

Mount Florida Community Council

Minutes of the (Zoom) Meeting of 23 November 2021
7p.m.

Present: Community Councillors C. Carus, Bernhard Hidding, Janet MacDonald (Minutes), Amber Mohammed, Judith Pollock (Chair), Robert Pollock, Natasha Visser (Secretary), Robbie Warringham (Treasurer)

Also attending: Mandy Burke, Marjorie Cuthbert, Mandy Evans-Ewing, PC Sammy Garcia, Grainne Hayes, Claire Johnston, Victoria Loughlan, C. McLuckie, Christine Martin, Claire Quinn, Nicola Smith, Keith Stoddart.

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Judith Pollock chaired the Zoom meeting, which is to be regarded as a regular community council meeting, and welcomed those attending. Claire Charlwood and Mark Charlwood sent apologies.

2. Minutes of last meeting:

The amended minutes of the October meeting were approved with the following amendments – remove ‘Chair’ after Chris’s name, add ‘Treasurer’ after Robbie’s (proposed A. Mohammed, seconded B. Hidding).

3. Matters Arising:

(i) **Item 3(i)** The small hall at Clincarthill Church is now available for meetings.

Action ➤ Judith and Robert will test the equipment for suitability for hybrid meetings.

(ii) **Item 3 (ii):** Cllr Richardson was going to look into how the SECC deal with events, and follow up about bins. We have not heard anything further.

(iii) **Item 12(ii):** Christine Martin had been in touch with Amber. She is attending tonight’s meeting where she will listen to our concerns about the Participation Request, consult further with Denise Hamilton and get back to us, and then try to arrange a meeting with Hampden, who have so far proved reluctant to meet with us, and have once again failed to provide us with the promised written report.

4. Summary of Correspondence (Natasha Visser):

(i) An email had been received from Glasgow Community Mental Health and Wellbeing, notifying us of a grant that is available (deadline January).

(ii) We had received lots of complaints from local residents following the recent football matches at Hampden (see further below).

5. Treasurer’s Report (Robbie Warringham):

The report had been circulated to CC members. There had been some expenditure this month on lawyers (relating to the Letherby project), road safety equipment for the primary school, and soil for the planters.

6. Ward Councillor’s Report:

No report; Cllr Graham had had problems connecting to Zoom.

Action ➤ Natasha will forward the draft minutes to Cllr Graham.

7. Community Police Report (PC Sammy Garcia):

MoFloCoCo has had many complaints from local residents about the behaviour of football fans around the recent matches at Hampden. Judith is presently collating these (under the headings Public Disorder, Parking, Litter etc) and will draft a report to be sent to the police, GCC and the SFA. The Mount Florida Community Facebook page has also collated information which can be added to the report. PC Garcia advised forwarding to Community Inspector Crawford Inglis, or CI Neil Macleod.

Action ➤ all: any further comments/complaints to be mailed to moflococo@gmail.com

There had been back-to-back matches on Saturday and Sunday, and although PC Garcia reported a larger police presence on Sunday – over 600 officers – and designated disorder vans patrolling the area around the stadium, it was felt that there had been little visible police presence on the streets in our area, apart from directing fans from the station to the stadium, and people felt intimidated in their own homes.

There were many reports of fans urinating in closes and gardens, singing sectarian songs, taking drugs and leaving litter, as well as issues with parking. Cars and buses parked in areas previously vacated by local residents that are designated clearways for safety reasons. Some vehicle registration numbers have been taken and film can also be supplied. There was little visible presence of traffic wardens on Sunday, although Christine reported that about 250 fixed penalty notices had been served over the weekend, and 13 vehicles removed – only vehicles seen to be causing an obstruction can be removed. Another issue was buses idling, causing air pollution – when challenged, drivers replied that it was too cold to switch off engines.. There were traffic hold-ups, with gridlock at times, and fans crossing the road ignoring the lights. Local shops had been under siege, and some closed until fans departed. Residents consider the behaviour of fans the worst they have seen in many years.

It was noted that policing was organised by Operational Planning, rather than by the local police station. Residents were of the opinion that officers would be better deployed patrolling the streets around the stadium rather than in the stadium itself. As well as more officers on the streets, we feel it is necessary to have more public toilets available. It was reported that a police officer had been seen directing fans down Hampden Lane to use as a toilet. A number of residents had phoned 101 but found response was slow.

Judith had been interviewed by the Times, as had resident Claire Johnston (<https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/19734085.community-council-hits-weekend-anti-social-behaviour-around-glasgows-hampden-park/>) and we had also been contacted by GO Radio. All this has had a very detrimental effect on the local community, as we feel it needs more robust policing. This had been in evidence during the recent peaceful protests at COP26, but not at football matches.

8. Hampden After-match Clean-up

Street cleaning—Hampden pay for the clean-up of the immediate vicinity. The Cleansing Department are still catching up following the recent industrial action, so their focus has been on emptying refuse bins rather than street cleaning. It was pointed out that very few red bins were out at the weekend, and that this is a responsibility of GCC. Christine will look into this.

Christine Martin responded further, addressing the wider issues. There is a problem with availability of resources. Christine said that it was difficult to enforce littering with fixed penalty notices as there is so much of it, and to apply to one or two individuals would prove problematic.

Admitting that lack of toilet facilities is an issue, she felt that the clubs should take some responsibility for fans' behaviour, and the fans also have personal responsibility. Provision of portaloos should be up to Hampden and the clubs, as they are making profits from the matches. MoFloCoCo have put pressure on the licensing process for concerts, but have no say in the licensing for football matches, which is done centrally rather than locally. We feel that we should have a role in this process to demand portaloos outside the stadium, and should insist that an outcome process is put in place for the Community Participation Request. We feel that political intervention is needed: as Hampden is the national stadium, the problems have to be resolved at national level. We need to put pressure on elected representatives beyond the city, and may also need to take matters with Hampden to a more senior level.

We also feel that GCC has clear responsibilities for parking, street cleaning, bins, licensing etc and that whoever is legally accountable for the Community Empowerment Act should be involved.

9. Lottery/IKEA grant:

(i) A grant of £3800 had been awarded to help communities recover after the pandemic. This could be used for community events, and greening the area. The first spend has been on planters for Bolton Drive. Judith had written to ask how flexible the fund is; they replied that it is quite flexible, so long as we provide an updated report of spending.

10. Langside Area Partnership (Amber Mohammed):

Lanes funding: There is still some money left over.

Action➤ Amber will get in touch to see if the money is ring-fenced or can be used for other purposes.

Active Travel survey: This was shared on social media.

Area budget: there is still some money in the pot, and they are keen for it to be used and can provide match funding for projects already underway.

Monday night match issues: the police said they would take this on board but this was clearly not done.

Window Wanderland: £1300 for the next Window Wanderland has been approved.
Parks and Open Spaces: funding has been approved. An assessment has to be undertaken regarding placement of the benches to ensure that they do not encroach on the build-out path. There was some concern about using tile mosaics on the bollards due to freezing in winter; GCC have a supplier whom they use which may provide more robust tiles. We can go ahead with the identified artist. Judith had met with the principal of the primary school to get pupils involved in the design; they are keen for this to happen.
Skate park: improvements will be made, and benches provided for the recreation ground.
Cathkin Park: Improvements will go ahead.
Queens Park path: money has been committed.

11. Liveable Neighbourhoods Plan:

The plan is still available online for comments <https://langsidedetotoryglenln.commonplace.is/>
It was suggested that residents could highlight their desire for the bowling club site to remain a green spot in the local community, which otherwise has very little green space.

12. AOCB:

(i) Bowling Club: this is still owned by the former members, and is in process of being sold to Noah Developments, pending planning approval for residential development. MFC Trust was formed to save the site as a community asset, and had put in their planning application, which was approved, while Noah's was rejected by Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government Reporter. On 15th December Noah will come back to the bowling club with revised proposals. To date, the club has not shown interest in engaging with the Trust. Meanwhile the Trust will continue to make objections to residential development of the site. They have produced a calendar for sale to raise funds – see their Facebook page or website for details
<https://mfct.sumup.link/>

(ii) Nicola will book a date for the next Winter Wanderland.

(iii) Two spaces remain on the Community Council. All help welcome.

13. Close.

Next meeting: Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 7pm, online (Zoom).