming Council Election due to 4 June 2009.

He had taken the opportunity to visit Jim Logan in his home, passing on to him the best wishes from the Group.

On a personal note he was pleased to report that he had successfully completed his probation year in teaching. The Group present congratulated him on his success.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma reported that no expenses were incurred by the Group since the last meeting.

Bishopbriggs Academy - Drainage

Jack intimated that the situation remains unresolved. However, it is hoped that a meeting of interested parties will be convened during the week commencing 25 May 2009. He hoped to be able to report further at the next meeting.

Junction Woodhill/Auchinairn Roads

Following the last meeting Donald had, once more, made contact with Derek Cunningham of East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC). Unfortunately Mr Cunningham was "out of the office" at the time and to date no reply has been received.

Bishopbriggs Academy Travel Plan

Following repeated requests, Donald had now received confirmation from EDC that the Academy Travel Plan could now be included on the Group's website, thus affording all interested parties an opportunity to view EDC's proposals. He also indicated that he hoped to place a notice to this effect in the Bishopbriggs Herald. In the meantime, the Group would maintain its interest in this item.

Town Centre/Sports Hall

Donald indicated that a meeting had recently taken place between Muse Development, Ruth Box and the Academy Community Trust (ACT) at which the business plan prepared by Ms Box was considered. To date there was nothing further to report on this meeting.

In the meantime, however, two planning applications had been submitted: on one only was the Sports Hall included. It was hoped to report further on this at a future meeting.

If indeed it is possible to retain the Sports Hall, a considerable amount of regular funding would be required. At a recent meeting of the Community Council at which Donald was accompanied by the Group's Treasurer, he had offered, on behalf of the Group, a donation of £100.00 to "kick off" the initial funding. This offer was endorsed by the Group. (It should be noted that according to the Constitution, any two members of the Executive of the Group can make decisions without the prior knowledge of the Group as a whole.)

Lowmoss Prison

Donald reminded the Group that a decision on the name to be given to the new prison at Lowmoss would be made at a meeting of the Strathclyde Community Justice Authority (SCJA) due to be held on Monday 22 June 2009. As had been decided at the last meeting, it was intended to submit to the SCJA a copy of the signed petitions, along with the names from the on-line petition. He also reminded the Group that this was an open meeting at which interested parties could attend. After a brief discussion it was agreed that Anne and Jackie would represent the Group, at the same time handing in the petitions mentioned referred to earlier.

In the meantime, Donald asked Jackie if he would contact Ms Jo Swinson MP to ascertain her intentions in this regard and this he agreed to do and to report this back to Donald directly.

History Project

Donald confirmed that he intended to apply for funding to the National Heritage and to this end he had passed for advice and assistance a preliminary application to Gilbert Grieve, Manager within East Dunbartonshire Council for Voluntary Service. He was hopeful that his eventual application would be successful as in the scheme of things the amount requested by him was relatively small. However, he would report further on this at a future meeting of the Group. In the meantime, he would not be making application to Awards for All.

Family Fun Day

Donald confirmed that he was still awaiting the result of the application for funding made to the Community Grant Scheme. Although he was hopeful that funding would be forthcoming, he felt that it may be necessary to make a further application to Awards for All. A decision on making such an application would require to be taken by the end of May.

Nothing further had been heard from Mr Jimmy Watson from the Huntershill Visitor Centre. Donald hoped to report further on this at the next meeting.

To date no firm details were in place in connection with this event, some of which would depend once more on available funding. However, an approach had been received from the ice cream vendor who had been present at last year's Family Fun day asking that he/she may be included again at this year's event. A "holding" note had been sent in which it was indicated that a similar donation to the Group's funds would be expected: this would be decided by various factors. The vendors had accepted this condition and it was agreed to make contact again nearer the date.

Campus Officer (Cop)

As indicated in Chair's Report, Donald had met with Gordan Mouldsdale, Head Teacher at Bishopbriggs Academy regarding the appointment of a Campus Cop. Mr Mouldsdale informed Donald that he had already turned down an approach from EDC to "pilot" such a scheme. He felt that a police presence would stigmatise the Academy and, therefore, he would not, for the time, support this idea.

During a lengthy discussion which followed it was apparent that under the authority of the Head Teacher, the Academy is keen to be a "good neighbour" within the local community. Conscious of the lack of facilities in the surrounding area, it is intended to provide alternatives which will encourage the pupils to remain within the school grounds during lunch breaks etc. In addition, it is hoped to hold an event to afford parents and local residents the chance to see round the school and to provide an opportunities for the Academy to address the worries currently being expressed.

Vandalism

It was agreed to hold this item in abeyance meantime. However, before doing so Donald confirmed that he had contacted Councillor Anne McNair seeking advice on how Woodhill could secure the services of the Council's mobile CCTV camera. To date no reply had been received.

Menteith Play Park

Donald reminded the Group that some time ago there had been a suggestion that this park should be renamed due to the confusion which exists over its name. Although this suggestion had been passed along to the Council, the Group was

advised that a decision in this regard would have to be made by a Council committee. To date nothing further had been heard on this matter.

Donald now suggested that in light of the recent passing of Provost Hannah, that to rename the park either Provost Park or Provost Hannah Park would seem fitting in view of the very considerable work carried out by Provost Hannah within the local community and the very high regard in which he had been held. A brief discussion took place at the conclusion of which Wilma was asked to approach Lesley Scott, Greenspace Officer within EDC and to convey to her the Group's suggestion in this regard. Wilma agreed to do so.

Wilma had taken the opportunity at a recent meeting to raise with Lesley Scott, Greenspace Officer, residents' concerns regarding the current state of the new enclosed play and equipment area within the park. An e-mailed reply had been received from Lesley in which she indicated that she had spoken with the officer in the charge of the play area refurbishment and he has confirmed that the fence was re-erected. The safety surface contractor had been on site and it was hoped, dependent on the weather that the surface would be completed by Friday 15 May 2009.

At the same time she had indicated that the total cost of the refurbishment was far in excess of the £11000.00 received from the Councillors' Ward Budget. Indeed this amount had only covered the cost of the fencing, the play equipment, surfacing etc had come from the Greenspace's own budget. The part played by Greenspace in funding the refurbishment is now acknowledged.

Unfortunately at the time of the meeting it would appear that there still appears to be problem regarding the surface within the play area. The fencing which had been put in place as a safety measure was now on the ground causing an obvious health and safety problem. Wilma was asked to convey these points to Lesley when next they spoke and this she agreed to do.

Boundary Issue

Donald confirmed that at a recent meeting of the Community Council this item had been eloquently spoken to by representatives of the Princesgate residents whose properties Glasgow City Council wished to bring in to their jurisdiction from EDC. On behalf of WRG Donald offered help and support to the group. This was gratefully accepted.

Annual Report – 2008-09

Following distribution of the draft Annual Report, Donald asked the Group to convey to him any comments they wished to make regarding this as soon as possible.

Bus Turning Circle

As there was no further information on this item it was decided to leave the item until Donald had an opportunity to speak with Dominic.

Fire Station Event

The Group has been invited to take part in the above event to be held on Saturday 13 June 2009. After a brief discussion it was decided to accept this invitation. The format to be followed would be similar to that provided last year. Donald would again provide music and "ring master" the event.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group would be held on Monday 15 June 2009 in St Ninian's High School.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.