

**POLMONT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 22ND 2010 @ 7.30PM
GREENPARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**

IN ATTENDANCE:

John Cochrane	Chair
Anne Curr	Treasurer
Mysie Griffiths	Member Responsible for Planning Issues
James Anderson	
Carole McGonigal	
Anne Marie Harley	
Robert Grant	
Jack Gillespie	
C M Johnstone	
Charlie Johnstone	
Kay Burnett	

APOLOGIES:

Rosemary Taylor	Vice Chair
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MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Anne Marie Harley proposed amendment to the previous minutes as follows:

Whyteside Development

Rosemary Taylor outlined the details and structure of the forthcoming Public Enquiry.

With this amendment the minute was approved as generally accurate.

MATTERS ARISING

Taken as main agenda items

1 MEETING AT ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL RE TRAFFIC / ROAD / SAFETY ISSUES

There was discussion around why this meeting had not gone ahead as planned at the school. It was agreed that the reason for this was that not enough notice had been given to the school to notify parents in time.

It was also noted that Polmont Community Council Meeting should run on the fourth Monday of every month in the Greenpark Centre at 7.30pm and should not be cancelled without the agreement of PCC office bearers and without informing all attendees and local residents well in advance.

Falkirk Council representatives Russell Steadman and Duncan Gardener had attended the meeting in January and had outlined work which had been carried out and to be carried out in relation to road / safety / parking issues.

Following the meeting, Kay Burnett had written to Russell Steadman raising a number of queries. These included:

- charging for parking at Polmont Station
- a potential crossing on Gilston Crescent

The argument was put forward that charging for parking could have the potential to:

- discourage some residents who lived near enough to walk, from driving up to the station
- reduce congestion on roads
- increase road safety (fewer cars)
- reduce carbon footprint
- generate income

Putting in a crossing on Gilston Crescent could:

- make the roads safer for children to walk to school
- thus provide a healthier option for children
- minimise the number of parents driving their children to school
- reduce traffic / congestion / parking issues

Some members felt that charging for parking would mean that commuters would park on the streets (already an issue in itself). Others felt that this would not be the case and that charging £1 or £2 was reasonable. Charlie Johnstone suggested double yellow lines on the main roads outside Braesview Health Centre. Charlie Johnstone also suggested a roundabout be installed at the junction between Station Road and Salmon Inn Road. Another suggestion was opening up the side access to the Health Centre for those who had a level of physical disability. Kay Burnett commented that much of the car park to the front and side of Archibald Russell Court and next to the station car park often lay empty and wondered if there could be some sort of arrangement between the residents of the development / British Rail / Falkirk Council to allow commuters to park there.

Duncan Gardener had responded to Kay Burnett's letter to Russell Steadman with a comprehensive reply. This was shared with those present at the meeting. A consultation / survey is being carried out to clarify whether putting some sort of crossing on Gilston Crescent would be a good idea. Duncan indicated that he would get back to Kay Burnett in due course.

PCC was in agreement with the idea of a joint meeting with the school, local residents and parents to discuss the issues for all concerned.

Action: Carole McGonigal to take the information back to the Parent Council Meeting at St Margaret's and to propose that a joint meeting take place at the school inviting parents / residents and representatives from PCC and the various local organisations. Kay Burnett to take this back to Graeme High School Parent Council. Feedback to next meeting.

It was agreed that this would also be an opportunity for raising the profile of the Community Council and encouraging more residents to see its potential and to become involved.

2 WHYTESIDE DEVELOPMENT / WHYTESIDE ACTION GROUP

In Rosemary's absence Anne Marie Harley provided a report on the Public Enquiry which had taken place. Confidence was expressed in the Reporter to the Enquiry who was extremely thorough and very fair in his management of the Enquiry.

The Enquiry had taken 3 full days. Falkirk Council was being challenged on a lack of decision-making. The Falkirk Council representative present was Stephen Dounes. It appeared that no previous site visit by Falkirk Council representatives had occurred. The Community Council expressed disappointment about this and asked that John Cochrane as Chair, write to Rhona Gheisler, Director of Development Services.

Action: Kay Burnett to formulate a draft letter for John Cochrane to read, amend as appropriate and send.

A site visit was carried out at the end of the enquiry.

The developer gave evidence, the proposal being that it was to be a landmark development. It had been clarified that the current Whyteside Hotel and car park took up 35% of the area and the proposed development 56%. The Reporter's decision is awaited. It was noted that the developer had a right of appeal but the Whyteside Action Group had no right of appeal.

3 OTHER PLANNING ISSUES

Mysie Griffiths reported on Helix Project Developments; Canal Developments; Regeneration of Tamfourhill area.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

John Cochrane tabled correspondence from the NSPCC.

Correspondence from Falkirk Council re re-zoning of Secondary School catchments was tabled. Implications for Whitecross / Bo'ness.

INEOS Science Festival for 8-12 year olds taking place at Falkirk Stadium in March.

5 AOCB

Anti-Social Behaviour

The issue of young people drinking in the Whyteside Play Area from 6.30 pm to 1.00am and subsequent anti-social behaviour was raised.

Action: John Cochrane to contact police.

Polmont Community Newspaper

Discussion had taken place between Kay Burnett and Reverend Jerome O'Brien concerning the above. Members were unaware of how to access the Newsletter on line. Kay Burnett shared the address subscribe@polmontold.org.uk. Some members expressed concern that they could not access the newsletter on line and wondered how a hard copy could be made available to those in this situation. It was noted that St Margaret's Primary School and Graeme High School were potential contributors to the Newsletter. Queries were raised as to whether St Andrew's Primary School and St Mungo's High School were aware of the initiative and could contribute. Some children

who attend these schools, and their families are resident in Polmont. John Cochrane suggested that the Reverend Jerome O'Brien of Polmont Old Parish Church be invited to attend PCC Meetings.

Action: John Cochrane to invite the Reverend O'Brien.

Young Person's Representation @ Polmont Community Council Meetings

Kay Burnett shared with the meeting that she had raised with Graeme High School Parent Council the idea of young people over 16 years of age resident in the Polmont area, attending Polmont Community Council Meetings. School staff and parents were receptive to this idea having a very active Pupil Council within the school already. Lesley Carroll the Headteacher had requested information about the various Community Councils which fed into Graeme High School catchment. She saw the potential of this in extending the student experience into the Community and across all CCs. Kay Burnett agreed to contact Brian Pirie Falkirk Council CC Liaison Officer for this information. This had been forwarded by Shona Barton. Brian Pirie agreed to attend a future meeting at Graeme High School to talk to the students about the role and function of Community Councils and how students could be further involved. It was noted that St Mungo's High School would require to be approached. Polmont Community Council members agreed in principle to the idea. It was agreed that some work would require to be done to ensure that when the young people attend they are made welcome, see the relevance of their involvement and are motivated to contribute.

Action: Kay Burnett to feed this back to Graeme High School Parent Council. All to agree who is to approach St Mungo's High School.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22nd March 7.30 pm Greenpark Community Centre.

Minute Taker: Kay Burnett 01324 711284