

Broughty Ferry Community Council

Minutes of meeting held at Broughty Ferry Library on 1st March 2016

1. Community Councillors Present: Adele McGrath (Chair), Ian M Gray (Vice Chair & Secretary), David A Easson (Treasurer), David Hewick (Planning Secretary), Stan Nutt (Licensing Secretary), Joan Chalmers (Minute Secretary), Hugh M Begg, James Adams, Fiona M Potton, John Watson, Ron Findlay, Sean Moore, Pat Moore, Isobel McLean, Gill Bloomer

In Attendance: Carole Jenkins (Communities Officer DCC)

Ex Officio: Bailie Derek Scott

Members of the Public Present: Richard Smith, J C Forrester, J Begg, D McLaren, E Alexander

Apologies: Cllr Ken Guild, Cllr Kevin Cordell, Neil Cooney, Carolyn Forrester

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes were accepted as read and proposed by Ian M Gray, seconded by David Easson

3. Matters arising:

At this point, Mr McLaren asked if the minutes would be circulated to members of the public present. It was pointed out that the minutes are normally placed on the Notice Board immediately following the end of the meeting and that this would be done this evening.

Stan Nutt advised that the Licensing Committee had granted an extension to Subway (Brook Street) but only for one extra hour. Adele McGrath asked if Bailie Scott could find out if the lights at Panmurefield were faulty & if they could be fixed. Bailie Scott will raise the matter with the Street Lighting Partnership as a matter of urgency.

4. Police Scotland Public Consultation Survey

Ian had been asked to complete this survey on behalf of the Community Council. It was a 'tick box' type of survey which asked for opinions on various aspects of policing such as: what should be the national & local priorities; what impression do we have of the Police; how easy or difficult is it to contact the Police; do we get the information we need and/or want.

Carole asked if there was anything in the survey about Police attendance at Community Council meetings as this had seemed to fall off in recent years.

The Police attend the LCPP quarterly meetings and give detailed reports there. There was not a section to ask about this.

We discussed whether there was a Police website which could be used to get some information from & if so, was it 'user friendly'?

Perhaps we could ask the Police to attend a future meeting to speak to us to explain the current situation.

David Easson spoke about the Police phone outside the Police Station in Brook Street. Few people seem to know it is there and can be used to contact the Police at any time.

Fiona M Potton advised she had often been asked for directions to the Police Station. Could we enquire whether signposts could be put up?

5. Police Matters

There were no Police in attendance

6. Main Issues Consultation

The Report had been circulated to everyone and also to Ferryfields Association. The Consultation closed on 29th February but it is not expected that the results will be known in the near future. Joan attended the meeting arranged by Celebrate Age Network (CAN) in City Square. People from all over the city attended and the results from that meeting were also fed into the consultation.

7. Planning Matters

David advised that the proposed development at Anton House, to which the Community Council had objected and which was to include 29 units as well as demolition of the main house had been withdrawn. Dundee Civic Trust had also objected to the demolition and the planners confirmed they were going to refuse the application in any case. Hopefully a new proposal will be put forward before any further decay in the main building occurs.

The proposed work on the dunes has also been withdrawn as permission had to be sought to carry out any work from Marine Scotland. Application will be made direct to Marine Scotland. David will forward the relevant email to Carole. At present the body responsible for the foreshore is the Crown Estates but under Smith Commission this is to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament who may decide to pass responsibility to Marine Scotland.

Armistead House site: this was first raised as a planning concern in 2004 when the Child Development Centre confirmed they were relocating. From then on, the entire site has suffered from complete neglect. In 2013, an application was submitted but no work was begun. With the planning permission about to lapse, a further application has now been submitted. Some Community Councillors advised they had noticed demolition work had begun on the site within the past few days. The new plans show two large flanking blocks of 7 flats closer to the main house than in the previous plan.

This means that the patio and stone steps will be removed but David does not wish us to object to this in the hope that (as the planners think) the developer is willing to proceed at this time and that there will not be further damaging years of neglect.

David met with the reporter from the Evening Telegraph, Hannah Dolman and was able to explain some of the issues to her and that we were interested in ensuring that developments were of benefit to the community, not just to developers.

David outlined the work of Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS). This organisation provides aid and training to community groups. Workshops are held, normally on a Saturday 9am – 3pm. These are supported and paid for by Local Authorities.

As part of the training requested by new members of the Community Council, this may be of interest and Carole has forwarded details to John Hosie. This type of training event is likely to include members from West End & Fintry Community Councils as well.

Carole will also look at training for members on Planning, Licensing & as Office Bearers.

8. Secretary's Report

Ian has received a letter inviting participation in Dundee Partnership Community Conference on 12th March, 9.30am – 1.45pm

Ian attended the LCPP meeting two weeks ago. This is a quarterly meeting and is well attended. He was able to find out about the Trader's Association and how active they are. It is hoped that the rail station buildings will be decorated with murals by students from Duncan of Jordanstone.

The headmaster of Grove Academy spoke about further education and how university is not always the answer for all students. There is a need to provide apprenticeships and work placements locally and he would like the whole community to be involved with this.

The minutes of the LCPP meeting will be provided following their next meeting.

9. Treasurer's Report

An interim report was given as the bank statement is not expected to be available until 3rd March. The total balance is at present £1,197.93. Within that total, the amount in the Admin account is £386.02. This account is where the amount of grant provided by Dundee City Council sits. The figure we receive is worked out per head of population and no grant is given if the amount within the account at the due time is over twice the amount payable.

i.e. $£550 \times 2 = £1100$. We will therefore qualify for the grant in this coming financial year.

10. Matters raised by Community Councillors

Licensing matters: Stan had a phone call from the Evening Telegraph regarding the vacant site in Brook Street opposite Ree's Plumbers. The reporter said the site had been sold for an amount in excess of £150,000 and would be developed as a restaurant. Stan noted that Broughty Ferry in Bloom had lost points in previous years due to this site being in a derelict condition but he is not certain that a licence would be granted in light of refusals recently in other areas of the city.

Overgrowing trees/brambles/shrubs in Claypotts Road. The ground within Grove Academy behind and adjacent to the bus shelter has various shrubs which are overhanging and causing an obstruction. Adele had spoken to Dougie Barr in January about other parts of Claypotts Road and will contact him again.

11. Contributions from Elected Members

Bailie Scott confirmed that he had raised the matter of secure fencing at the play area within Orchar Park as well as the ponding on the footpath. Dougie Barr has assured him this will be dealt with as soon as possible and new fencing will be erected before the end of the financial year.

The wall at Orchar Park, adjoining Yewbank Avenue, will be taken down and rebuilt in the new financial year. Some contribution towards the cost may be sought from householders but it is not certain just who is responsible for maintaining this wall.

Resurfacing works will start on 7th March at junctions along Monifieth Road from Whinny Brae to Abertay Street. Temporary traffic lights will be in use. It is anticipated each junction will take 3 days to complete.

At the Dundee City Council Budget meeting last week, it was confirmed the Council need to make £23 million of savings. Amongst other cuts, £1.3 million is to be cut from Roads & Lighting meaning that we will have to wait longer for potholes to be repaired.

A new Code of Practice being issued by the Scottish Government on recycling means that Phase 3 (part of Broughty Ferry) of the local initiative has been held back. In the area covered by Phase 1 (part of Broughty Ferry), free lining bags for the food waste caddies will no longer be issued. People may use paper bags in the caddies if they wish. This is not considered to be suitable as they will just disintegrate.

There are to be increases in the cost of off-street parking. For example, what costs £1 now will increase to £1.50 and what costs £1.60 now will increase to £2.00, these increases to come into effect on 1st April 2016.

As anticipated, the Traders Association are strongly opposed to these increases as it may have a very bad effect on the numbers of people coming to visit and to shop in Broughty Ferry. An amendment put forward at the Budget meeting was defeated 15/2.

Bailie Scott asked if the increases could be put on hold until such time as the extra free on street parking spaces were put in place. Mike Galloway has agreed to look at this.

Discussed the city centre/waterfront parking as well as parking at the V&A once it opens. It seems there is another site within the city which can be made available for extra parking. This however does not help with the lack of parking spaces in Broughty Ferry. Could the Community Council write to the Chief Executive to express our deep concerns in this matter?

12. Matters raised by members of the public

Mr D McLaren raised the matter of the leylandii hedge at Queen Street Car Park which had also been discussed at the presentation given by Peter Sandwell at last month's meeting. He asked for costings to be produced so as to know how much would be saved by taking the hedge out and whether it would be possible for maintenance of the hedge to be sub-contracted or to be taken over by community groups.

Fiona Potton referred Mr McLaren to what has happened with the ground at Shiell Street. This had been successfully cleared, replanted and maintained over a period of years by members of the community. Recent years had seen the amount of participation decrease. It is likely the same would happen in the matter of the hedge.

Mr McLaren asked who will be involved in the consultation about the hedge and again asked how much would be saved and how much it would cost to maintain.

Jimmy Adams said he thought it may not be appropriate for BFCC to get involved,

Stan confirmed that it had been minuted that Peter Sandwell will report on any developments regarding the hedge.

Joan and Stan will be at Broughty Ferry in Bloom meeting next week and will ask Peter for an update at that time.

AOCB

Broughty Ferry YMCA has been successful in gaining £8,000 from the Tesco initiative. Further, if the YMCA gets enough votes from local people, this can be increased to £10,000 or to £12,000. The other successful groups in Dundee are the Mary Slessor Garden and Bonnie Dundee.

Carole asked for an agenda item next month on Local Community Planning.

Fiona enquired if anything further had been heard about local GP services, specifically Brown Street Clinic. There is much concern at the pressure on these local resources.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 5th April, 7pm