

Kilsyth Community Council

Minute of meeting held on 21 January 2009 in St Patrick's Primary School

PRESENT: Margot Macmillan Alex Machray Jean McLachlan
Scott Johnson John Freebairn Jim Hutchison
Charles Coulthard John Smithson Alan Stevenson
Carol Sullivan Ian Jarvis

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor David Key
Councillor Jean Jones
Dave Sutton, NLC Built Heritage
Richard Cartwright, NLC CARS
Inspector John McTear, Strathclyde Police (Part-time)
Sergeant George Smith, Strathclyde Police (Part-time)
Members of Public
Local Press

1. APOLOGIES: None

2. POLICE REPORT:

The Chairman introduced Inspector McTear and Sergeant Smith who had kindly agreed to attend our meeting. There were 2 main issues for discussion with the police.

- a. The letter (email) from Inspector McTear regarding complaints that police vehicles were being driven through the pedestrian area on apparently non operational duties.
- b. The problem of traders not being allowed to unload/load in the pedestrian area.

Inspector McTear confirmed that police vehicles should only be driven through the pedestrian area when operationally necessary and that walking on foot should be the normal working pattern. All staff had been issued with a written instruction to this effect from Chief Inspector Mulrooney.

Regarding the issue of unloading/loading within the pedestrian area, he advised that a local arrangement had been agreed with the traders but that complaints had then been received regarding this arrangement. All traders were then told that everyone must obey the traffic order.

Following a discussion with members, police, councillors and members of the public participating, Scott Johnson offered to facilitate a meeting with traders and councillors regarding the possibility of several loading bays being made

available at fixed times of the day. The group would also consider any longer term solutions and report back to the community council.

Inspector McTear provided the crime figures for the district since November 2008. 137 crime reports had been completed and 47 reports sent to the Procurator Fiscal. No serious assaults had been reported but there had been slight increase in house break-ins. He also mentioned that the Chief Constable had visited Kilsyth within the last week and accompanied one of the officers on his beat around the town.

3. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF PUBLIC FOR POLICE:

Councillor Jones expressed her concern that there had been a number of arson attacks in the town which could have had serious consequences. Inspector McTear advised that local schools were being visited to remind children of the dangers of fire.

The Chairman raised the issue of NLC offering advertising space on roundabouts. Some members felt that this would not create a risk, while others felt that this was a bad idea. John Freebairn thought that this was illegal. In reply to a question, Inspector McTear reported that the Traffic Division was investigating the position. [The Chairman has emailed the Scottish Government to obtain a definitive answer as to the legality or guidance offered for such advertising panels].

The Chairman had been asked to raise the issue of cars being parked over 2 marked spaces in a car park. Inspector McTear responded that the markings were advisory only and as long as the vehicle was not causing an obstruction or a risk to other drivers it was not illegal, but perhaps a word from a police officer or the traffic warden would resolve the matter. John Smithson raised the issue of vehicles being either parked half on the road or completely on the pavement. Inspector McTear confirmed if these were causing an obstruction then it was illegal. John provided 2 areas where this was happening and also details of an apparently abandoned car. Inspector McTear agreed to make investigations on these and report back via the community officers at our next meeting.

The Chairman thanked the officers for attending and providing such valuable and timely input.

4. NLC CONSULTATION ON KILSYTH CONSERVATION AREA:

The Chairman invited David Sutton and Richard Cartwright to present on a supplementary guidance note for Kilsyth Conservation Area and provide an update on the shop front project and the present status of the White House. Dave introduced the procedure for giving feedback on the supplementary guide which had to be returned by the end of January. He then turned to the White House and gave his best estimates when work could commence on the site. Agreement had been reached to engage an architect to prepare plans to secure

Listed Building Consent, planning permission and Building Warrant for what might be achieved on the site. NLC were still working in partnership with ROCK DCM in a search for a possible developer. He confirmed that the present time limit on the Historic Scotland grant was March 2010. Regarding Burngreen, the result of the bid for funding for phase 2 of the work should be known by the end of March. Work on the shop front project had been delayed. 12 applications had now been approved and applications for a further 6 were in hand.

Dave then handed over to Richard who presented an overview of the supplementary guidance note for Kilsyth Conservation Area. One major area for consultation was if the existing boundary was correct or if any changes were necessary.

The Chairman then opened up the meeting for a Q/A session. Several members suggested areas which could be included. A member of the public asked about the state of the White House building and why nothing had been done for so many years. Dave Sutton offered to come back with a progress report but members commented that nothing had changed on the site since the last report in October. There was obviously a strong feeling, both from members and the large number of residents at the meeting, that something must be done and done soon. Councillor Jones wondered why no legal action had been taken to force the owners to take remedial action.

It was agreed that a proposal should be sent to Patrick Kelly, Head of Planning as follows:-

“That NLC takes immediate action to force the owners of the White House to take remedial action to make the building safe and watertight.”

5. GENERAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF PUBLIC:

All issues raised had already been discussed.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Scott Johnson, seconded by Charles Coulthard, proposed the adoption of the minute of the meeting held on 19 November 2008.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM ABOVE MINUTE:

No matters were discussed arising from the minute of the last meeting.

8. REPORT FROM TREASURER:

The Treasurer advised the balance of the Admin. Account was £1588.73
Jean provided a summary of the expenditure since the last meeting.

9. REPORT FROM SECRETARY:

The Secretary advised the balance of the Projects Account was £630.38
The main item of expenditure was the cost of framing the Piper paintings.

10. CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE:

The Chairman reviewed the correspondence sent and received since the last meeting. Margot referred to a Scottish Government consultation on long term leasing of large parts of Scotland's forests. A discussion took place on the risks and merits of such a move. The consultation period ended in a few days and it was decided that members should respond individually.

The Chairman read out a motion presented in the Scottish Parliament concerning the loss of local newspapers and offices. It was agreed that we should write to Johnston Press, noting our concerns over plans to close the Chronicle Office and the future of our local newspaper.

11. SECRETARY'S CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary reviewed the correspondence sent and received since the last meeting.

12. PLANNING:

The weekly planning lists and licence applications were reviewed. The revised drawings for the extension of the former Burgh Chambers were tabled. The community council had objected to the initial plans. The Secretary had requested an extension of the consultation period until members were able to consider the revised plans at the January meeting. This request was refused and planning permission had now been granted. Council Key agreed to take up this matter within NLC. There had been a number of objections to the location of the new Day Centre at Westfield. Our local councillors were dealing with these. The red sandstone building in Burngreen has been declared surplus to requirements by NLC. William Chalmers and the Historical Society had expressed an interest and there will be ongoing discussions around the future of the building.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

It was agreed that we purchase a number of "Walkers are Welcome" notices for distribution around the town. Arrangements for the Snowdrop Festival were still to be finalised by NLC. NLC was presently consulting on a new Biodiversity Action Plan.

14. HERITAGE AND HISTORY:

The Chairman advised that a Mr Dickson proposed to publish a number of historical documents and reprint Jim Hutchison's book on the history of Kilsyth. It was agreed to permit the use of our Coat of Arms on these publications, subject to the usual conditions. Jim gave a short summary of what he was

planning to include in the next historical event to be held on 3rd March in the Coachman Hotel.

15. OTHER REPORTS:

Charles Coulthard provided a short report on behalf of Kilsyth Rotary Club.

16. WEBSITE:

The list of links from our site has now been revised. The Chairman provided information on the site hits which came from all over the world.

It was agreed that a number of new historical articles, recently completed by Jim, should be added to our website.

17. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

There was no other competent business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18 February 2009 in St. Patrick's Primary School, commencing at 7.30pm.