



**Plains Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2013**  
**at 7pm within Plains Community Centre**

**Present:** Fay Kerr (FK), Anne Marshall (AM), Bob Summerhill (BS), Anne Summerhill (AS), Margaret Waddell (MW), Mary Doris (MD), Elspeth Wright (EW), Eileen Grier (EG), Fay Kearney (FKy).

**Attending:** Councillor Beveridge, Jack Wright.

**1. Apologies:** Lilian Geurts, Councillor Morgan.

**2. Previous minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> December:**

Amendments

Item 6—Para 2---Path--should read Moffat View---strike Meadow View

Item 6—Pars 3, 1 Line 2 to end of para should read:

F. Kerr stated that the CC had received no funding for any of the above projects apart from that of Third Party Funding from Strathclyde Police for the children's play and activity area.

Item 7---line 2 strike '12,000 responses received.' Should read 'over 3000 responses received'.

Subject to these amendments, minutes were accepted as a true record.

Approved, Margaret Waddell: Seconded, Bob Summerhill.

**3. Matters Arising:**

FK questioned cheque for £1099.72 for Community Garden being lodged in Community Council bank account, rather than Community Futures' account.

EW responded that Strathclyde Police, as Third Party Funders, had donated £5000 towards the Community Garden Project in June 2012.

CC had insufficient funding to make up the deficit of £1099.72 still owing for the project, NLC supplied this sum.

FK did not recall having seen an application form for this project, nor having been involved with any other completed application forms for funding involving the CC.

She was aware that £5000 had been donated to the Community Garden Fund by Strathclyde Police through the CC, but was confused re the additional £1099.72.

EW referred F. Kerr to previous 2009 minutes where discussions on this funding application had taken place. EW stated that this funding was part of the Local Development Fund initiative. F. Kerr stated her intention to check on this.

MD informed the meeting that, as new Chair, she had made a point of reading all previous minutes to fully inform herself, and could not recall this application being discussed or presented at a past CC meeting MD also to check on this.

It was established that FK was a CC member at this time, while MD was not.

Since CC considering further co-option, MD had contacted Tom Gaffney of NLC Corporate Services re rules of co-option. Presently, CC has 8 elected full members, and is entitled to 2 co-opted members, which it already has.

Co-opted members who have had sufficient experience may be made up to full members to fill interim quadrennial vacancies.

Resident, J Walker- previously proposed by BS for co-option, would be approached if this situation came about.

Anne Marshall, Secretary, reminded meeting that amendments of minutes should be made at the following meeting. This was agreed.

EW referred to previous discussion of PCC printer, repair or replacement, and need for record of replacement receipt or repair bill.

#### **4. Police Report**

None

October Local Area Partnership Joint Community Safety Report in relation to the Suicide Prevention Strategy - Strathclyde Police distributed 50,000 carrier bags, beer mats distributed to off-sale outlets and pubs throughout North Lanarkshire promoting messages such as 'Spillit' and 'Stop Bottling It Up'. It was established that leaflets had been delivered to Community Centre, but no one was aware of any material present in local off-licensed shops.

Cllr. Beveridge informed CC of NLC's growing concern with town centre public houses, and associated violence. He reported a successful scheme to eradicate this in Glasgow. He is negotiating with Strathclyde Police to introduce a new Scottish Government initiative, to help emulate a similar approach for Airdrie and surrounding areas.

This 'Best Bar One' initiative is aimed at making licensed premises more customer friendly, by offering rewards for excellence and services offered. Cllr. Beveridge to keep CC informed on this issue

#### **5. NLC Report**

NLC has contacted the Scottish Government and expressed an interest in the provision of a station for Plains. Further information is expected on this matter.

Cllr. Beveridge reported ongoing negotiations with various town centre commercial outlets, and working with Town Centre Manager, Jack Duffy, they have formed a town centre Forum Group - invitations to be extended to other businesses with a view to enhancing town

centre. He will keep CC updated on this matter.

MD reminded members of information passed on to them from previous LAP meeting that two of the vacant town retail outlets at the side of Aldi's have now been occupied by a further two food takeaways, adding to the preponderance of takeaways already in the town centre.

Cllr. Beveridge expressed disappointment at NLC's consultation on proposed cuts. The distribution process left numerous households without NLC's explanatory booklet. Cllr. Beveridge corrected the figure of 12,000 responses to these cuts, given at previous Dec. 2012 meeting, as inaccurate, and that the number of responses was actually 2,900. MD to check and amend if necessary.

Beverley Park Development - Cllr. Beveridge working with residents to establish amenities for children in this area. He is also following up concerns of residents re issues with boundary fences where NLC land is being encroached upon by previous developer. NLC Planning is presently working on this.

Letter received from Cllr. Morgan on problem of pinning down owners of land adjacent to Main St. shops as an obstacle to addressing the ongoing litter/ flooding problem at this location.

Environmental Officer, Andy Redmond, responded re residents' complaints about waste dumping at old chicken farm site at Darngavil. He reported that application was unnecessary since it was owner's property and SEPA were satisfied that waste material was an acceptable and non-harmful soil improver. This was accepted by members.

Cllr. Beveridge drew attention to the application made to NLC by NWH group, for a development at Rockbank Cottage on Airdrie Rd. Caldercruix, to improve waterlogged land, and further development of new and existing stables.

## **6. Covanta CLP:**

CC made no objection to Application 09/00865/PPP for a time extension to the Covanta Data Centre/Variations to Conditions 2 and 3 of Planning permission, since CC had already lodged objections on original application for a change in conditions...

EW, Community Council Community representative on the Covanta Community Liaison Panel (CLP) invited questions on Nov. CLP minutes, but no questions were put forward at this stage.

EW spoke of Covanta's Direct Heating Scheme. Local communities would have to form partnership with Covanta in applying for energy from this scheme - 60% of any community would need to commit to the Scheme and liaise with company. MD pointed out that Covanta reps at a previous public event informed attending CC members and local councillors that residents have to live along the direction of the pipeline to be considered for the scheme. Comment was made, with general agreement that this would appear to exclude Plains from any such scheme.

EG enquired about community representative attendance/non-attendance at these meetings. MD clarified this by asking if the number of apologies at November CLP meeting might suggest that some representatives are already becoming disillusioned with the Panel. EW assured members that all absentees had very good reasons for apologies.

Members were reminded that in Covanta's Terms of Reference, the main reason behind the formation of the Panel by Covanta was to keep communities informed. Concern was expressed that consultation from Covanta with the community has been inadequate so far, and that minutes are taking too long being passed on to the CC. Also, the posting of minutes in the community only reach a minority of residents and much of the content of these minutes is too technical/science based for lay people to understand.

EW said that Covanta/CLP were already aware of this issue and are presently discussing a communications strategy.

EG informed members of a recent Information Report on SEPA, reporting a huge fine for failure to implement adequate safety policy. Also, huge cutbacks on the number of health and safety checks by SEPA. She was concerned that this would adversely impact on the standards of safety at the Covanta incinerator plant. EW said she could not answer for Covanta but would put these concerns forward at the next meeting of the panel.

Cllr. Beveridge asked if Covanta were planning another road show/public event. EW said she was not presently aware of such an event, but Covanta will communicate any such event to the public.

EW stated that community representatives on this panel have undertaken to communicate with their communities, to facilitate a better understanding of the development.

EW also informed members that Covanta are presently developing a transport plan. Access roads are too close together for safety.

MD called attention to an article in the NLC News section of 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. Advertiser, which reports on a Clyde Valley Residual Waste Project serving five councils, with NLC as the 'lead authority'. Cllr. Beveridge was asked if the unnamed waste facility involved in this project was the Green Hills Facility.

## **7. Station/ Cycle Path:**

Sale of Network Rail land on Main St in Plains - no further update on this from MSP, A Neil or local councillors. Cllr. Beveridge said he would contact A. Neil about this.

Cycle Path - Scottish Govt. have allocated £500,000 to improve sections of the cycle path, with particular attention to the section of the path at the far east end of Plains, where path links with the Caldercruix section of the cycle path.

MD proposed a vote of thanks to L.Geurts for her tenacity in pursuing this public danger, through her correspondence with the appropriate representative bodies.

Attending resident, JW, commented that signage on areas of the cycle path was adequate in protecting public from potential danger. 'J. Wright said he would make a claim against Sustrans/NLC if he was injured by a cyclist'. Resident was informed that future plans for the cycle path involved the re-routing of the path away from the dangerous entrance on far east section on Main St, Plains. Resident insisted that NLC had a responsibility to provide appropriate/ legal signage, to safeguard the public. Cllr. Beveridge to look into this

## **8. Community Council - Accessing funding:**

MD had identified a need gap in the provision of facilities/activities for older people in the village. She proposed consultation with villagers on their preferred choices from a number of choices presented for a CC project. A draft consultation flyer was distributed to members

and MD requested that members respond with preferred choices from a previously collated list based on suggestions from some members. She informed members that VANL offer a reasonable office stationery service to subscribed members – these costs could be covered by CC funds.

Local Primary Schools, WHG, and other volunteers to deal with distribution and collection of consultation flyers, and WHG offered help with any activities in the Comm. Centre. Members also informed that village Senior Citizens Association is struggling financially. It was suggested that CC liaise with this group re working together on any project involving older people.

MD has arranged to speak to one of the organisers of the lunch club at the Springfield Centre in Clarkston for ideas/advice. Cllr. Beveridge spoke of success of this hub.

BS informed members that the Community Futures group will shortly be initiating a consultation initiative with all other groups in the village, and have already accessed £7000 funding for this new Community Engagement initiative.

MD reiterated her request for members to consider and respond to CC draft consultation flyer. She also proposed the setting up of a PCC newsletter - to be discussed at next meeting, due to constraints of time at present meeting.

### **9. Treasurer's Report:**

Current Balance is £1984.75. Still awaiting NLC cheque for £1099.72.

### **10. Local Area Partnership Oct. 2012 meeting:**

Refer above. One additional item referred to:

New NL Pitches Strategy - Education and Leisure Dept. - new strategy to enhance existing football pitches to facilitate introduction of new sports e.g. cricket. Only a handful of pitches targeted for such upgrading - pitches in surrounding areas/villages to be self-sustaining. General response at LAP meeting was that further discussion needed on this strategy.

### **11. Correspondence:**

See NLC Report, Item 5

### **12. AOCB:**

FK drew attention to the government backed Green Deal Scheme - bogus companies approaching local households with wrong information.

University and College Union Report - report on percentages of people between the ages of 16 and 64 who have no qualifications. Performance of all 632 UK Parliamentary Constituencies - Airdrie and Shotts performed poorly.

### **13. D.O.N.M:**

March 12<sup>th</sup> 2013.

MD thanked everyone for their attendance and input and drew the meeting to a close.