

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at Bishopbriggs Academy Monday 18 January 2010

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths

Donald Macdonald (Chairman)

Councillor Alan Moir

Anne Mullin

Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)

Tom Russell

Jack Scott

Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)

David Watson (Resident -

Menteith Avenue)

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Councillor Gordan Low

Constable Peter McNicol (Campus Cop,
Bishopbriggs Academy)

Councillor Michael O'Donnell

Welcome

Donald welcomed everyone present to the first meeting of 2010.

AOCB

There were no additional items to be raised under this item.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of previous meeting was proposed by Jackie and seconded by Anne.

Matters arising

There were no "matters arising" from last month's minutes.

Chair's Report

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

- Sent response to the Boundary Commission supporting the "revising" of the proposal that the properties in Princes Gate remain within EDC.
- Contacted Kidaround (supplier of inflatables) regarding next Family Fun Day. Unfortunately they are no longer doing this so it will be necessary to find an alternative supplier.
- Spoke at the meeting of Cleddens Residents' Group regarding Town Centre plans.
- Attended meeting of Bishopbriggs Community Council.
- Visited ticket outlets for presentation of "It's a wonderful life".
- Produced and distributed flyers for schools for "It's a Wonderful Life".
- Accompanied Santa on visits to Callieburn Court, Mavisbank Nursing Home and Springfield Court where the residents/patients were entertained by Santa and received a small gift from the Group.
- Accompanied Santa when he visited some 20 homes on Christmas Eve. Grateful thanks to Santa for his time and Dominic Notarangelo for the loan of open top car.
- Hosted film "It's a Wonderful life" at Woodhill Evangelical church - assisted by Wilma, Jack and Jackie.
- Presented a cheque for £100.00 to the winner of the Christmas Lights Competition.
- Spoke to Bishopbriggs Herald regarding the accident caused by a protruding dangerous post in ground at Greenhill.
- Currently organising cheque from East Dunbartonshire TOA necessitated by change of personnel.
- Designed "free" banner for to be used at Group events: this needs to be collected – Jack to collect.
- Attended, accompanied by Secretary/Treasurer, meeting of Bishopbriggs Community Council with Muse Developments regarding Bishopbriggs Town Centre.
- Maintained Group's website.

Treasurer's Report

Wilma reported that during the past month expenditure had exceeded income mainly due to expenses involved with Santa visits. Despite this the funds of the Group continue to remain in a healthy position.

Donald asked Wilma to make out a cheque to cover legal expenses incurred by the residents of Torr Road: an invoice for the amount was passed over. The Group was reminded that a sum of money had been lodged in the Group's bank account on their behalf some time ago and it was this sum to which Donald referred.

Councillor Alan Moir entered at this point.

Donation

A donation to the Group's funds of £50.00 was received from Anne and Jackie Mullin. This was gratefully received.

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

It was decided to take these two items together as it is hoped to cover **both** at the meeting to be held on Wednesday 27 January.

Donald opened discussion on this item by confirming that invitations had been extended to Jo Swinson MP, David Whitton MSP, Councillors Low, Moir and O'Donnell, Inspector O'Neill: a representative will also be present from the Roads Department of EDC. It is understood that Ms Swinson is unable to attend, but she has intimated that she will send a representative in her place. It is presumed that overviews of the current position will be presented at the meeting.

Councillor Moir intimated that due to damage the variable speed sign it had been removed. When it is reinstalled it will have a solar panel and will be trickle charged from an adjacent lighting column, hopefully adding to its efficacy.

Donald intimated that it was intended to distribute a leaflet informing residents of the forthcoming meeting. It will also be distributed in adjoining streets. He will liaise with Jackie and David regarding this.

Gatso Speed Camera

This was covered in the above item.

Caterpillar Corridors

Donald intimated that he had not, as yet, had the proposed meeting with Gillian Telfer, Bi-Diversity Officer within EDC; he hoped to report further on this at the next meeting.

Woodhill Primary School – Wild Flower Planting

Donald was unable to say how the flower planting was progressing, but intimated that he would contact Ms Kenny, Head Teacher to get the up-to-date position and report to the next meeting.

David left the meeting at this point.

Thomas Muir Building

There was little to report on this item other than to say that the building was demolished without incident. Although the fence surrounding the site is frequently pushed to the ground, diligence by local residents ensures that it is quickly re-erected by Morgan Ashurst.

Councillor Moir said that it had been unfortunate that there had not been better engagement with interested parties before demolition commenced and with particular regard to the treatment/removal of the asbestos. This had led to unfounded fear and concern experienced both by pupils and parents. He further commented that the attendance of representatives from the Health and Safety Executive had been coincidental inasmuch it fell at the same time as the asbestos removal company required to undergo inspection in order to renew

their certificate of competence. He concluded by saying that “it is not possible to have too much communication”, comments which were echoed by those present.

Bishopbriggs Academy

Donald referred to the meeting which had recently taken place between residents in Torr Road and representatives from EDC. As a result of this some, but not all of the issues concerning the residents had been resolved.

Town Centre/Sports Hall

Donald informed the Group that along with Wilma on Monday 11 January he had attended a meeting called by the Community Council to discuss with the developers, Muse Developments, the future of the Town Centre. An invitation to attend had been extended to all groups within the community and a fair representation attended. Following a presentation by the developers, and then a brief question and answer period, the conclusion was reached that a “champion” or “champions” should be invited from those present to meet with the developers to have “input” into the decision-making process regarding the town centre. Following the departure of Muse Developments, a useful discussion took place.

At the conclusion of this the following individuals agreed to become “champions” and to represent the residents of Bishopbriggs – Ruth Box, Pat McBride, Donald Macdonald, Dominic Notarangelo and John Dickson (Poppies). The group will have an opportunity to get together before their meeting with the developers. Donald would report further on this item at a future meeting of the Group.

Boundary Issue

As intimated in Chair’s report Donald had sent a response to the Boundary Commission supporting the “revising” of the proposal that the properties in Princes Gate remain within EDC. Councillor Moir intimated that if this “revision” is confirmed in favour of the residents, it would also make available land on which to build affordable housing.

“It’s a Wonderful life”

Donald confirmed that the showing of the above film prior to Christmas had been a success. The supper provided by the catering staff within the Woodhill Evangelical Church following the event had been thoroughly enjoyed by those attending; an invoice for the cost of this was awaited.

At the event Donald had presented a cheque for £100.00 to Hugh McDonald of Flora Gardens, who had won the Christmas Lights competition sponsored by East Dunbartonshire TOA: the charity chosen by Hugh McDonald was CHAS (Children’s Hospice Association Scotland). An impromptu collection had raised a modest sum which will be sent on to CHAS.

Community Cinema

Following the success of the showing of “It’s a Wonderful Life”, Donald proposed to create a “community cinema”. Hopefully this could be held in the Woodhill Evangelical Church and “classic” films could be shown on a regular basis. He intended to speak with Ruth Box the following evening and would report back to the Group at the next meeting.

Santa’s Visits

Continuing the Christmas theme, Donald confirmed that, along with Santa, he had visited local care homes in the week running up to Christmas leaving a small gift for the residents. He and Santa had also delivered some forty gifts to children on Christmas Eve. It was hoped that all of these events had been enjoyed as much by the residents/children as by Santa and himself.

Dropped Kerbs

Donald confirmed that Bishopbriggs Herald had recently run a story which had included a photograph of Anne and highlighting the problem experienced by her when she wished to move from streets adjacent to her home. The Group, and Anne in particular, looked forward to the promised work being carried out within, and before, the end of the current financial year.

Crossing – Woodhill Road

A brief discussion took place on this item at the end of which Councillor Moir confirmed that the matter was being “chased up” and would hopefully be resolved sooner rather than later.

Jackie then mentioned the excavation by BT which had take place outside his property in Kirriemuir Gardens. Despite several telephone calls to BT and EDC he had been unable to find out why this had been done. This has now been reinstated without any visible work being carried out. A similar excavation had now been carried out on the opposite side of the road. Such excavations/reinstatement created weak spots both on the pavements and roads and the recent heavy snowfalls would inevitably add to this problem.

Councillor Moir agreed to make enquiries regarding the current position.

Snow clearing

Donald referred to the severe and prolonged snow falls which had been experienced in recent weeks. He commended the work done by the men/women responsible for clearing/gritting the roads, acknowledging that A and B roads must take precedence over, for example, cul de sacs. However, he did ask if perhaps some priority should be given to access roads and lanes to schools.

Whilst accepting Donald’s comments Councillor Moir responded by informing the Group that the staff employed to clear/grit the roads had been working 24/7 and that their Christmas/New Year break had been non-existent. He also informed the Group EDC had been approaching its last grains of salt when the weather finally abated.

Councillor Moir did stressed that although there is a list of the various categories of eligibility, in many instances it had been necessary to deviate from this in instances of chronic medical problems, etc. He invited the Group to view EDC website where the list referred by him earlier could be viewed.

A brief discussion then followed regarding in grit/sand boxes and their availability. Donald agreed to raise this, together with snow clearing at the meeting of the Community Council due to take place the following evening.

The reinstatement of the roads and pavements now that the snow has cleared was then discussed and Councillor Moir agreed that extra finance would be required to augment the Council’s dwindling budget for this task. He was, however, confident that the Council would be making strong representations to the Scottish Government in this regard. The matter was then concluded.

Next Meeting

Donald reminded the Group of the “extraordinary” meeting to be held on Wednesday 27 January 2010, with the hope that members will be available to attend.

The next “ordinary” meeting will be held in English English Classroom (F014) Bishopbriggs Academy on Monday 15 February 2010

The meeting ended at 9.55 pm.