



**Plains Community Council
Meeting held Tuesday 10th February 2015 at 7.00pm
in Plains Community Centre**

Present:

Mary Doris (MD), Eileen Grier (EG), Fay Kerr (FK), Anne Patricia Kane (APK), Jim Walker (JW), Elaine Tennant (ET), Annette Mc Glynn (AMG)

Attending:

Councillors Tommy Morgan (TM), Alan Beveridge (AB), Andrew Spowart (AS, Police Scotland Officers, John Houston (JH) and Bill Millar (BM)), residents John Grant (JG), Jack Wright (JAW), Alistair Grier (AG)

1. Apologies: Lilian Geurts (LG)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Proposed: FK Seconded: EG

3. Matters Arising:

Chair made apologies to members re cancellation of December meeting due to sudden critical family illness and illness of vice chair

It was noted that both a member and an attending resident had the same initials. Hereafter attending resident, Jack Wright, will be initialed JAW.

4. Police Report:

In providing figures, police did not include figures for St Philips – most of crimes reported relating to this establishment are internal assaults

Nov 2014 – 18 crimes reported, 10 detected, 8 undetected – 50% detection rate.

Dec 2014 – 9 crimes reported, 5 detected – 56% detection rate.

Jan 2015 – 10 crimes reported, 5 detected, 5 undetected – 50% detection rate.

Feb 2015 (to 9th Feb) – 7 crimes reported, 7 detected – 100% detection rate to date.

Quad Bikes : members again raised their concern about this ongoing noise and threat to public health and safety. Of this activity Police again emphasised that they were bound by law against giving chase because of health and safety with regard to police officers, the public and the riders themselves. There was agreement that this was a perennial migratory problem.

JW enquired about the outcome of a local vicious fatal attack on a small pet dog by a labelled dangerous dog species. Police stated owner would be charged under the keeping of Dangerous Dog law. The fate of the animal lay with the Procurator Fiscal.

Police were also asked about the concern of members of speeding traffic on Meadowhead Road, especially given the short steep uphill/downhill peak point change part of the road. Problem aggravated by parents dropping/picking up children at school on this road causing traffic congestion. Members informed that school authorities had appealed to parents regarding this problem with little effect.

JW also asked that more attention be given to speeding on Main St.(see addendum below)

Stop and Search: Cllr Beveridge asked, in the light of recent news coverage on this issue, if stop and search figures were available. Police response was that the system did not allow for this.

5. NLC Report:

On his present situation of being dismissed by NLC from his position as Convenor of Audit and Governance. Cllr Morgan stated he did not wish to comment publicly on this matter since the matter was now in the hands of his lawyer.

Disabled Access to Community Centre:

Members were delighted to hear from Councillor Morgan that work on this would start soon once the programme of works had been agreed with contractors. Proposed plan copied to chair for distribution to other members.

BMX Track:

Further good news from Cllr Morgan that work on the BMX track would start soon.

Thanks given to Cllr Morgan for his sterling support in achieving these facilities.

Equal Pay - issue has been largely resolved

Planning Applications:

Cllr Spowart expressed concern re application due to be submitted by Sanctuary to deposit waste asbestos-containing demolished construction material from Cunbernauld at Greengairs landfill. CC already aware of this proposed application. Cllr Spowart will keep CC informed re submission of application.

MD again complained re the inadequate and untimely advertising of major planning applications during peak summer holiday period and simultaneous recess period of community councils. CC was informed by councillors that community councils should regularly receive information re planning applications from NLC Planning. Cllr Spowart to look into this.

Greenhills incinerator/ Amey Cespa Community Panel:

EG, CC's representative on this panel, set up by Amey Cespa, first informed members of application by Amey Cespa for a 'change in conditions' to original application – tonnage to be received by incinerator to be reduced from 350,000 tons to 300,000 tons. Concern expressed that this would make little difference to adverse impact of the facility on Plains and other surrounding communities.

EG also reported her dismay and concern re waning attendance at community panel meetings, both on the part of community reps (only 3 present at last meeting), and experienced Amey Cespa reps (including experts on incineration processes and potential effects on communities) Attending community reps were informed by less inexperience company reps that they would be unable to answer technical/scientific answer put to them by attending community panel reps. Reason given for absence of more knowledgeable company reps was that they were busy with the bidding process. EG felt, based on this, and previous meetings, that this community panel was not being taken seriously enough by Amey Cespa

Fracking:

Cllr Spowart had attended a 250 strong meeting of Friends of the Earth at the end of Nov 2014. Scottish Govt has proposed a moratorium on fracking, but no guarantee that this will take place. Depending on developments regarding fracking in the Central Belt, councils in potentially affected areas, which include the redundant historic mining area directly to the north of the village, have also proposed local referendums on the issue. Again the key word is 'proposal'. Cllr Spowart will keep CC updated on developments.

Housing:

Both Cllr Morgan and Cllr Spowart expressed disappointment at NLC's decision to impose a 2.75% increase

in Council Housing rents. Both felt this would adversely affect the huge sum of rent arrears already owed to NLC. Cllrs feared that a resort to eviction as a last, but unavoidable, council decision may well be the case if arrears continue to grow, especially given the critical level of both the shortage of social housing and the numbers seeking it.

Councillor Beveridge:

Local Transport: Cllr Beveridge had spoken with SPT - they do not have the funding to subsidise existing local bus companies thereby having no influence in pressing the inclusion of a stop at Monklands Hospital on these companies

Flooding at Fairbrig: Substantial amount of money already spent by NLC in trying to solve this problem.. Now an underground stream has been discovered as the probable root of the problem. A possible stopping order may have to be put in place to address this problem.

Cllr also expressed his deep concern to members re his findings that post-mortems are now taking up to 15 days and more for completion, as the process has to go through various transit procedures before it is carried out.. Unanimous agreement from all attending that this was an appalling situation for family and friends of deceased persons. Cllr proposes to take this matter up with Crown Office and will keep CC updated.

Airdrie to Bathgate railway line. Cllr in response to complaints from line side residents in Caldercruix about undue noise from passing trains enquired if same problem occurring in plains . Attending line side resident (Plains) concurred that early morning/late night noise from passing trains was unduly noisy and sleep-disturbing.

Members extended thanks to all councillors for their efforts on behalf of CC and village residents

7. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer (EG) reported CC bank balance was presently £3514.41.

Chair suggested that some of this now stagnating money should now be used for the benefit of CC in reporting on CC activity to the community. Chair's request for a filing cabinet was endorsed by all. It was again reiterated that the publication and distribution of a CC community newsletter to inform the community of the many CC activities in the last two years was also long overdue. This was unanimously endorsed by all all attending. MD suggested that VANL services could be employed, at a very reasonable cost. in the printing of this, but that members would need to take part in preparing/ writing the content/articles of this newsletter. This was unanimously agreed by members.

8. Correspondence:

Mainly received via email – VANL courses on offer and funding opportunities from Ellen Archibald. Correspondence from Cllr Morgan dealt with in NLC Report.

9. AOCB:

Broadband Facility for Community Centre:

Cllr Spowart informed members that due to additional remits he had undertaken on behalf of Cllr Morgan who had been ill , he had not yet addressed this but would now follow it up.

Provision of a Post Office:

Members unanimously agreed that rejection of supplying this facility to the village was unjustified and that formal objection should be made on the grounds of unjustified refusal. Attending councillors concurred with this decision.

10. D.O.N.M.: Tuesday 10th March 2015

Addendum: Cllr Morgan contacted Chair day after meeting to apologise for omission of this issue from his report. Police have in fact acted on this issue in response to concerns given and will be reported at next meeting.