

Mount Florida Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of 22 October 2019
Clincarthill Church Hall, 7p.m.

Present: Community Councillors C. Carus (Chair), M. Charlwood, J. MacDonald (Minutes), G. Katungi, J. Pollock, G. Thomson (Secretary)
Also attending: PC Scot Cooney, PC Vinnie Singh, Cllr Susan Aitken, Heather Budge . C. Mackie, Lorna Duguid, Allan Munro, Anne McGrory, Nicola Smith.

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Chris Carus chaired the meeting and welcomed those attending. Apologies were given on behalf of Claire Charlwood, Robert Pollock and Alex Miller.

2. Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the September meeting were approved with the amendment that R. Pollock was not in attendance (proposed M. Charlwood, seconded C. Carus).

3. Matters Arising:

Item 3(v): Alex had forwarded Christine Martin's email address to Claire, who has been trying to get in touch with her about improving communication about bulk uplift, to no avail. Cllr Aitken will chase this up.

4. Community Police Report:

PC Cooney reported. Re gangs of youths causing problems in Shawlands, two officers are working Monday - Friday on dealing with these incidents that have been occurring over the last year.

One resident raised the issue of cycling on pavements and the officers will look at this. Any problems, contact PC Cooney, who will be our community officer for the time being.

5. Correspondence:

See below under item 15.

6. Treasurer's Report (Judith):

(i) The report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The balance remains the same as last month.

(ii) Judith is still waiting to hear back from MFPPP.

7. Councillor's Report (Susan Aitken):

(i) New street bins have been distributed. They are much larger than the lamp post bins and are enclosed so there should be less litter blown about. Technology is being trialled that would report when bins are full so they can be emptied when needed. The bins are in different locations, but as it is still early days they may be moved if necessary. There has been a significant reduction in street litter where they have already been installed.

(ii) Several schools, including Langside, have been trialling car-free school gates. When the evaluation is done, Cllr Aitken wants to roll this out across the ward ASAP. The ward and catchment area are fairly compact and so there should be support for car-free zones as it will be easier to walk to school.

(iii) The Euro 2020 Championships will be one of the biggest events to be held in the city. Lessons have been learned from the Commonwealth Games. There is a specific team working on the planning and they can come along and speak to the Community Council.

UEFA establishes rules for these events, and we only recently found out about rules designed to prevent ticket touting, fake merchandising etc. (see further below).

Football traffic should be more contained as shuttle buses will be in operation. Trains should also be under less pressure. The city is getting better at managing large events, and minimising disruption to local residents will be a priority.

(iv) The Community Planning Partnership review is underway at the moment. The community empowerment team is quite small but has been working hard at looking at funding. The fund is now more streamlined and there is more clarity about its use and better accountability.

A root and branch review of community planning structures may result in the sectoral partnership level being removed; there will still be city-wide strategic oversight but with more done at a local level.

(v) Participatory budgeting pilots are being evaluated and there is clear support for the way participatory budgeting has worked in the pilot areas. The focus on thematic areas has worked well. There is a plan to establish community panels. Training will be given and recruits will be sought from across the ward to work with the wider community to look at how participatory budgeting might work, and how funds might be prioritised.

(vi) Cllr Aitken then took questions. Mark raised the issue of bins on Stanmore Road; the old bins were removed before the new ones were put in place. Cllr Aitken will make sure Stanmore Road will be prioritised.

MoFloCoCo welcomes the news of the new bin installation, the shuttle buses for the Euro games and the participatory budgeting.

8. Cathkin Park Community Asset Transfer Request:

A community asset transfer request has been made for the pavilion, grounds and multi-use games area of Cathkin Park by the Jimmy Johnstone Charitable Trust. MoFloCoCo was not officially notified about the proposed asset transfer. Bridget reported that neighbours had had no proper notification either, and the deadline for responses is this Friday.

The Jimmy Johnstone Trust wants exclusive use of the land, and is looking to lease it for 25 years, but residents feel that the ground should be available for all local people to access. The Trust currently leases the land but it is also open to be used by other local individuals and groups. The Trust has had use of the pavilion for a peppercorn rent for the last ten years, and although they have exclusive use of it, they say it is underused.

The constitution of the Charitable Trust appears to have 3 members in perpetuity, who do not live in the area. There is no local representation. The Trust had been asked to come to our meeting but did not take up the invitation. They do not seem to have advertised the proposed transfer widely, either locally or on their social media. The asset transfer application forms were signed in July 2018 yet local residents are only now finding out about the proposals.

There are bats in the park which are a protected species, and may be adversely affected by proposals e.g. floodlighting, and any further parking requirements might impinge on the cycle speedway track.

We received a request from local residents that we oppose the asset transfer, which may not in fact meet the criteria for the new grants system or for asset transfer.

Action ➤ Chris will put in a response and will encourage local people to put in their responses.

9. Hampden Events Participation Request:

(i) We were invited, at very short notice, to submit evidence to the parliament committee on sport about the local concerns around disruption on UEFA match days.

A new Bill makes provisions for enforcement officers to search some premises and vehicles without a warrant, which seems very draconian. We wish to ensure that police officers are not distracted from their other duties by having to support enforcement officers. It seems that the focus will be on touting and fake merchandise; this is a UEFA requirement. Glasgow City Council was unaware until this summer that this was something that the Scottish Parliament would have to legislate on. It is primarily aimed at international events to ensure that anti-fraud measures are in place. The legislation will be temporary and will not apply to future events.

There had been no clear definition of the events zone, but Chris has now established the extent of the zone. Also of concern is the security cordon – police lines may block the public out of some areas, which could impact on local businesses. It is important to ensure that there is no avoidable negative impact on local businesses, and indeed there ought to be positive benefits. We will monitor the situation.

(ii) We have been invited to a meeting in November with other stakeholders to discuss Hampden/UEFA events.

10. Letherby Triangle Action Plan (Judith):

We still do not have the legal agreement which we have to sign and send back before we can make a grant claim. Judith has been chasing this up and it is now almost ready to come out. Gavin and Judith met with consultants ERZ three weeks ago and next week will meet with roads engineers and others.

11. Bowling Club update (Alan):

Mount Florida Community Trust put in a planning application for protection of the green space. Plans were available to view. After meeting with GCC planning department it was decided that the time was right to submit an application. The intention is to have a tennis court, one bowling green for members of the club, with two-thirds of the remaining area for yoga, children's play

area, solar panels, and a community garden in the surrounding area. The existing clubhouse would be retained. The full set of documents is on GCC city planning page – see under 69 Carmunnock Road.

There will be an open public meeting of the Community Trust next Monday at 7.30 p.m. when a full presentation will be given. The Community Trust application shows that there is significant local interest in retaining the space for local community use, making it wheelchair accessible etc. People can make comments on the application, and positive comments are welcome.

Notifications to neighbours will go out very soon. MoFloCoCo will support the Community Trust's application and will help promote next Monday's meeting.

12. Queens Park Arena (Gillian):

- (i) The terms of the agreement are being worked on; various changes have been suggested.
- (ii) QP21 is an umbrella group of various community groups, whose purpose is to come up with community plans for the park.
- (iii) The programme for next year is being developed and there are lots of considerations to be taken into account e.g. the need to liaise with as many community groups as possible. They want to encourage small local events when no programmed events are on.
- (iv) The AGM is next month. Evelyn will be stepping down as Chair.

13. Traffic and Parking:

There was no update.

14. Communications update:

- (i) Newsletter –We will try to put out a newsletter in January.
Action➤ Judith will put in an application for a grant, and will try to get 10 advertisers.
- (ii) Gillian had asked for help to refresh the website. She has put together a brief for what we want.
Action➤ Gavin will put notice on Twitter.

15. AOCB

(i) Winter Wonderland (Nicola): We supported the application for an Area Partnership grant of £500 which was successful. We will also sponsor the next grant. The event will take place on 7th-8th March 2020.

Action➤ Chris will send an approval email.

(ii) We have been invited to respond to a survey about the community planning partnership.

Action➤ Mark will respond on our behalf.

(iii) We had notice of a city-wide consultation on the future of George Square.

(iv) Sanctuary have put in an amendment to their planning application. This can be seen online; there do not seem to be any problems with it.

(v) Chris was looking into the problem of Japanese knotweed along the railway line. NetworkRail had been contacted on numerous occasions but have not tackled the problem.

Action➤ Chris will contact Cllr Graham.

(vi) We have an invitation to work with Govanhill Community Council on bulk uplift issues.

(vii) We had received notice of a national campaign on electricity micro-generation. While this is not perhaps within our remit we will do more research on climate change and what it means for Mount Florida. We may access the government's Climate Conversations pack. We might also look at getting a Masters student to do some survey work.

Action➤ Gavin will contact the University.

(viii) We had received some items to be shared on Facebook from the church.

17. Close.

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