

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAINS ESTATE RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Held on Wednesday 9 December 2009 in Douglas Academy at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Committee Mr I Petrie, Mrs E Gibson, Mrs R Hooper, Ms J Horn, Mrs S Longrigg,
Mr J Kerr & Mrs E Adie.

In attendance residents – Mr A Fraser, Mr M Aitken and Mr G Walmsley &
Cllrs. – J Gibbons & B Binks

Apologies

Provost Gotts

Chairperson's Opening Remarks

Ian Petrie welcomed everyone to the meeting. The committee were sorry to hear that Lesley Scott of EDC Greenspace Dept. had moved to another authority but were very grateful for all the help she had given the committee. Jean passed on Lesley's thanks for the small gift she had received from MERA.

Minutes of Meeting on 21 October 2009

These were proposed by Jean Horn and Seconded by Jim Kerr

Matters Arising

Hunter Road is still ongoing and our councillors confirmed that EDC is still committed to this.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance of the account is £13,750. The bulk of this is made up as follows:-

£10000 received from Awards for All for our park project

£1000 received from Milngavie Community Council for the park project

£665 received by way of donations from residents for the park project

It was noted we have also received £3000 from East Dunbartonshire Community Grant Scheme although funds have not been received yet. Also East Dunbartonshire Greenspace also currently hold £5000 from Tarmac which was donated to our park project.

Park Update

Jean and Rona advised that the funds have now been received from Awards for All as stated in our Treasurer's report above. The committee were pleased this was a substantial boost to our fundraising. We are still awaiting to hear from WREN with regards to our application to them and we are also still waiting to hear from our

councillors with regard to our application to their ward fund. In the New Year we shall consult with Greenspace as to purchase procedure, as any equipment will be purchased following EDC guidelines, health and safety etc. We shall then arrange a full consultation with involved partners.

Craigton Woods

The final draft of the EDC Local Plan 3 consultation is now complete and a representation letter from MERA was forwarded to EDC planning dept and we have received an acknowledgement. It was noted that there was overwhelming support for the area of Craigton Wood to remain the same and MERA did not support any change to the designation of this area. Sarah confirmed that the website had been well used particularly over this issue and it was noted that this has been a successful means of communication for MERA.

Local EDC Budget Consultation

Rona advised that as a member of the Citizens' Panel she had attended the above consultation. The Chief Executive advised that EDC will require to find savings of initially £8m and thereafter savings of £5-7m per year over the next following three years. There is also a survey which can be completed online with a link from the EDC website. However, the web address is www.ibp.eu.com/edcbudgetconsultation and the questionnaire can be completed up until 18 December 2009. Rona urged everyone to advise people of this as the cuts that will require to be made will be heavy and everyone should voice their opinion as to what they think should be preserved and saved. It will also enable our elected members to gauge public opinion.

Water Feature

Mr Fraser, Mr Aitken and Mr Walmsley attended to inform us of their proposals with regard to negotiating with Hacking and Paterson. There are currently 357 residents on the estate who pay to Hacking and Paterson in respect of the water feature. The Douglas Muir residents also pay to H & P but in respect of the woodland path. It is therefore the intention of Mr Fraser to write to the 357 residents, who pay to H & P for the upkeep of the water feature, to try to get some co-ordinated communication with the 357 and H & P. Currently H & P had written to the 357 residents advising that there were three options with regard to the water feature.

Option 1 Construction of a borehole and installation of a private water non-metered supply.

Option 2 Relining the feature.

Option 3 Dispense with the feature and landscape over.

The costs for the aforementioned options ranged from £50,000 to £550,000.

The committee updated Messrs Fraser, Aitken & Walmsley with regard to action and consultation carried out by MERA previously. It was therefore decided that Mr Fraser would make contact with 357 residents and would provide them with an e-mail address through which they could contact him. MERA shall also provide a link to this e-mail address through their own website. It was agreed that Mr Fraser will keep MERA updated on his progress.

AOCB

Cllr Gibbons advised that the Kilmardinny negotiations had been extended for a further 4 months.

Cllr Binks advised that the naming of the footpath alongside the park is ongoing and he had suggested Hunter's Way. However, both councillors advised that we could look into holding a competition perhaps through the schools. This will be checked out as we had previously thought that as it had to go through several committees that this would not be possible. We shall try to seek advice, although we had written to the roads dept. over this and have not received a reply. The hedge at the end of the service road to Carnock Gardens, which runs parallel to Falloch Road had also been identified by a resident that it was not maintained. The maintenance of this hedge was raised but it is thought that the residents themselves should maintain this. Our Councillors shall look into this matter.

Correspondence

We received an acknowledgement with regards to our letters commenting on the Local Plan and Tesco.

An e-mail was received addressed to MERA to Rona from Douglas Academy Parent Council. This e-mail was sent in response to a personal request for information from Rona. However the Parent Council have informed MERA that they did not wish to comment on the final draft of the Local Plan (this being Rona's request to them as a parent). The Parent Council feel they should only comment should there be a planning application submitted.

Dates of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17 February 2010 at Douglas Academy.

Wednesday 14 April 2010 at Douglas Academy.