

**Minutes of Meeting of  
Westerwood Community Council**

**Held at St Andrew's and Cumbernauld Primary School  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Please visit our website – [www.westerwood.co.uk](http://www.westerwood.co.uk)  
or find us on FACEBOOK – WESTERWOOD  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Present: G Wright, K Jones, G Young, H Macindoe, P Boulton  
K Brunton, V Wright, J Brady**

**Cllr Masterton**

**Apologies: M Hayes, Cllr Chadha**

**1. Chair welcome**

Chair welcomed everyone to meeting and covered the evening's agenda.

**2. Previous minutes**

Minutes were agreed at the committee meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**3. Police – Constable Alan MacAulay**

16 Crimes reported – 8 traffic, 2 housebreak ins and thefts. There have been a couple of break-ins at the Westerwood Hotel but no arrests to date. It was stressed again by the police - PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CAR KEYS IN SIGHT AND LOCK ALL DOORS. There have also been reported a few traffic offences – these were mainly speeding, using mobile phones and not wearing seatbelts.

We were very grateful for the updates on police activity and where successful charges have been made – please continue with these updates.

#### **4. Richard Mayne – General Manager - Q Hotels – Westerwood Hotel**

Richard gave us an update and what is happening at the hotel and how they are working with the schools and community. It is nice being your neighbours but it has its issues between us – eg overhanging trees and unused golf courses.

However, it does have to be two way with your help – we have had issues with young people taking drugs and drink on our land, dog fouling and also people using quad bikes. We do have a good communication with the police regarding these issues and on the hotel premises we treat seriously alcohol age limits.

The hotel has won many awards and strive to provide good service to all and they have also won awards for staff development. The hotel's ethos is to try at all times to hire people who live locally. They also try to employ a variety of skill sets – 11 out of 17 management staff hold a degree but they also look to help people who have been failed by the education system. Richard talked passionately about his team and how well they are working towards one goal – with many staff also being recognized for their excellent work ethos. They also provide a lot of “work experience” for school leavers and college students – to give them a clear perception of what it is truly like to work in a hotel. In the last year 4,000 hours of work experience has been provided to our community working in partnership with Cumbernauld College and local high schools. A highlight of the year is Cumbernauld High Culinary Programme - where children are trained and then they provide a meal/gala for their teachers.

The hotel has also been very active with charitable organisations and has donated in excess of £30k.

We are first and foremost a business which must meet shareholder value – but revenue generation also supports other local businesses – think about how many taxi fares are generated, fuel sold, 200 employees spending their wages in the community.

## **Questions/Comments from the residents.**

1. The 3 unused holes have now been dredged and have been left bare – are there any are plans for their future use as they are an “eyesore”? The only thing that is planned is for the grass to be cut twice yearly.
2. Thanks to the hotel for clearing the road – Edenside & Links are most grateful.
3. The hotel did make the commitment to keep the holes tidy? The grass was cut in October and this will be done again during the summer.
4. Have the par 3 holes suggestion been cancelled? This is not an option at this time.
5. What is the hotel’s opinion to the Ogilvies housing plan? We potentially see the benefits to the hotel but will not comment on the application, as we are aware of the feedback from the community who are our customers and neighbours.
6. What about access to the hotel and the housing – in the mornings your guests will be held up? Richard has not considered this point and will bring it up with his finance director.
7. If you do get an answer to this access issue – could you please update us? Yes – I will liaise with Helen.
8. How is business going? The Herald gave a poor report a few months – this was due to refinancing and business is going well. £350m bank loan for all the Q Hotel properties. I would suggest that we are in a secure place even at this economic time.
9. The last time you explained that Q Hotels were an investment group and would eventually look to sell the hotel at a profit – is this still the case? This would not be considered until at least – 2017 – we put 3 properties up for sale last year and then they were taken off the market.
10. Do you have other plans for the 3 unused golf holes? We are accountable to shareholders and banks – to speculate whether there may be planning in the future I couldn’t say no never ... but certainly not in the near future.
11. Car park extension – my property backs on to this? There are often suspicious looking cars – can the hotel increase surveillance in this area? All I would suggest is that you contact the police and the hotel which means that we can then also contact the police.
12. Landfill site? (answered by GW) This was to take the spoil from the motorway to help fill in some golf holes – but the motorway has

been finished and this is not something that Richard envisages happening in the future.

## **5. Chairman's Report/Update**

Housing applications - St Andrews Dr (Dec 2012) – a meeting took place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Civic Centre in Motherwell – as you are aware this has been granted in principle.

Carrickstone Park (12/00590/PPP) at the entrances to Kings & Queens Dr – this application is over a year old but has now been resubmitted. We requested a site visit and also to be able to speak at the meeting. This has been granted and we are trying to ascertain when this meeting will be. It is likely that it may be during the holiday period – however Cllr Masterton confirmed no meetings will take place in July and therefore it is more likely to be August. We were only allowed 3 people to speak at the St Andrew's objection – because this application affects a number of Community Councils – we have asked for this number to be increased – we need the other CCs support on this.

A lot of the information that is in the planning application is now a year old and therefore out of date – Cllr Masterton will investigate this point for us.

### **Questions/Comments from the residents.**

A resident complained that the planning committee did not even seem to listen to any of our objections to St Andrews Dr. The planning committee is set up and voted on at the start of a new elected year and they are in post for the term. We do not have a Cllr in our area on the committee and therefore no one to object on our behalf!

Who is able to challenge the planning application and that information held is now out of date? Who can help to ensure that this is enforced? Do they have a duty to ensure that information is correct? If we leave it till the meeting – will it be too late – as we were not listened to at the previous meeting?

Were we not promised a Doctor's surgery? Yes they can offer us lots of things but for example if they build a doctor's surgery North Lanarkshire Health board has to agree to staff it.

At Dullatur can we sue if our houses are flooded?  
Has there ever been an external specialist to look at the drainage situation? This then comes down to finance and time.  
10yrs ago – planning application for 250 houses – we sourced legal advise at a discounted rate - this cost us in excess of £10k.

## **6. AGM**

The officers were elected last year for a 4year term and have agreed to stay in post. Our accounts were made available for viewing.

## **AOCB**

- **Flyer attached from Barney Kinsler – Friends of Cumbernauld Community Park.**

## **Next Meeting**

**Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The meeting will be held at St Andrews and Cumbernauld P.S. joint campus starting at 7.30pm.**

**If however, we have any further updates during the summer months – we will email you or please feel free to contact a member of the community council.**