

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAINS ESTATE RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION
Held on Wednesday 17 February 2010 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 - Cllr J Gibbons & Provost E Gotts

Apologies

None

Chairperson's Opening Remarks

Ian Petrie welcomed everyone to the meeting

Minutes of Meeting on 9 December 2009

These were proposed by Elizabeth Gibson and Seconded by Eleanor Adie

Matters Arising

We did not get any feedback from Mr Fraser regarding the water feature.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance of the account is £16,624.45. 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

£3000 received from EDC Community Grant Scheme

£670 received by way of donations from residents for the park project

Also East Dunbartonshire Greenspace also currently hold £5000 from Tarmac which was donated to our park project.

Subscriptions have been received from 160 households.

Park Update

The WREN funding application was acknowledged by WREN and they have responded to us by asking for more detailed information by way of exact costings of the play equipment. In consultation with Keith Scrimgeour contact was made with Fiona Robertson Design and she has now produced three detailed plans, each plan with different equipment and layouts. This was shown to the committee. She shall produce exact plans and we shall endeavour to contact the local schools and request another consultation or input from the children as to the exact pieces of equipment they would wish to see in the play area. Our first contact will be with the Headteacher and we shall be guided by how they wish to proceed i.e. through pupil council etc.

Jean and Rona advised that they had carried out a lot of research on play areas and visited several locations. More natural play areas seem to be the most popular designs.

Jean and Rona advised that EDC Community Learning and Development section were being inspected at the end of January 2010 by HMI of Education along with Douglas Academy. An inspector asked to meet with us in connection with the park project and our relationship and co-operation with EDC in this. The best part of three hours was spent with the inspector which Jean and Rona felt went well. The HMI were also meeting with the Community Council, Ramblers and other members of the community together with Douglas Academy and associated school community.

Residential Matters

Winter snowfall

Residents had been concerned over the lack of snow clearance and gritting during the severe weather. Our councillors advised that EDC had an obligation to keep certain main roads open and within a certain time turnaround. This was made even more difficult with the prolonged weather conditions and the lack of road salt throughout the UK. It was felt that this had been an extremely difficult situation. However, it was felt that we could suggest to residents to request more grit bins in difficult areas. It was also suggested that perhaps more attention could be given to housebound and elderly should such a situation arise again and that vulnerable residents could contact the council for assistance. It was also a time to be neighbourly as many residents on the estate are elderly and we shall perhaps cover this in our newsletter.

EDC have accepted that the Council Call Centre could have handled matters far better as they were not prepared for the volume of calls. This call centre also handles housing emergency and 24 hour care calls. This will be looked at.

Naming of Footpath

Our councillors confirmed that they had continued to raise this with the roads department and it is in hand. The committee asked therefore if we could perhaps mention to the local schools when we are contacting them and we could perhaps ask for suggestions from them. This was thought to be a good idea.

Water Feature

We did not get a response from Mr Fraser.

AOCB

Tesco

An open meeting was organised by Eve Gilmour, a resident, which she arranged to gauge feelings over the proposed new store. Approx 80-100 attended this meeting. Milngavie Community Council has asked that a public meeting be organised with representatives from Tesco and our local councillors have confirmed that they would certainly back this consultation. There will be a meeting of the planning board in March and it is hoped a public meeting could be arranged after this.

Heritage Centre

The Heritage group have formed themselves and will be known as Milngavie Heritage Centre and a copy of their constitution was presented to the committee. The group

have opened a bank account and are now actively looking for premises. They wish to firstly pursue the former District Court which is attached to the Town Hall as this would be an ideal location being close to the train station, Lillie Art Gallery and the village. It is currently leased to a local craft group.

WHW/Tourist Information Centre

The former beer store is being converted into an information centre. However, it will now be run as a commercial concern with the appropriate occupant being responsible for the Information Centre. It has been stressed that EDC will need to find the right occupant who will responsibly promote the area.

Budget

Councillor Gotts advised that the public toilets in Milngavie will be closed. The budget for graffiti removal will be reduced from £70,000 to £20,000 for the entire area of East Dunbartonshire. The Community Support Officers will be reduced from 11 to 3. The committee were disappointed to hear this as it was felt they had been effective in tackling graffiti in the area. The mobile library service will probably go too. These budget choices stand for six months and we would urge residents to voice and make known their feelings to their local representatives as to what they would like to see i.e. perhaps reinstatement of fortnightly bin collections, charges for special uplifts etc.

Inspector Ross is being moved as the inspector for our area and Milngavie is being down graded to a sergeant as the most senior officer. It was decided that we would write to the Chief Constable to ask why the area is being downgraded.

Kilmardinny Development

The committee were extremely concerned over the recent reports in the Glasgow Herald and local newspaper where news coverage indicated that at a recent Council meeting it had been decided that the land swap would be going ahead and that the sports centre would be lost and that no new centre would be created. However, Cllr Gotts advised that the vote had been misrepresented in the press and that that negotiations would still be ongoing as to securing the future of the sports centre. Cllr Gibbons also confirmed that there would only be provision for 150 cars at the proposed rail halt.

Correspondence

We received an e-mail from the Community Support Officer confirming the reduction in cover from 11 to 3 officers for the entire area of East Dunbartonshire.

An invitation was received from the Crime Prevention Panel to attend a farewell evening for Inspector Ross on 26 February 2010 at Kilmardinny House for 7.30 – 9.30 p.m. Ian and Eleanor confirmed that they would attend and Rona is attending on behalf of the Community Council.

We received correspondence from the planning department confirming that permission was granted for the housing surrounding Douglas Academy. As a result of this there should be in the region of £20,000 ring fenced as planning gain for the park. Planning conditions have reflected many of the issues we raised in our objections and remarks at the time.

Dates of Next Meeting

Wednesday 14 April 2010 at Douglas Academy.

Out next meeting after April will be our AGM. Date to be confirmed.