

NORTHFIELD AND WILLOWBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 20 November 2014: 18:30 Northfield Community Centre

Present:

John	Fayrer	Chairman
Margaret	Alexander	
George	Callaghan	Treasurer
Caroline	Kaye	
Christine	Kerr	
Stewart	Kerr	
Dave	King	
Gordon	Macdonald	
Nick	Marshall	
Ian	Murray	Vice-Chairman
Geoff	Pearson	Secretary

Two members of the public were present.

Apologies

1. None.

Minutes of Meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting of 25 September were approved.

Matters arising

3. None.

Member

4. Gavin Bayne has resigned.

Treasurer's Report

5. The Treasurer reported that two payments had been made:
 - £150 to the Royal High Primary School for rompers and other equipment
 - £20.75 towards the Baronscourt Park clean-up (see below).
6. He proposed a set of guidelines for management of the Community Councils funds which would be published on the website; this was agreed.

Environment: Baronscourt Park

7. Caroline Kaye and George Callaghan reported that the cleanup of Baronscourt and the subsequent unveiling of the memorial board had gone well.

8. However, the clean-up had shown that the fence between the Park and Morrison's supermarket was in a poor state and this area was being used as an entrance to the supermarket. In addition dog walkers had now taken to bagging their dog waste and throwing it into a pile in the Park, rather than putting it in a bin, which should be provided near the Morrison's gap.

9. The Community Council agreed to write:

- to the City Council seeking a discussion about management of the Park and making the informal entrance to Morrison's safe (recognising that this was a "desire line" where closure would be uncertain)
- to Morrison's HQ, thanking the company for its support and asking for it to help with the informal entrance to the Park.

Environment: Paisley Crescent

10. Prior to the meeting, Community Councillors had expressed concern about the traffic management on Paisley Crescent and the Roads Manager had provided a report (attached) on recent actions which reported, amongst other things, that the chicanes in Paisley Crescent had been removed because it was difficult to grit the road in winter.

11. In discussion:

- It was noted that the chicanes had been installed possibly 20 years ago as an experiment in reducing the rat-run effect in Paisley Crescent – they had been successful to some extent in deterring traffic from the route but their recent removal left local people feeling vulnerable.
- No warning of the removal had been given either to the community council nor the Environment Forum.
- There were other traffic management hot spots where double-parking and speeding were concerns.

12. The Community Council agreed to seek a meeting with the Area Roads Manager about these matters.

Environment: Cycling

13. The cycling sub-group had a useful meeting with the City Council's cycling team about its proposal for new cycle routes for the community council area, which would promote safer, family cycling. The Council had suggested using a consultant to develop the proposals further, which might cost £10,000. One route would require the support of Historic Scotland.

14. The Community Council agreed that:

- Discussions with the City Council should continue
- Neighbouring community councils should be informed
- An approach should be made to Historic Scotland for its help.

Communications

15. Several members reported that two “Meet the CC” sessions had been held in Morrison’s store on Wednesday 15 October and Saturday 15 November and a good degree of engagement on local issues had been secured. The Saturday session had been less effective than the mid-week one.

16. Overall, the views expressed were of considerable contentment with the area. It was apparent that awareness of the community council and what it could do was low and might be improved by wider publicity.

17. A graphics designer had been identified who might produce material for the pop-up displays previously approved. Discussions with a local printer were in hand to identify costs and services, perhaps for an area-wide mail drop.

Schools

18. The Community Council noted that there had been two developments at St John’s Roman Catholic Primary School:

- A consultation had been conducted by the City Council on the location within the existing site and that of the current Portobello High School for a new St John’s. A public meeting on 28 October had shown unanimous support for a new build on the site of the High School – final decision to be made by the Council on 16 December.
- St John’s had been successful in its application to be one of the pilot schools in the School Streets pilot which would restrict traffic near the school at key times. A public consultation would follow.

Date of Next Meeting

19. The Community Council agreed to move to monthly meetings – perhaps alternating business and more general topics. The next meeting would be on Thursday 15 January, starting at 19:30 at Edinburgh Palette if a room is available.

20. The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.00.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary

PAISLEY CRESCENT CHICANES: COUNCIL RESPONSE

Report from the Area Roads Manager

The chicanes were removed at this location and replaced by footway build outs in October of this year.

This has been an action that the East Roads team had to address since the bad winter 2012/13.

The Council had received a number of complaints from both residents and motorists about this road not receiving attention during periods of severe winter weather.

Council Snow ploughs/ gritters had difficulties negotiating the chicanes which lead to this route not receiving attention during periods of bad weather.

The East Roads team took the decision to replace the chicanes with footway build outs, these build outs are classed as a form of traffic calming and will allow the Council's winter maintenance vehicles safe access to this location. The new build outs will also offer improved crossing points for pedestrians at this location.

Further to the above, the Roads team are aware that the chicanes were constantly be abused, with motorist parking their vehicles on what was classed as a section of footway.

The chicanes were also being damaged on a regular basis with motorists colliding with the footway bollards, by reforming the traffic calming features at this location this department is also making a saving in the region of £3,000 to £4,000 a year.

As you will be aware, Paisley/ Meadowfield area is located within a 20 mph traffic zone. Prior to removing the chicanes we carried out speed surveys which indicated the average speed was falling in line with the set speed limit.

The East Roads team are conscious that the new arrangement may increase vehicle speeds at this location, a further traffic survey is schedule to take place early December 2014 over a 7day period.

Should we find that the speed has increased at this location, the East roads team will liaise with the Council's Road Safety team and look at various options we can use to bring the average speed back down to the acceptable limit e.g. road markings, road signage, additional traffic calming.