

Mount Florida Community Council

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of 26 February 2019
Clincarthill Church Hall, 7p.m.

Present: Community Councillors C. Carus (Chair), C. Charlwood, M. Charlwood, J. MacDonald (Minutes), G. Thomson (Correspondence Secretary), J. Pollock
Also attending: Derek Coyle, Scott Cooney, Alex Miller, Ross Martin, Allan Munro, Chris Bryant, Peter Clive, David McKean, Cathie Laycock, Cllr Tanya Wisely.

1. Welcome and Apologies (Chris Carus):

Chris chaired and welcomed those attending. Apologies were received from Robert Pollock.

2. Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the January meeting were approved (proposed Judith Pollock, seconded Claire Charlwood).

3. Matters Arising:

There were no other matters arising outwith the agenda.

4. Community Police Report:

Derek reported on the period from October – February. There had been 27 crimes of note, including 1 common assault, 1 careless driving, 5 drug possession, 9 cases of vandalism, 5 housebreakings, 3 other thefts. Some charity tins were stolen from shops, and bikes from closes – even though chained up, perpetrators were hacking through banister rails. Juvenile culprits are involved in the vandalism outbreak, and extra resources have been employed, which has led to a reduction. The recent break-in at the butchers was unrelated.

Officers are stretched at the moment but will try to tackle speeding. They only tend to get involved with dangerous driving or obstruction, but Council officers can come out if there are issues with yellow lines, parking etc.

The next Hampden fixtures are on 13-14 April.

On 20-21 June, Clincarthill church is remaining open till midnight with street pastors patrolling the area to help reduce anti-social behaviour.

5. Summary of correspondence:

(i) A letter of thanks had been received from the medical centre for assisting the students in their project.

(ii) An email had been received about the new constitution – discussion will be held over till next month.

6. Treasurer's Report (Judith):

Our current balance is £5646, of which £4778 is outstanding from various grants, leaving an available balance of £897. We still have a small surplus. We also need someone to help liaise with the school on the road safety campaign.

7. Councillor's Report (Tanya Wisely):

Cllr Wisely is on restricted duties at the moment due to family circumstances. Main items were:

(i) The Council budget was set last week. SNP, Labour and the Greens had presented proposed budgets. There is currently a £1m budget gap. It was felt that there should be more space between the parties' budget proposals and discussion of the budget, with a chance for wider public consultation. It is important that people understand the reasons for budget cuts, and their implications.

(ii) Budget proposals included an additional £200 p.a. for community councils.

(iii) The new budget for community grants should begin at the end of March.

(iv) There had been a discussion about the climate emergency.

(v) The next stage of the Battlefield consultation will be a public meeting on March 19 at the library at 3p.m. Among other things, there are changes proposed to the junction beyond the railway bridge. There is potential for positive change.

(vii) A question was asked about bin collections, and the impact on Kings Park and Mount Florida. The 3-weekly collections will apply to main door properties, not to flats. Any manpower reduction will be through attrition. LES has been reorganised to simplify management structure and make accountability easier.

(viii) It was pointed out that many street lights were not working. Cllr Wisely replied that there is an element in the budget to address this; there is also a roll-out programme to switch to LED lights.

8. Mount Florida Bowling Club:

This issue has arisen since the last meeting. It appears that the club is facing closure, and an appeal was made on social media and locally for more members, but the club's board seem to be resisting any attempts to revive membership, or what they see as outside interference. A meeting was held in the Clockwork, and was attended by about 80 people, many of whom are concerned that closure may lead to the site being built on, and loss of green space and a valuable local leisure resource. MoFloCoCo met with representatives of the club board last week. There seems to be some disarray within the club; the secretary has resigned and it was felt that members who disagreed with closure were being forced out.

Chris Carus had approached the GCC planning officer, and the city council would be against closure. Sport Scotland will be consulted to see if there is over-provision of bowling clubs. Bowls Scotland have also been spoken to and are concerned about issues like this; they would advise rejection of any planning application.

The club seems to have had difficulty getting people to run things, but the recent upsurge of interest (90+ people) following the proposed closure becoming known about indicates that there is a lot of local support for keeping the club as a community facility. There would seem to be enough local interest to revitalise the club and hopefully help persuade the board to modernise it and facilitate the joining procedure and arrangement of matches. Other small local clubs are doing well, so it would seem perfectly possible to keep things going.

Although some members of the club board seem to have its closure and sale as their priority, the feeling of this meeting is that it is definitely worth saving. Some suggestions for moving forward include:

(i) encourage members to change their minds about closure. It could be unconstitutional to sell the club without the agreement of all the members. There could be a legal challenge.

(ii) obstruct plans and scare off any potential developer through the planning process before any money is committed

(iii) Community right-to-buy: make a case to members, register interest in the site, and if the site goes on the market, the community has first right to buy. There is a community fund to help with this process.

Any proposals would need to be communicated to all members. The club board does not seem disposed to allow any suggestions from outside, or even to meet to discuss the issue.

Action➤ Chris Carus to approach Planning Aid Scotland for advice.

Action➤ Formally contact GCC to say we are aware of the potential disposal of the site, and ask how we can be involved in maintaining this as a green space for the local community.

Action➤ All: continue to make local community aware.

Action➤ Judith to determine what is necessary to proceed with a community buy-out ASAP.

(Although MoFloCoCo could not be the body to do this, we can enquire on behalf of the local community.)

9. Letherby Triangle (Judith):

Three surveys are needed – tree survey, topographical survey and GPR, and we have sufficient funds to proceed with this. The next round of SusTrans funding opens in March, and we can reapply for funds; an increased amount is needed to cover all the other work proposed.

Gavin has secured a meeting with Cllr Anna Richardson who will help us through the planning process. If we get funds we can employ ERZ.

Action➤ Judith will instruct the surveys.

10. Hampden Events Participation Request

Over the last few months we have been in the process of establishing this with the help of a dedicated officer. Issues include transport away from the stadium, approach to Hampden for visitors etc. The next meeting is on 8th March. Thereafter a public consultation will be set up.

11. Traffic and Parking:

No update.

Action➤ Gavin will follow up.

12. Recruitment:

We currently have 9 community councillors, 8 of whom come to meetings. We would like to have 12. We suggested lots of ways that people could be involved in the recent newsletter. We are also open to ideas if people have projects they would like to take forward.

13. A.O.C.B.

(i) Need to register the constitution.

(ii) BB organising clean-up (**Action**> Robert to take forward)

(iii) A resident raised the issue of commercial waste being dumped at the corner of Clincart Road and Florida Street, and also near the station. **Action**> Tanya will look into this.

(iv) Roads - drains are choked, especially along Carmunnock Road. Mud is collecting at the corner of Cordiner Street and Carmunnockk Road, and rain water backs up and overflows onto the pavement. **Action**> Tanya will look into this.

(v) There have been problems accessing our website over the last few days. **Action**> Chris to contact the webmaster.

14. Close.

Next meeting: Tuesday 26th March 2019 at 7pm, Clincarthill Church Halls.