

Broughty Ferry Community Council

Minutes of meeting held at Broughty Ferry Library on 5th July 2016

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

In Attendance: Nick Toner (CLD Dundee City Council & Youth Development YMCA), Gordon Reid (Dundee City Council Planning Dept)

Ex Officio: Bailie Derek Scott, Cllr Ken Guild, Liam Kerr MSP

Members of the Public Present: J C Forrester, D McLaren, Frances Morgan, John Gibson, Karen Clark, Eddie Carr, J Begg, David Mills (YMCA)

Apologies: Cllr Laurie Bidwell, Carole Jenkins

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:

There were no matters arising

4. Matters to be raised by Community Councillors

Fiona Potton wished to speak about Castle Green

5. Matters to be raised by members of the public present

Eddie Carr spoke about the plans for Broughty Ferry Station asking if we thought it may be possible to convert it into a railway museum with perhaps a model railway and other exhibits showing the long history of railways in Dundee. As it is at present lying empty, this could perhaps make it into a focal point. David Hewick suggested he contact Network Rail/Scotrail. The station building is listed and as such, any alterations have to be closely monitored. Adele had been at a presentation by students from Duncan of Jordanston College where they proposed turning it into an arts centre.

Cllr Guild confirmed as it had already been advertised by a property agency and gained consent for it to be a restaurant, change of use would have to be applied for. Broughty Ferry Traders have also been involved with the plans for use. It was suggested that funds may be available from Railway Heritage for this proposal and Eddie Carr will begin enquiries. Doug McLaren confirmed that as far as he was aware, Scotrail were now dealing with the letting of the building.

150th Anniversary of Broughty Ferry YMCA – David Mills

David gave a short history of the YMCA in Broughty Ferry where it has been in the same building for all but 7 of the 150 years.

The people who use the building today range in age from 3 to 83 & 60% are female with the remaining 40% male despite the name indicating the organisation is for young men. Nowadays, Association is the word to be emphasised.

The Board which runs the building consists of 6 volunteers; these are aided by the full time equivalent of 1.3 people – Nick Toner, an administrator and a cleaner.

This year, a new dance studio has been made with help from the Men's Shed and students from Dundee & Angus College trainees in decorating. New windows are to be installed but as the YMCA is a Listed Building, these need to be like for like and it has taken time to ensure that enough funds are in place for all 26 windows. £5000 has been granted from the Clydesdale Bank fund and monies raised from a Sportsmen's Dinner as well as a raffle and a Cheese & Wine will be used for this and towards replacing the gym which dates back to the 1880's. Also, in the autumn, a production by Take 3 Girls will raise money.

A book on the history of the YMCA and of the area is now on sale.

A new 'Secret Garden' is being installed at the rear of the property on what was derelict land. Grove Academy pupils have already painted a wall and have created a Scarecrow Trail. Veterans from Rosendael are involved as are groups from the Balgillo Nurseries. Raised beds will be planted and it is hoped that as many people in the local community will be involved as possible.

Nick Toner advised that a small room has now been decorated to enable 1 to 1 mentoring.

Because of the DD5 postcode, it can be difficult to get funds and everyone in the YMCA would appreciate the support of the Community Council to try to ensure it continues to flourish for many more years.

Adele thanked David for his interesting presentation.

Retiral Presentation for David Hewick

Adele thanked David for his more than 20 years of dedicated service to Broughty Ferry Community Council. Many changes have been seen but he left no stone unturned when looking into planning matters over this period. David has made such a contribution to the quality of life we all enjoy in Broughty Ferry and the very manner in which he worked will make it difficult for those who follow him.

Adele had asked Community Councillors for some ideas of what to say about David and some comments such as 'he is like a dog with a bone', 'everything is black or white with David, nothing in between', and 'a very private man' came in.

One thing is that everyone who has known David for many years or less, it was glaringly obvious that he is an extremely dedicated and conscientious man. The Community Council will miss his contribution.

Adele also mentioned 'Hewick's Indent' – at the Masonic Lodge on Brook Street. This will be an everlasting reminder of the work he has done to maintain the historic environment in our community.

David's shoes will take some filling but his two 'apprentices' have already been guided in the right direction.

Gordon Reid gave an account of David's visits to the Planning Dept, describing them as jousts but that David was always willing to listen and to discuss fully the needs of the community and that of the planners. He was regarded as part of the team and stood out as a champion for his neighbourhood.

Stan Nutt also thanked David for his service to the Community Council noting his dedication in ensuring the details of planning applications made were properly considered.

David Hewick replied by saying that we all have the same aim – to protect the interests of Broughty Ferry.

He thanked all 4 Ward Councillors for their help and support, thanking also Carole Jenkins and Nick Toner. He was pleased and surprised to see Gordon Reid here and thanked him for his kind words.

He said he could not let the opportunity pass to mention the 'Old Guard' as well as the new Community Councillors who have recently been elected. He will keep on working with his replacements, John and Ron, to provide continuity but also has plans to be touring in the Peak District as well as visiting family in Japan and Australia.

Adele presented David with a picture of Beach Crescent in appreciation of his service to the Community Council with thanks from all for his dedication.

6. Police Report

No report

7. Planning Report

David Hewick had previously circulated a report on the significant events in 2015/2016 and mentioned a few aspects of that report. He highlighted the proposed extension to Broughty Ferry Library where it should be ensured that this is in keeping with the Listed Building design. Fiona noted that funding is not yet in place and what is possible will depend on the amount of funding available.

Ian asked for an update on site H71. Gordon Reid was able to confirm that an application has been received from Kirkwood Homes and is being considered. The site was not due for release until after 2020 and if the current application is to proceed, the developer will have to demonstrate reasonable grounds for this. If there were any further questions regarding the site, the Planning Dept should be able to help.

Adele asked Gordon Reid about the orchard grounds at Balmossie Meadows and whether anything can be done about clearing up the orchard and whether it had been sold for development. Gordon encouraged residents to contact the Planning Dept for information and to ask for an Enforcement Officer to inspect the site regarding its present overgrown state.

8. Local Community Planning

No report

9. Licensing

No report

10. Secretary's Report

Ian confirmed he had been involved in meetings about the Boundaries Commission Report and referred us to the emails regarding the letter which was sent from us reinforcing our opposition to the proposals.

The Communities Choices fund is looking for applications for grants. Grants of £20,000 - £100,000 are available. Discussed the difficulty of attracting grants such as this because of the DD5 postcode but felt that the areas which could benefit from this money include the area around Strathmore Street and suggested the LCPP could be involved. The YMCA would be a good recipient as it benefits the whole of Dundee and Stan suggested that money could be used to get an electricity supply to Queen Street Car Park for the annual Christmas tree. Ian will forward the details of the fund to members. Perhaps a small sub group can be formed as the submissions have to be in before the end of July.

11. Treasurer's Report

David Easson advised that the only change since last month is that we have paid the subscription to Living Streets. We still await the grant from Dundee City Council. The total amount in the Bank of Scotland is £980.61
Most people have now provided the necessary documentation for the change of signatories to the Bank of Scotland so it is hoped that the new signatories will be in place shortly.

12. Contributions from Elected Members

Liam Kerr MSP attended his first meeting as a member for the North East Region. He will be holding regular surgeries in the Library, starting on 23rd July, with Bailie Scott and would like to hear from anyone who feels they need his help.

Bailie Scott advised that the road painting for the additional on street parking spaces has started and the Traders have asked for investigation of the length of the loading bays.

Progress has been made with the problem of the height of the station platforms. It is expected that during 2017/18 the platform will be raised to allow easier access to trains.

Cllr Guild advised the last meeting of COSLA was on 24th June and that as far as he is aware, many of the 28 Councils represented also oppose the Boundaries Commission findings, with a few exceptions. SOLACE have also challenged the Report. During this time of staff cuts, Dundee City Council think it unwise to bring in extra Councillors, necessitating more expense. Cllr Guild has spoken to Joe Fitzpatrick MSP and he has confirmed that there will not be a blanket acceptance or rejection of the Boundaries Commission proposals. There has to be a clear mandate for any change and any change on Party political lines will not be allowed. Dundee City Council has unanimously rejected the Boundaries Commission proposals and Cllr Guild is hopeful we will know shortly after the end of the summer recess (early September) the outcome.

Fiona Potton asked if there is any right of appeal. The answer to that is no, there is not.

Cllr Guild had been due to meet with the new Police Commander but this meeting had been postponed due to the Royal visit.

The new Commander seems to be keen to get more Officers back on the streets and is also keen for them to attend as many community meetings as possible but will concentrate on LCPP meetings as there are 8 LCPP = 8 Wards in the City.

Adele asked if it would be possible for the Police to email us if there are any issues to be raised or reports to be given and Cllr Guild agreed to pass this on.

13. Matters raised by Community Councillors

As previously intimated, Fiona asked about Castle Green. It has been pointed out that signage on the fence shows 'No dogs except Guide dogs'. Please can this be changed to read 'No dogs except Assistance dogs'? This amendment will allow for dogs which assist the deaf and those which assist the disabled admittance to the area. It was agreed this was a good move.

David Easson drew our attention to the 'Oor Wullie' trail and to the Broughty Ferry Burgh flag flying at the Castle. The trail is in aid of the Archie Foundation for a children's ward at Ninewells Hospital. The Burgh flag is flown every year during Gala Week – please have a look at it.

John Watson asked that the contribution made by David Hewick's wife be acknowledged as she was always very welcoming and provided refreshments when meetings were held in their home.

The meeting was then made aware that Karen Clark and John Gibson wished to explain to the Community Council plans for the vacant site in Brook Street adjacent to Bruach. It was made clear that such an approach was inappropriate since it would compromise the integrity of the Community Council and the elected members in attendance and their involvement within the planning process.

AOCB

Stan raised the problem of contacts from both Dundee City Council and DC Thomson getting in touch with Community Councillors when they had been asked on numerous occasions to direct all enquiries to our Communications Secretary, Neil Cooney. Ian will write to the City Council Chief Executive to ask if the list of contacts can be amended in their records.

The Communications Secretary has welcomed on our behalf the 45 jobs being created by the new restaurant shortly to be opened on the old Robertson's site in Brook Street following a call from the press.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 6th September at 7.00pm