

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAINS ESTATE RESIDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION

Held on Wednesday 11 December 2013 within Douglas Academy at 7.30 p.m.

**Present**

Committee – Mr J Kerr, Mrs E Gibson, Ms J Horn, Mrs R Hooper, Mr B Mandeville, Mrs H McFadyen & Mr L Robertson

In attendance – Police Officer Ian McLeod from Milngavie Police Team & Councilor Gotts.

**Apologies**

Councillors Gibbons and Henry. Environmental Warden Allan Band and Mrs F McNeish

**Chairperson's Opening Remarks**

JK welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for missing the last one.

**Police Report**

Officer McLeod advised that perhaps at our last meeting we had been given figures for the entire Beat 82, of which Mains Estate is part of and this explained the high figure of 27 crimes in our last minutes. This time there has only been 10 crimes of which 2 were within MERA area. One incident involved a bottle being thrown through a car window in Falloch Road. Whilst MERA area has been fairly quiet other areas within Milngavie and Bearsden had experienced bogus workmen, house break ins and thefts from vehicles. Sat. Nav. Equipment seems a popular target. Car number plates were stolen at Dalnair Place, Milngavie. It was also highlighted that ebay fraud was happening whereby individuals were making a purchase and then at the last minute were asked to send the goods to another address, so we urge residents to watch out for this. One of the committee also highlighted to the Officer that she had received two telephone calls from individuals stating that they were from Microsoft and that they were requiring to access her computer as there was a fault in windows. This had been reported to BT who had advised that this should be taken up with the Police, as they also had received similar complaints. The calls had been received on an ex-directory number. It was also highlighted, again, that this incident had been reported through the MilngavieCPT e-mail and, yet again, no response had been received by this means of communication. It was felt that if the officers truly wish to engage with the public that this means of communication must be two way and anything reported acted on, or a written reply given.

**Environmental Wardens' Report**

Not able to attend

## **Minutes of Meeting on 23 October 2013**

Agreed and proposed by JH and seconded by EG

### **Matters Arising**

JK advised that he and one other committee member attended the LDP Main Issues Report meeting held within the Town Hall. Following on from this MERA commented on the proposed areas identified as suitable for housing, many of which surround the MERA area. This response was circulated to all committee members and a response to the Council agreed. Councillor Gotts advised that there had been a good response to this and that officers were working through comments.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Balance £6282.95. We have two more subscriptions and they now stand at 157. We had received 7 nominations for our Estate Champions and it was agreed to purchase a £10 voucher for each to recognise the good works that these individuals carry out to improve the MERA area. A voucher of £20 was also agreed to thank SL for all her work with the Association and for continuing to administer the website. EG also advised that the Community Grants Panel was meeting the same night as MERA, the next meeting of the Panel would be 5 March 2014.

### **Park Update**

Mrs Gillespie of EDC submitted a plan for the planting of trees which seemed ok to the committee and it was felt that Mrs G had the expertise in this area and that we should go with the locations suggested in the map to plant the trees. Mrs G also advised that a manhole had been identified in the marshy area at the far end of the park. This drain is part of the long drain that runs the length of the park, which may have originally been linked to the services outside the park. However, it is currently broken. Reconnecting this may create further pressure on the external drainage system and senior road engineers have suggested creating a pond in the marshy long grass area which would be funded and carried out by EDC. Mrs G confirmed that she would carry out a community consultation and the committee felt this would be important as some residents may have reservations. It was decided we would suggest that she could undertake further consultations at our AGM.

### **Website/Facebook Update**

Whilst SL cannot continue on the committee at the moment she is continuing to administer the website and the committee are very grateful for this. The committee were also pleased to hear that LR now has the MERA Facebook page up and running and it is hoped that this will be another useful means of communication with residents. It is hoped that the committee can encourage those with Facebook accounts to use this service and we shall promote this as much as possible and will include in our next newsletter. The committee

were also grateful to Ms Christie for all her help and advice in getting this set up.

### **Community Council Update**

RH advised that the CC had also attended the LDP MiR meeting in the Town Hall and had submitted a response to EDC. We had also received a communication from a CC councillor just prior to our meeting – see below under AOCB. The CC are continuing with the Making the Most of Milngavie (MMM) sub group and had agreed that Mr Christie would look into the possibility of the MMM group carrying out a survey of residents and groups to see what the people of Milngavie wish for their area. The CC would need to secure funding for this.

### **Residential Matters**

The committee received an e-mail from a resident who was particularly distressed about the bus terminus. A committee member visited the resident who has suggested that the bus terminus be relocated to the roundabout at the top of Douglasmuir Road and is seeking the Association's support for this. The resident also e-mailed Councillor Gotts on this matter. The Association would like more information before commenting and it was agreed that JK would contact Hacking and Paterson who maintain the grass verges in the area to ascertain the nature of the ownership in the area as the Association felt it may be shared with several households in the area. BM would also undertake further enquiries with EDC Roads department to see what they felt. The Association were also mindful that after finding out this information that it would be a commercial decision anyway by First Bus. JK will report back.

The Core Path at the back of Douglasmuir Drive and Place had been taped off. The Association wrote to Hacking & Paterson regarding this who advised that 3 trees were coming down. However, concern was raised that one tree may have been wrongly stripped. We await further confirmation from EDC Tree Officer. H & P will replant trees suitable for the area and to replace those taken down. H & P have advised that they are preparing a 5 year woodland management plan. They intend to liaise with EDC. In the first two years the plan will focus on urgent repairs/maintenance. The Association were disappointed that H & P were not keeping it in the loop and JK agreed to raise this issue with H & P.

The Ramblers Associated have identified sections of the Core Path as suitable for them to do a path repair demonstration. It is understood that they have contacted H & P and EDC regarding this and neither have objected, but H & P have not advised us of this. EDC did keep us up to date on this. The Ramblers have not made a final decision yet as to whether this site will be used.

## **AOCB**

There has been a repeated burst water main in the Ardlui Gardens area outside house number 23. RH is writing to Scottish Water on this matter and Councillor Gibbons has raised it with a Mr Mark McLaren of Scottish Water. The Association are awaiting a response.

Councillor Gotts advised that the vote would be Feb/March for the BID and it is hoped this time that all businesses will be supporting this. If this is voted through EDC will provide £35000 p.a. over five years.

The toilets are being marketed for sale or lease with a condition that the toilets must be maintained and continued.

The naming of the streets for the McTaggart Meikle development is ongoing and Councillor Gotts has suggested Earl Street. The Association also understand that another suggestion was St Bride's St relating to the site of the Chapel in the Plantation however the Association understand that this Chapel was Chapel Couch. Perhaps street names more relative to the Douglas Clan/Family and history of the area would be appropriate.

Councillor Gotts also advised that it would be Feb/March for the decision on the local primary schools estate.

## **Correspondence**

We had received an e-mail of thanks from a Mr McDougall in regard to the response to the LDP MIR.

We received an e-mail asking us to highlight dog fouling to residents as this resident was experiencing repeated fouling outside her property. MERA passed on contact details of the environmental wardens and the "Report It" facility on the EDC website. MERA also asked the resident for her location in order that we could highlight it but this information was not given.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

12 February 2014 confirmed

16 April 2014 (To be confirmed)

11 June 2014 AGM (To be confirmed) held within Clober Primary School