

Woodhill Residents Group

Minutes of Meeting held at St Ninian's High School Monday 19 January 2009

PRESENT (Alphabetical order)

William Jerritt
Donald Macdonald (Chairman)
Alan Moir
Wilma Scott (Secretary/Treasurer)

Anne Mullin
Jackie Mullin (Vice Chairman)
Jack Scott

APOLOGIES (Alphabetical order)

Charlie Griffiths
Councillor Alex Hannah
Rosaleen McDowall
Betty Logan
Jim Logan

Robert Lowe
Dominic Notarangelo Councillor
Michael O'Donnell
Ian Tyldesley
Michelle Tyldesley

Welcome

Donald opened the meeting by welcoming those present and wishing all a Happy New Year.

Donald asked if there were any items to be raised under AOB. Although there were no items to be raised via the Group, Donald listed five items he wished to have included. Those were (1) the snack van application, (2) parking in Angus Avenue/Wester Cleddens Road, (3) Cleddens Nursery Eco Committee, (4) Cleddens Nursery garden and (5) Canal Festival.

Minutes

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

Chair's Report

Donald began by saying that December and January had been busy months for the Group. This had been mainly due to the Group's continuing opposition to the re-naming of Lowmoss Prison. The website had received an enormous amount of hits. For example, in November there were in excess of 450 hits. This was followed in December by over 720 hits and in January with over 570 to date. Although it has to be acknowledged that many of the hits related purely to the petition, there had been several other "happier" spin offs notably the joy from Santa's visits on Christmas Eve and the fact that the Group continue to receive donations of cycles to be passed on to Gorbals Recycles.

With regard to the on-line petition, to date some 462 names have been added. In conjunction with this, a paper petition had been taken to Morrisons at the Triangle in Bishopbriggs. Over 380 signatures were taken in just over two hours and Donald was pleased to report that very few individuals refused to sign.

It is hoped that at some point it may be possible to have reciprocal links in and to the websites of Joe Swinson MP and David Whitten MSP, both of whom have also indicated their opposition to the re-naming of the prison.

Donald informed the Group that he had received positive feedback to his recent BBC interview which had been recorded in December and which had appeared on a recent edition of Reporting Scotland.

Donald reported that the Group had recently received notification from Scottish Water of proposed works within the Woodhill area ie in Etive Crescent. On communicating with the officer responsible within Scottish Water, it would appear that Scottish Water is hoping to establish a good working ethos with the Group and this has been warmly received by Donald.

Donald intimated that he had recently attended the AGM of the Torrance Initiative. This had been a particularly contentious meeting, his conclusion from which indicated the importance maintaining good relationships between affected parties on any proposals which will affect an entire community.

Bishopbriggs Academy

First thing to update is application for a snack van licence specifically for the junction of Angus Avenue and Wester Cleddens Road. Donald queried if it was customary for such a licence to be sought for one location only.

Alan confirmed that to the best of his knowledge this was not the case. He went on to say that he felt that there were several problems attached to this application not least of which being the road safety aspect and the central government initiative regarding “healthy eating”.

Following a lengthy discussion, Donald agreed to raise the matter at the next Community Council meeting due to be held on Tuesday 20 January and to ascertain the grounds upon which any representation against granting the application could be made.

He then made reference to the “over-running” of the schools’ project which had been reported recently in the local press. Following a brief discussion, he agreed to raise this matter also at the Community Council meeting.

Mr William Jerritt entered the meeting at this point ie 7.30 pm.

Introductions made by Mr Jerritt indicated that he had come along with the intention of raising several points which were currently causing his concern. The first point he raised was regarding the application for a snack van to be located outside the new Bishopbriggs Academy. A brief discussion followed during which Donald reiterated what had been said at the meeting. He also added that the Chair of the Academy Parent Council would be making a representation against this application.

Further questions were raised ie is there a designated exclusion zone for ice cream/snack vans around schools? Does the granting of one licence pertain only to one van at one location? Donald noted these questions and added them to the list of questions to be raised at the Community Council meeting.

In conclusion Mr Jerritt was happy to accept that the Group would be making representations against the granting of this licence.

Mr Jerritt then raised his concern regarding the parking on both sides of the road outside the shop at the top of Woodhill Road. This caused severe problems especially when it was necessary to cross onto the “wrong” side of the road or when “deadlock” occurred when neither oncoming vehicle would give way to the other when trying to pass the parked vehicles. This then caused problems when trying to turn from there onto Auchinairn.

A lengthy discussion followed during which several solutions were put forward. However, at the conclusion of this it was agreed that an approach should be made to Derek Cunningham within the Development and Environment Department within the Council asking that consideration should be given to assessing the situation, particularly at the busy times ie around 5.00 pm. Donald agreed to do this and to report further at the next meeting.

Bus Turning Circle

Mr Jerritt then raised the question of the Bus Turning Circle currently sited on Wester Cleddens Road. Donald explained the background to this item. Mr Jerritt expressed astonishment that the land on which the circle sits no longer belongs to the Council but rather to a developer who intends to incorporate this space onto adjoining areas and to build houses on the amassed site.

Much discussion ensued regarding a suitable alternate location for a bus turning circle. It was concluded that it was not possible to “second guess” such a location and that in the meantime it would be necessary to adopt a “wait and see” policy ie **wait** until there is a proposal and **see** how it will affect the area. One thought, however, was paramount that there was no desire to jeopardise the provision of a bus service which everyone agreed was widely used by all members of the community.

Mr Jerritt commented on the damage to the grass verge at the junction of Angus Avenue and Wester Cleddens Road. After a brief discussion it was suggested that a photograph of the damage should be taken and sent to EDC. There seemed little doubt that if the damage was caused by the contractors' vehicle(s) then it seems only right that they should pay for or arrange to carry out appropriate reinstatement. Comments were also made regarding the continuing irresponsible parking of the contractors' vehicles around Pentland Drive.

Ward Committee Spending

There was nothing further to report on this item at this point.

Sports Hall

Donald brought Mr Jerritt up-to-date regarding the ownership of the Sports Hall and to the efforts being made by the Steering Group to ensure that the hall remained in its current position for the continued use the community. Unfortunately further movement to secure this end was being impeded by the fact that it was not possible to get all interested parties together at the one time. It was concluded that efforts should continue to be made to retain this leisure facility centrally and the Group would offer its support to the Steering Group in any way it could.

Lowmoss Prison

Although this item had been covered in Chair's Report a further brief discussion took place during which Donald brought Mr Jerritt up-to-date with the Group's position on the matter. It was concluded that although the fact that **all** political parties are in consensus over the renaming of the prison was extremely helpful, the apparent intransigent stance of the Scottish Prison Service on this matter was considerably less so. However, the Group would continue in its efforts and to keep this item in the public eye.

Time Banking

Donald intimated that due to pressure of work he had been unable to take this matter further since the last meeting. However, he did intend to pursue the matter and, in due course, would report further to the Group.

Local History Project

Donald informed the Group had he had made little progress on this matter, but hoped to remedy this in the near future and to report further at the next meeting.

Personal Safety Training Course

Donald informed the Group that EDC are currently running personal safety training courses and workshops in conjunction with Wise Women Personal Safety. He suggested that the Group organise a workshop on Personal Safety and Confidence Building to be held locally: the workshop would be offered at no cost to the participants. The cost to the Group would be approximately £60.00, plus the cost of the hiring of a suitable venue. Each workshop can take up to twenty participants. The Group would be responsible for all administrative details which would include publicity. It was unanimously agreed to investigate this item further and to report at the next meeting.

Any other Business

Tea Dance World Record

Donald suggested that the Group organise a Tea Dance in the hope of breaking the current world record which currently stands at 232 couples. Music for the event could be provided by the Kirkintilloch Variety Swing Band. It was hoped possible to have a "tie-up" with Bishopbriggs Academy: details in this regard had yet to be finalised. However, in the meantime Morrisons had agreed to bake scones for the event! Donald would report further on this at the next meeting.

Canal Festival

Donald reminded the Group that last year an application had been made to take part in this event. Unfortunately this had been too late for inclusion in 2008 event. However, the Group has been invited to take part this year. A grant of £150.00 is available. Donald has accepted the invitation on behalf of the Group. Further information would be available in due course.

Cleddens Nursery

Donald had been approached by Cleddens Nursery Eco Committee inviting a member of the Group to join their committee. On behalf of the Group this was accepted by Wilma. Donald also asked for a representative from the Group to help with a small garden project being undertaken by the Nursery. Jackie agreed to do this.

Donald agreed to pass on to the Nursery relevant contact details.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group would be held on **Monday 16 February 2009** in **St Ninian's High School**.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.