

**Minutes of the meeting of the Mains Estate Residents' Association (MERA) held
on Wednesday, 23rd September 2015 in Douglas Academy**

1. Present: Rona Hooper (Chair), Jim Goodall (Secretary), Elizabeth Gibson (Treasurer), Les Robertson, Jean Horn, Bob Diamond
In attendance: Councillor Maureen Henry, Sergeant Mark Caffrey (Police Scotland), Ann Gilmour and Phyllis Henderson (Community Wardens)
Apologies: Bob Mandeville, Councillor Gotts, Rhona Barret, Fiona McNeish and Debra Nickson
2. The Chairperson opened the meeting, welcoming everyone to it.
3. (a) Sergeant Mark Caffrey (Police Scotland) introduced himself. He gave a summary of calls received by Police Scotland in relation to Milngavie; there had been 164 such calls in the last 3-4 months. There had 6 crime reports – 4 breaches of the peace, 1 road traffic infringement and 1 domestic incident. The calls made to Police Scotland related to road traffic incidents or concerns, concerns about the well-being of elderly people and calls related to animals, usually incidents of dead or injured animals, e.g. deer which had been knocked-down. He reported that community protection staff (e.g. environmental protection staff, trading standards officers, community wardens) from EDC would soon be moving into accommodation in Kirkintilloch they would then share with Police Scotland staff. It was intended that this move would lead to more integrated work between the two sets of staff. He advised that the appointment of a community policing liaison officer for East Dunbartonshire is imminent. In response to a question he advised that Douglas Academy now has two campus police officers. He was advised that trail bikes have been using local core paths recently; these bikes appear to be unlicensed and the riders do not appear to be wearing helmets; he indicated that he would bid for time from the local off-road police motor bike team so that this matter could be investigated. He advised that the local sergeant for Milngavie is a Julie McDonald; she has take up her post quite recently.

(b) Anne Gilmour and Phyllis Henderson introduced themselves as the area's new community wardens. They outlined the range of their duties. It was noted that they are self-funding from incomes derived from, for example, parking fines; this means that there are times when such revenue earning activities must take precedence over some of their other duties. In relation to a question about litter collections in local parks and woodlands used by schools pupils they advised that litter-action days could be requested by local residents; such days would involve work with schools. The wardens were advised that estate agents' signs were being placed inappropriately in the estate, e.g. being attached to road name signs, etc, often interfering with lines of site on roads. They undertook to investigate what might be done to bring this practice to an end. Councillor Henry undertook to make enquiries into how this matter might be handled. Dog fouling was discussed and it was noted that Mains Park is still being monitored. Significant changes in parking arrangements in Milngavie village are imminent; these will result in parking charges being made in many parts of the village where they do not apply currently.

4. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, proposed by JH and seconded by EG.
5. The only matter arising related to Planning Gain Funds which would have been expected from the Mactaggart Mickel housing development, beyond that which had been received for the two houses which had been built on the site of the former Douglas Academy janitor's house. Councillor Henry agreed to ask for clarification on this matter from relevant officers in EDC.
6. It was reported that MERA has a balance of £3,904.17 currently. There are no outstanding demands of any significance due on the account. It was noted that a brief meeting will need to be held to up-date signatories on the account.
7. See 9 below. In addition, correspondence received gave rise to some discussion about how MERA's work could best be supported by the use of its website, blog and Facebook site. It was agreed that Les Robertson and Jim Goodall should meet to examine this might best be done and that they should report on this to the next meeting of the committee.
8. A brief up-date of the most recent meeting of Milngavie Community Council was given. Nothing of any particular significance to MERA had transpired at that meeting
9. It was reported that the application for planning permission for a biogas plant at Tambowie Farm had been approved by East Dunbartonshire Council. This approval had been given subject to a number of pre-start and other conditions including:
 - The submission and approval of an odour management plan
 - The surfacing of the farm access road with macadam
 - The submission and approval of a dust management plan
 - The submission and approval of details of the location and layout of all drainage, SuDS system and pollution control measures
 - The submission and approval of a costed, phased restoration and aftercare scheme for when operations cease
 - The submission and approval of a plan showing measures to accommodate a likelihood/occurrence of any spillage/contamination of local water bodies
 - The submission and approval of an amended landscape plan.

It was reported that the appeal presented to DPEA (Scotland) in respect of the application for planning permission for houses to be built in the Craigton Wood was ongoing. It had been allocated to a reporter. His/her determination was not yet known. In this connection it was noted that a bat survey had been carried out in the wood during the week beginning 14/09/15. It appeared to have been carried out by a company engaged by the appellants. The persons carrying out the survey, which appears to have had the intention of establishing that any bats in the wood were 'coming from somewhere else', had claimed that they were undertaking this work on behalf of Scottish Natural Heritage; SNH has denied that this is the case.

- 10/11. There was some discussion about EDC's developing consultations in relation to *Healthy Habits in Milngavie*; it was noted that some recent events had been cancelled and that at some others possible proposals had emerged which reflected a lack of local knowledge. These latter proposals would be likely to be highly problematic. It was noted that representatives from the Ramblers Association would be meeting the relevant officer from EDC on Friday 25.09.15. It noted that this officer, Alistair Kyle, EDC's Paths and Access Officer, had requested a meeting with MERA. It was agreed that MERA should try to arrange the requested meeting in the very near future. It was also noted that Mr Kyle would be interacting with staff from EDC's Active Travel Strategy Team and the MERA should seek to meet representatives from that team as well. This could be actioned after a meeting with Mr Kyle.
12. Date and time of next meeting; to be confirmed.