



Minute of meeting held on 20 May 2015 Burngreen Hall

PRESENT: Scott Johnston (chair) Margot MacMillan, Janet McKerral, Bill Craik, Charles Coulthard, Jean Mclaughlan, Kay Thomson.

ALSO PRESENT: Alan Stevenson, Jean Jones.

Apologies: Heather McVey, Jim Hutchinson.

Bill Craik was welcomed back to the meeting after a period of illness.

1. **Police Report:** There was no police report.
2. **GP out of hours consultation**

The meeting was updated on the response from Lanarkshire NHS to the provision of GP out of hours service. A copy of the letter from Calum Campbell the Chief Executive had been circulated previously to the meeting. Other organisations in the town had now been made aware of the contents (Churches Together and Lunch Clubs) and a copy had been printed in the Chronicle. Other organisations were unhappy with the response and felt that someone from NHS Lanarkshire (Calum Campbell) should attend a meeting in Kilsyth.

It was agreed that a further letter should go to Calum Campbell and invite him to the next Community Council meeting where other organisations will also be invited to attend.

Action Jmckerral

A response is awaited from the Health Council, regarding the Forum which was held during March to investigate how appropriately the consultation was conducted. Cross boundary flows need to be taken into account

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes of last Meeting:** The minutes of the April meeting were approved, proposed by Charles Coulthard and seconded Margo MacMillan. It was noted that Kay Thomson had apologised in the February meeting for March and April.

4. **Matters arising/ General issues**

Road Works Airdrie Road - a progress report has been requested from John Ashcroft, but there has been no response.

Action Jmckerral

Toilets

Graham Patrick has held meetings with James Johnston of the Coachman to progress a scheme for Kilsyth. There were no further updates.

5. **Treasurers Report.**

The Administration account currently stands at £1401.89. The Project account is at £462.89.

The accounts have been sent to NLC auditors and have been approved. The balance does not include the cheque for the website maintenance which has been paid post completion of accounts. The fees for hall etc are paid until March and a cheque should be due from NLC for £1100 in August.

6. **QR Codes**

The Falkirk Sign Factory is no longer in existence and a quote for the signage has been received and is £1287.00 .

Text for the codes is required – Jim Hutchinson agreed that the text for the relevant locations can be lifted directly from any of his various books. Editorial assistance will be required and Anne Russell has been contacted and has forwarded our request to Ron Moorcroft, who will make contact.

It was also agreed that a grant should be sought from NLC Culture for up to £2000 to enable us to fund the work.

Bill Craik agreed to meet with Robert Pender to extract some of the write up for the QR codes from the Website material.

To simplify the process it was agreed that the agreed locations for the QR codes should be emailed to all the members and each member should be allocated a couple of codes to produce a “first Pass” write up.

Action J Mckerral/Bill Craik/ALL

7. **Conservation Area and RBS Plinth**

Martin Dickson confirmed that the scheme for removal of the plinth was given approval at and will be included in 2015/16 budgets. (Ongoing)

Margo advised that we need to ensure the plinth with the poetry is preserved and moved elsewhere.

Martin is awaiting some prices not only for the removal of the plinth at top of Main street but also the significant repairs required to the other two, which appear to be in terrible condition after such a relatively short space of time. When Martin has costs and timescales he will be back in touch.

Bill Craik advised that Lorna Bowden has visited and is developing a programme of works.

Action J Mckerral

Martin is also checking the potential option to modify and update the hording at the Main St gap site. This would include having a map of the town and the location of any publically available toilets. KCC will keep a watching brief.

Action Janet Mckerral

8. Communication Project:

The Post card to be circulation in August to all households was circulated and it was agreed that:

- Scott would test the web site/ twitter/ face book with a summary of the minutes.
- Jmck would contact the uniformed organisations.
- The project account would be used to finance the project until it is depleted.

Action Janet Mckerral

9. Vacant sites / 47 Arden Grove/Former Police Station/Health Centre

A meeting had been held with Les Stevenson Planning Manager and members of the council on Friday 17 April at 11 in the "one stop shop" to discuss planning concerns regarding vacant sites and Arden Grove. In Kilsyth Jmck Charles and John will also attend.

Ballmalloch Road

Les has instructed officers to look at the site at Ballmalloch Road and to write to the owner to have the site tidied up; if that is unsuccessful, Planning will consider the use of a Section 179 Amenity Notice

Former Police Station

With regard to the Police Station, the only contact planning have had since permission was refused for the retail development was from Clyde Valley Housing Association, last summer, and there seems to have been no further interest in that property.

Jean Jones advised that Clyde Valley could not secure funding.

Police Scotland had been contacted by the Secretary and they have advised the current situation regarding the former police station is as follows.

“The Old Building has been passed from Police Scotland to The Scottish Police Authority who is still trying to dispose of it after the last sale fell through. It’s being marketed by GVA James Barr on behalf of the Authority. The building inspected approximately once a month by the Estates Department who will instruct any remedial action to address security or Health and Safety issues identified.”

Old Health Centre

The Health Centre actually lies just outside the Conservation Area, and planning has been re contacted this week by NHS Lanarkshire regarding its demolition. As it is not in the Conservation Area, there is no need for any planning consent to demolish it.

Graham Johnston NHS Lanarkshire advised that the “Building is now in process of being demolished as it has been declared surplus to our requirements. Formal process for disposal (sale) of site will now be taken forward,”

There was concern that there may be an issue of land ownership which could result in the site being left until the sale is concluded. Therefore the Community Council want to ensure that the site is “soiled and seeded” to ensure it is visually acceptable as it is on the edge of the conservation area. A letter to be sent to NHS.

Action Jmckerral

Woodend Farm

An NLC officer has visited the right of way again this week, and has reported back that the right of way (the Avenue) is not blocked. Regarding the groundworks being carried out at Woodend Farm, Kilsyth. Following an investigation into this matter and correspondence with the land owner it has been established that planning permission is not required for the works. The land owner has advised that the works are being carried out in order to facilitate agricultural improvements. Class 18 of the General Permitted Development (Scotland) Order 1992 allows for the carrying out on agricultural land comprised in an agricultural unit of excavation or engineering

operations requisite for the purposes of agriculture without the requirement for planning permission, subject to conditions.

However, it has been noted this week that further works are being carried out at the site close to the farm steading, namely the removal of a considerable amount of material from a hillside. The land owner has been advised that on initial inspection these works require planning permission and has been advised to cease these works immediately. NLC will update the community council in due course.

Arden Grove

Les advised that Planning Officers and building control visited the site along with Les a year ago. There is no dangerous aspect and the owners have been written to – but there has been no response

It appears that the property is listed on the valuation roll and has a liability for Council Tax, but because of data protection issues no more information can be established.

Jean Jones will try to verify the situation and ensure that the owners are paying the correct council tax.

Action Jean Jones

The local plan is due for comment by 15 May, before the next Council meet – an extension has been granted until 29 May.

Action Janet Mckerral

Clyde Valley Sites

There was concern about the apparent delay in commencing some of the agreed work on housing schemes agreed – namely the CO OP building, the red sandstone building in the Burn green and the Wilson and Garden site.

Jean Jones will write to John Turnbull and request an update and also express the councils concerns about slippage of the programme.

Action Jean Jones

10. Planning:

There were three applications for consideration

15/01013/ADV Facia 70 Main St

15/0080/PRT – minor works to bridge parapets in the Cumbernauld area

15/00867/FUL – Single storey extension 6 Lairdshill

There were no objections.

Storehouse Change of Use

The matter of the planning application for the Storehouse change of use was raised from the public gallery expressing concern that industrial units were being lost to the town and asked that the community council should not support the change of use.

There was a debate regarding the planning application (not initially received by the council) and whether the change of use was appropriate. The council felt that NLC were in dereliction by agreeing a possible lease for the premises for non industrial purposes. The council agrees that it could not support the change of use as

- The site is zoned as industrial area in the local plan and should remain as such and new industrial development encouraged.
- Change of use would deny employment much needed employment opportunities in the town
- The buildings owned by NLC had not been prominently marketed locally either as a single unit or for a divisible unit.
- NLC were failing to support the concept of the industrial estate and allocate sufficient funds to the area
- Infra structure should be developed to support industrial development

All concerned wished to make it very clear that the Community Council has every desire to support the Storehouse in seeking appropriate premises and supports and encourages their endeavours. The issue is with NLC and the planning authorities.

A letter is to be sent to the storehouse advising of our position, but emphasising our objection is not with or about the Storehouse, but about our desire to remain within the Local plan. The issue is with NLC.

Action J Mckerral/Scott Johnston

NLC Local Development Plan

The Local development plan had been made available to members of the council for comment. The Key points which are to be conveyed are:

- The Plan was top down and unwieldy.
- It was difficult to follow and did not therefore encourage public engagement in the process
- There is no scope for local initiative and community involvement

- It fails to promote growth and employment – particularly in Kilsyth where development of the industrial estate is hardly considered
- There are no clear links to previous surveys and how the findings have been implemented (e.g. town centre surveys)
- It is difficult to find the detail for Kilsyth, which is what local people want to read i.e. how, does the plan impact on the local community.
- Even on hard copy – user still need internet access to view the maps etc
- The Community council also disagrees with point 12 – the town centre should be kept tight.

A response is to be sent to NLC as above.

Action J Mckerral/Scott Johnston

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11. History and Heritage:

No reports.

12. Reports from other Organisations:

The Town Twinning association made a successful visit to France, including a visit to Versailles. They have a barge trip planned for the 19 June and a stall at Civic Week.

The Golf Club are undertaking a programme of open days and junior coaching during the summer.

13. Environment:

Greenspace NLC had recently circulated a booklet of events and activities in the North Lanarkshire area. Despite all the countryside areas around Kilsyth and the network of linked paths – there was only one activity for Kilsyth which is scrub clearance in Dumbreck Marshes. A response is to be sent to NLC advising that the Community Council are disappointed at the lack of events and the dull nature of the one chosen.

Action J Mckerral

14. Website:

There were 264 visits in April with 639 page views. . Most visitors were again from the UK, Brazil. Topics were Kilsyth and Colzium, What's on, and History

15. Correspondence

All correspondence has been referred to in items above.

16. A.O.C.B. – The AGM will be held at the end of the June meeting.

It was agreed that a letter of congratulation should be sent to our new MP and that he should be invited to attend one of our autumn meetings.

Action J McKerral

Date of next meeting 17 June 2015 at 7pm in Burngreen Hall Kilsyth

Chairman: Scott Johnson

Secretary: Janet McKerral 4 Prospect Road Dullatur G68 0AN 01236 739765
secretary@kilsyth.org.uk

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