

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MAINS ESTATE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Held on Thursday 27 May 2010 in Clober Primary School at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Mr I Petrie, (Chairperson) Mrs E Gibson, (Treasurer) Mrs R Hooper, (Secretary)
Ms J Horn, Mrs S Longrigg, Mr J Kerr, Cllr J Gibbons, Cllr E Gotts & Cllr B Binks.
Residents as per signing in sheet (37)
P C Mark Burns, EDC Community Support Officers Allan and Michelle and Neil
Weir – Milngavie Heritage Centre Committee

Apologies

Ms Jo Swinson

Chairperson's Opening Remarks

Ian Petrie welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee to all those present. He stated it had been a busy year with our normal issues of dog fouling, litter, clearance of leaves, gritting etc. In addition the Kilmardinny development, Tesco and the closure of the public toilets were all issues with which we had been involved.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 10 June 2009

These were proposed by Mr Duff and seconded by Jean Horn.

Matters Arising

EDC are now able to proceed with the improvements to Hunter Road.

Police Report

P C M Burns gave a brief presentation. Things have been fairly quiet on the estate over the past few months. There were no issues of violent crime and only a few incidents of anti-social behaviour. Police are aware of a few problem areas at Ardlui Gardens Service Road, where it meets Achray Place, at the woods through to Douglas Academy, as a youth drinking area. Also residents in Dunellan and in the woodland backing onto Dumbrock Road reported drinking with a bad litter problem of bottles. Falloch Road was also mentioned for incidents of youth disorder. P C Burns reminded us to be aware of bogus crime and to keep items in garden sheds locked. It was also highlighted to P C Burns that there may be apathy amongst residents in reporting crime due to the fact that they feel action is not taken quick enough. Also the call centre service would appear to be lacking in some areas.

Community Support Officers

Our Community Support Officers, Allan and Michelle advised that they continue to patrol the area and have been advised that there is a problem with drinking on the

astro turf at Douglas Academy, on a daily basis. They also apprehended a youth drinking in Falloch Road and are passing information to the licencing committee. They continue to look out for litter dropping and dog fouling but they have advised that it is a difficult one as they actually have to witness the act. However, people can phone on the 0800 number which was distributed to all at the meeting if they know of repeat offenders. The CSOs are now based in Grange Avenue, Milngavie in the former rent office. The meeting was aware that the CSOs are being reduced from 11 to 3 but they were unable to give us any further information on the status of their continued employment.

Milngavie Heritage Centre

Neil Weir informed the meeting of the proposals for a Heritage Centre in Milngavie. He advised of the background to the group getting started and as to how this group is being supported by other similar organisations in the area. Originally, it had been mooted that a combined Tourist Information and Heritage Centre would be created but on 22 May 2010 it was pleasing to note that a Tourist Information Centre was opened in Milngavie. This is being run by a walking company who are committed to running the Tourist Information under the terms of the lease. As a result the Heritage Group are looking for premises and have made a request to EDC to be considered for the former District Court at the Town Hall. This would link in nicely with the Lillie Art Gallery too. However, there are many changes within EDC and it may be that such premises will be administered by a Leisure Trust so we will require to see how matters develop within EDC, due to the current financial climate.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance of the account is £16,601.66 as at 30 April 2010. This figure includes funding grant monies of £14,670. It was pointed out that donations had been made to Milngavie Boys Club in recognition of their assistance with our clean up of the park. There was also a small fee for the website rental. The Treasurer thanked residents for their donations over the last year to our park project which totalled £670 and further information will be provided below. The subscription this year remains at £5 per household and donations have again been asked for towards the park project.

Website Update

Sarah advised that the website has now been running just over a year and there is a steady increase in those visiting the site. There was a substantial increase in visits to the site during the issue over Craigton Woods. All the comments received on the website had been positive. Indeed, there have been visits to the site from other countries including the Russian Federation, India, Netherlands and many others. Sarah explained that the site is split into two current sections – a news section and blog etc. Residents can subscribe to the site and they will then automatically receive updates from MERA. There is no charge for this service. Sarah also advised that she would welcome information, history, photographs etc to go onto the site for general interest. In addition any local events that are happening, she would welcome information.

AOCB

Cllr Gibbons confirmed that the proposed Kilmardinny Development is now back in the hands of the Reporter and EDC are awaiting her decision.

The Tesco planning application was refused and we await to see what further action Tesco wish to take, if any.

Cllrs Gibbons and Binks advised that it is possible for the decision on the closure of the toilets to be reversed. However, there is also possibly an alternative solution in that the running of the facility could be included within the Town Centre Bid. We shall require to monitor developments.

EDC have agreed to the footpath which runs from Hunter Road, at the crossing point at Clober Primary, along the side of the park up to Falloch Road. This will greatly assist the police and other parties to identify this area. It had originally been suggested to EDC to name this Hunter's Way but MERA had also been waiting to be given the go ahead to approach Douglas Academy's local history group along with members of the community to come up with suggestions. In addition, it was stated that suggestions could also be made via our website. Mr J Ross proposed we pick a name and after discussion the meeting agreed to give suggestions at the end and via the website and leave the committee to submit suggestion once Douglas Academy had submitted their suggestions. No strong feeling either way just pleased that footpath will be named and that police, gritters and pavement sweepers will know where to go. Our Councillors confirmed that the Hunter Road improvements have at last been given £200,000 funding from SPT so work should start with regard to compulsory purchase, if required, on the areas for improvement. Also included in road improvements is the T junction heading over from Baljaffray towards Hardgate. A roundabout will be created at this T junction.

Our Councillors also confirmed that the Fire Station field had been granted outline planning permission. Those interested in developments will require to look for the more detailed planning application which will give details of the exact housing proposed. It is understood that the development could include up to 40% affordable housing for the area.

Election of Committee

A request was made for new members. Mrs F McNeish was proposed by Elizabeth Gibson and seconded by Jean Horn and the committee will be pleased to welcome her joining them. The remaining members were proposed by Mrs C Campbell and seconded by Mrs C Petrie.

Correspondence

We received a letter from a Carnock Garden resident regarding the footpath which is now to be named, that runs alongside the park. This resident advised that this footpath was subject to flooding and that works had been carried out on two occasions to resolve this issue. Comments were received from other residents attending and it would appear that, following the most recent works, we have not had enough heavy rain to make fair comment. As a result it was agreed that the situation would be monitored and we have asked that residents contact us, via the website if possible, to keep us updated. It was also highlighted that the area is also a hotspot for dog fouling, litter and youths drinking and all these issues were raised with the Police

Officer and Community Support Officers attending the meeting and the comments were reiterated by others present.

Date of Next Meeting

TBA