

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MAINS ESTATE
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (MERA) HELD ON 11 JUNE 2014 AT 7.30 P.M.
WITHIN CLOBER PRIMARY SCHOOL, MILNGAVIE
DRAFT

PRESENT

Committee – Mr J Kerr (Chair), Mrs E Gibson (Treasurer), Mrs R Hooper (Sec), Ms J Horn, Mrs H McFadyen & Mr L Robertson. In attendance - PC Stewart Kerrigan, Community Warden Michelle Archibald, Cllr J Gibbons & Mr A Gorman from Hacking & Paterson. Approx. 35 residents per attendance sheet.

APOLOGIES

Mrs F McNeish, Mr B Mandeville, Cllrs Gotts & Henry, Mr D Burgess, Mr C Yuill, Mr & Mrs Duff & Mr & Mrs McDougall.

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS/YEAR SUMMARY

JK welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for turning out on a lovely evening. Thanks were also given to the committee for an extremely busy year. Thanks were also expressed to the Ramblers Association for all their work on carrying out path repairs to the Core Path surrounding the MERA area. JK also thanked the local Police and Community Wardens together with Mr Gorman from Hacking & Paterson for attending and welcomes the opportunity to engage with them. The website is well used and residents are encouraged to look at this together with Facebook to keep in touch with the Association. JK summarized all the events of the past year particularly the Local Development Plan, which had been taking up a lot of the Association's time. Committee members had attended the East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) workshops and an eventual input was made to the Plan to reflect the large number of sites surrounding the MERA area. (An information sheet was given out detailing all the sites). Craigton Woods is the first area that developers Cala have advised that they intend to submit a planning application for. It was also felt that an eye would require to be kept on all the sites including farmland at Tambowie fields.

POLICE REPORT

Community Police Officer PC S Kerrigan gave a summary of the area and summarized the changes in policing from response based to community policing. There has been a surge in house break-ins and he advised householders to be extra vigilant. Questions were taken from the floor and items of concern were youth disorder, traffic and parking, youths in parks and country areas with particular mention to the litter and broken glass left behind in what is valuable countryside and the damage that can be done to children, pets and wildlife. It was confirmed that if officers discover youths they would engage with them and instigate a clearance of the rubbish. Chestnut Lane can experience rubbish issues associated with this, although it was identified that many residents clear many areas throughout the MERA area. PC Kerrigan was particularly asked to clarify if Craigton Woods had been an area that the Police were encountering difficulty as Cala, at their recent exhibition, had made particular reference to this being a hotspot. However, PC Kerrigan had no concerns

regarding this area, with just the odd call, particularly in relation to other areas of Milngavie where instances of disorder were much higher. PC Kerrigan also answered some individual queries and confirmed contact details for the police together with an update on the opening times of Milngavie Police Office (8am – 6pm with 1hr lunch break). There have been several initiatives since the last AGM and speeding has been tackled on several occasions. Several residents, who had seen the officers carrying out these tasks, confirmed this.

COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT

Mrs Archibald introduced herself and updated us on the staffing and the many roles now undertaken by the Community Wardens which include parking enforcement, litter, dog fouling, antisocial noise, dog barking and control of dogs. She gave out the contact number of 0300 123 4510 and also contact can be made through the EDC website. Whilst there has only been four wardens for some time their numbers will increase to 8 from mid July. Since 2 April 2014 parking enforcement is one of their main roles. At present the Town Centres are being given the main attention, however they shall move further out to other areas as time goes on. This was welcomed as several issues were raised. However some like parking on pavements still require to be dealt with by the police. The signage at the schools is also to be redone.

HACKING & PATERSON REPORT

Mr Gorman advised that the ground maintenance is carried out two-weekly during April – October and monthly during Winter. A tree survey is carried out every three years and depending on recommendations, some monitoring can be required between times. Many trees are subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). Several questions came from the floor as three significant trees were taken down along the Core Path and a further one was taken down in error. Mr Gorman accepted this and gave assurances that he will work closely with Mr Findlay the EDC tree officer and he is aware that many of the trees come under TPOs. Replacement trees were planted and thanks were expressed for this. The Water Feature has a new pump and the current water charges amount to £14000. Mr Gorman also advised that H & P were going through a restructuring programme and quarterly invoices will include changes with effect from August 2014. Residents will be able to do more online transactions and will be able to view contractors' charges and obtain breakdowns of this information. He also confirmed that there will be more supervision of contractors and H & P's own inspectors will go round twice a year. A point had been raised that perhaps some of the landscape gardeners were more labourers than actually having knowledge of landscaping and gardening. The Core Path surrounding the estate was also mentioned several times and Mr Gorman confirmed that an inspection will be done week commencing 16 June to see what is required. He is already aware of requirements for repairs and restoration to the Core Path itself together with surrounding wall. Also bird boxes to be put up. It was also suggested that grass cutting around the Core Path is not done whilst there are ground nesting birds. Also an area of reed bedding was chopped down and that this should be allowed to recover. The Ramblers also requested to be kept informed, along with MERA, as to what proposed repairs would be carried out in order that duplication did not happen as it is hoped that the Ramblers will do further repairs and demonstrations. Mr Gorman thanked the Ramblers for the work that had been done.

MINUTES OF LAST AGM

Proposed by Mrs H McFadyen & Mr J Hooper

MATTERS ARISING

Hunter Road was mentioned by JK in his opening remarks. The Association had followed up the proposal for a pelican crossing at this junction and this has now been abandoned. However, EDC have been required to provide a disabled bay at this area and whilst this remains there nothing can be done meantime. However we will be monitoring and continuing to pursue a solution for this area with EDC. An update was given on the St Joseph's Primary School decision by EDC to close this school. The matter is now in the hands of the Scottish Government.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current balance £4716.82 of which £1192.88 is ring fenced for the park. EG provided a financial statement to those present.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

All those present voted by a show of hands to re-elect the committee and Mr Diamond gave a vote of thanks.

CRAIGTON WOODS/LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Many residents attending were concerned about the proposals for development of this ancient woodland. It had been included with the undernoted sites as an area that could be suitable for development. In order for this to happen these areas require to have their status changed within the EDC Local Development Plan. The areas are:-

LDP 14 Hunter Road

LDP 16 Craigton Woods

LDP 25 North of Old Mains Farm (fields near Chestnut Lane)

LDP 49 Tambowie Farm (fields at top of Craigton Rd taking in Right of Way at Carneddans Rd, Craigton)

LDP 104 Chestnut Lane North

LDP 105 Chestnut Lane South

LDP 184 Balviebank (only recently added)

MERA have commented on all the sites when given the opportunity by EDC in 2013. The only additional site that has been submitted recently is Balviebank and EDC will take comments up until 20 June 2014. MERA have had no objections to this site which is classed as a brownfield site as there is already a house and barn in the area and was the back entrance to Douglas Academy and the old Mains Estate house.

JK pointed out that a resident has set up a website to promote the saving of Craigton Woods which is www.craigtonwoods.com. Several requests were made for this person to join MERA and it was confirmed that this request was made to the individual. Thanks were also given to Mr Ross and Mrs Longrigg for their work in preparing extensive lists of birds and plant/tree life within Criagton Woods. These works far exceed the information provided by the Cala reports. Those who had attended the Cala exhibition expressed that they were not given consistent information and that the exhibition was extremely flawed. It was put to the floor and passed that we may require to utilise funds to obtain our own expert reports. Approval was given for this purpose. It was also felt that we would require making more use of the local paper and media. An enquiry was received about following up with a Community Buy Out of the Woods, however it was felt that there was a lack of people to take this on.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mactaggart Mickel had confirmed that the pedestrian back entrance to Douglas Academy would be open for the children when they start back in the summer. Several e-mails of thanks had been received. Information had been received from EDC regarding the “Bears Way” proposed cycle route, which would introduce a two-way cycle lane along Milngavie Road. The links are available on the website.

AOCB

Re Core Path the children of Clober Primary School have been working with the Ramblers in making way marker signs for the Core Path. These will eventually be sited along the Core Path.

A suggestion was also made that funding could be used to employ the services of a planning expert if required. This was agreed.

A suggestion was also made to co-opt the “Save Craigton Woods” website person onto the committee. It was confirmed that he has been approached.

A vote of thanks was also given by Mr Diamond for the work done by the committee.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

To be confirmed