

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAINS ESTATE RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

Held on Wednesday 19 January 2011 in Douglas Academy at 7.30 p.m.

Present

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

In attendance - CSOs - Allan Band and Michelle Nisbet
Cllrs E Gotts and J Gibbons

Apologies

Councillor Binks, Local Police

Chairperson's Opening Remarks

IP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Meeting on 10 November 2010

These were proposed by Jean Horn seconded by Eleanor Adie.

Matters Arising

Cllrs Gotts and Gibbons have advised that Hunter Road was still ongoing and progress was difficult due to the fact that only two residents had responded in a positive way, two had not responded at all and one was a negative response. However, the largest landowner in the area seemed to be responding favourably to the offer of purchasing the land. There is still concern that the proposed improvements could run into funding difficulties, with the current climate. As advised previously £100,000 is coming from EDC and the further £100,000 from SPT. However, it now looks like it could only be £25000 from SPT. Our members are still endeavouring to resolve this situation and a modified plan could be the way forward. There is difficulty in achieving a continuous footpath which would be desirable for the route to school. Compulsory purchase also uses up valuable funds and time. There should be a meeting in February and we can hopefully receive an update after that. Obviously the bad weather has been a priority for the Roads Dept. as is the ongoing pothole problem. Our members shall also raise the issue of erection of the footpath signs.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance of the account is £17,916.88. The bulk of this is made up as follows:-

£10,000 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 for the park project
£1347 received by way of donations from residents for the park project

Also East Dunbartonshire Greenspace currently holds £5000 from Tarmac which was donated to our park project, and £10,000 from WREN. We have still not received the £1000 funds promised by Councillors. Cllr. Gibbons suggested contacting Martin Cunningham regarding this.

Community Support Officers' Report

We welcomed Allan and Michelle to the meeting and asked for an update on their job situation. They have advised that they are now able to apply for their posts which are merging into the Environmental section of the Council. These two posts will now be covering the entire EDC area. We shall await the outcome and hope that they are successful. The Officers advised that they carried out a further combined exercise on 18, 19 & 20 December between 7 & 9 a.m. on dog fouling. During this time 30 walkers were chatted to and all were behaving responsibly. It is hoped that this presence will help to re-enforce the message that owners require to clear up after their dogs. The Officers reminded us that we can contact them to arrange street cleaning should the problem escalate again. Our committee highlighted a couple of problem dog fouling issues and Allan and Michelle shall carry out a leaflet drop in the area concerned and we shall see if there is any improvement. They are also dealing with a particular household where there is an environmental health concern. They also advised that they had received nine graffiti reports and had been dealing with this issue too.

Park Update

JH & RH advised that they had been contacted by Awards for All looking for an end of project report. Jean has contacted them to advise that there has been a delay in carrying out the works due to the bad weather, although EDC have purchased the equipment and in effect the money has been spent. JH & RH had also been endeavouring to contact Gillian Telfer during November/December to discover she had gone on maternity leave and were disappointed she had not notified them. However, Keith Scrimgeour is dealing with this and he has assured us that the project will be complete this Council financial year. It was noted that it has been difficult due to staff changes within EDC. JH & RH have asked our councillors to look into this for us and they have agreed to support us in reaching the end of this project.

Website

Sarah advised that the website is ticking over nicely. It has been suggested that we should encourage more people to sign up to the information blog. This is a good way to keep residents informed and we shall mention this in our next newsletter. It is especially useful in times such as the recent bad weather when we can put out information re bin collections, distribution of grit etc.

Residential Matters

Grit Bins – A request was made for a further bin at the hill in Garvel Place. There had been several incidents of cars getting stuck at this point. Our Councillors advised that the main priority during the severe weather is to keep the main roads open, which had been achieved. Then gritting moves onto the secondary roads. It was felt that this process did not happen in areas and this has been taken on board. Cllrs Gotts and Gibbons did advise that we can obtain the gritting strategy from the EDC website. There is also locations and gritting schedule on this website. They advised that there are also an extra 24 grit bins on order which would work out at an extra 3 per ward. We also hope to remind residents in our newsletter that they can go to the Council's Broomhill Depot (which is just past the Mavis Valley Recycling Centre and just before Bishopbriggs Sports Centre on Balmuildy Road) to stock up with grit, before winter sets in. We shall also try to encourage planning ahead and residents of streets working together to keep roads and pavements clear, especially where some may have elderly neighbours.

It was also noted that people were coming from further away to raid the grit bins for, we presume, other areas. It was also noted that many cars had parked on Castlemains Road, leaving the clearance of this road difficult.

It was also noted that the apple tree, which was the source of apple missiles used by schoolchildren, had been taken down. It was sad that this had to be done.

AOCB

It was pointed out that the Tesco inquiry will start on 1 February 2011 at 10 a.m. in Kessington Hall, Bearsden and committee members and residents were encouraged to attend. It is anticipated that this Inquiry could last 7 – 10 days.

Cllr Gotts advised that the 119 bus service would reduce, again, after 7 p.m. to one bus per hour. It was noted that the service was well used during the adverse weather and that First Bus did well to continue operation during this severe weather. The 118 service through Bearsden has been withdrawn.

The amount of potholes in the area was giving concern and Cllr Gibbons pointed out that holes must be reported and these are the ones that are repaired first. In order for a hole to be repaired it must be reported.

A request was received to write to the roads department regarding the state of the steps leading from Falloch Road to Ardlui Gardens. These steps have been damaged by the schoolchildren when they were directed to use this route to school. As the main entrance and pedestrian entrance to the school are now open it was agreed we would write to request repairs.

Traders in Milngavie hope to hear later this year if they have been successful with their Town Centre Bid. It was noted that they have done well to take on the task of keeping the toilets open meantime and keep them clean.

We were asked to remind people that Milngavie Heritage Centre Group were looking for people to join them in establishing a local Heritage Centre.

Correspondence

None

Dates of Next Meetings

30 March 2011

11 May 2011

1 June 2011 (AGM)