

Plains Community Council
Meeting held Tuesday March 8th 2016 at 7.00pm
In Plains Community Centre

Present:

Mary Doris (MD), Eileen Grier (EG), James Walker (JW), Andy Stewart (AS), Jan Stewart (JS), Catherine Doris (CD), Ann Patricia Kane (APK), Elaine Tennent (ET)

Attending:

Councillor Morgan(TM), John Grant (Resident), Harry Wilson (Resident)

1. Apologies: Fay Kerr (FK), Councillor Beveridge (AB), Thomas Peden

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Proposed: JS Seconded: EG

3. Matters Arising:

No correspondence yet received from Gordon White. CD agreed to take on secretarial position. This was gratefully accepted by all members. MD to inform Corporate Services Dept re situation.

CC Mobile phone - EG reported no calls received in Feb. CC mobile passed to ET for Mar/Apr period.

JW reported number of people accessing CC Facebook webpage has increased. Several have used the SEPA number given to make complaints regarding the smell from Greengairs Landfill.

JW advised continually updating CC Facebook, adding local information & helpful links e.g. Potholes - link advising how and who to contact to report such problems. All agreed.

St. Andrews Cycle Run 17th April has been cancelled.

Not enough applications to make setting up costs economically viable.

Bruce Street Campus – Traffic measures to be monitored. Possibility of bollards being introduced if new parking bay accommodation not adhered to.

McGill's Transport – Improvements in local Bus Services, with 212 service now stopping at Monklands Hospital. Colin Napier from McGills to attend April CC meeting to discuss new service details and answer questions.

Cycle Path Development, Main Street – Changes will include Signage only, no pavement painting or markings to be made due to complaints from Main St residents.

Jim Clothier, SEPA Environmental Officer will try to arrange attendance at CC May meeting to respond to concerns re Greengairs Landfill.

4. Police Report:

No Report.

Police left to attend a call/incident. No police attendance at two out of the last three meetings and no report emailed to chair as promised.

CC Members wanted to seek advice/information regarding recent Incidents in Affric Avenue & MUGA.

CD to contact Community Sergeant, Stephen Murray re providing a monthly report in the event officers are unable to attend, or have to leave a meeting without giving a report. MD to contact him re areas of concern.

5. NLC Report

NLC Budget Cuts:

- a. Scottish Govt provide 81% of local authority revenue. Out of remaining 19% revenue NLC have to make 4% savings. This evaluates to £25 million pounds for financial year 2016/2017.
- b. 250 Full Time Employment Posts to go. There will be no compulsory redundancies – comprised of voluntary redundancies and existing unfilled posts.
- c. Council Uplifts – 3 free uplifts per year - any additional uplifts will cost a modest £10. Charging for uplifts would only encourage more 'fly tipping, which NLC is already struggling to control, not least in this village and its back roads, at substantial cost.
- d. Housing Rent to increase by 3%. NLC have approx. 30,000 tenants. Rent used exclusively for: repairs/the upgrading of existing properties & new builds. A great deal of upgrading of old houses has already been carried out, and continues, in Plains
- e. Extensions to school joint campuses in Caldercruix and Clarkston, since maximum pupil numbers now exceeded. Plains Joint Primary campus remains under maximum.
- f. Full approval for housing development at Airdriehill subject to road safety measures being implemented.
- g. Road safety measures at Meadowhead Road /Ballochney Road not yet implemented. Cllr Morgan to contact Andy Wyatt re addressing them as quickly as possible.
- h. Tillicoultry Quarries are very likely to appeal the unanimous vote of NLC Planning to refuse planning permission for extended development at Hlilend in Caldercruix. Appeal likely to be based on 'extant' inclusion of original application.
- i. **Fracking:** Cllr Morgan affirmed that NLC totally against such development. He also informed members that the imposed Govt. moratorium on fracking could be lifted at any time by the Govt. despite their stipulated end date of 2017.
- j. Plains Senior Residents Lunch Club – Cllr Morgan has contributed £350 from his community funding allowance. He advised that community voluntary groups trying to access NLC Small Community Grants, largely funded by local councilor's very limited available funding allowance for voluntary groups in their own Wards, should be aware of the limited amount of funding they can access in any one financial year and the limited amount of funding local councilors have to divide out to groups in their own constituency areas.
- k. New NLC Leader – Jim Logue. Depute – P Kelly

Members expressed concern re lack of feedback on progress of STAG Report to justify a station for Plains. CC had been formally informed some months ago that the report was due to be completed by end of November 2015, and felt that some information on result should have been issued before Scottish Parliament dissolved at end of March, and before May elections to Scottish Parliament . Cllr Morgan will try and establish the present status of the report.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Bank balance is £3095.28 - £500 Of this remains ring-fenced. £9.60 owing for hall lets. Petty Cash - £5.62

MD/EG to look into using the ring-fenced sum to produce a CC Newsletter. Action approved by all members
Discussion – Providing community/public with Information about CC, local Community Groups & Schools.
Several suggestions were made: Posters, Face Book etc. MD advised best to use services of VANL (printing/publishing). This was agreed. EG to contact VANL for further information/costing.

7. Correspondence:

Budget Consultation Report –MD copied this to members.
Newsletter from MP Neil Gray made available for members to read.

8. AOCB:

- a. Post office – Retail outlet still being investigated by MD.
- b. Complaints re incidents/police presence in Affric Ave. JG also reported an incident at MUGA where local children were ordered out to allow access to a non English speaking group of adults led by

English speaking leader/officer. Cllr Morgan stated Police should have been contacted. In absence of police presence. MD will contact Community Sergeant for info, and matters to be raised in presence of police at next meeting.

- c. CC Hall – Outside wall damage and sewer pipe is leaking sewage from toilet. Had been reported to NL Culture months ago and partial repair had been. Caretaker on duty for meeting reported NL Culture had been contacted again and would attend the following day to assess work still to be done to complete repair.
- d. Harry Wilson nominated as co-opted member.
- e. No response as yet from NL Waste Management Team re attendance at CC meeting to clarify correct usage of various domestic bins. MD to contact again.

9. D.O.N.M: 12th April 2016.