

BOTHWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Community Centre, Fallside Road, Bothwell

17th November 2009

Present : G. McLean (Acting Chairperson) , Stewart Mowat (Acting Secretary), Tom Goodsir , Sandra Jones , Patrick Morgan , Ross McArthur , Maureen Devlin (Councillor), Henry Mitchell (Councillor), Jim McGuigan (Councillor)

1. Apologies were received from Jeanette McGuire and Mario Lummi

2. Minute of Previous Meeting

SJ said that in future the minute of the meeting should make clear when action is required on a specific point and to which member of the Council the task is allotted. It was not clear from the last minute what action had been taken with regard to the road problem at the Co-op and whether the matter of receipt of correspondence from SLC had been followed up. Additionally the minute should have shown that SJ was simply to co-ordinate any “greenery” issues reported to her and bring these to the next meeting of the Community Council for discussion.

With the condition that these matters would be corrected in a future minute acceptance of the minute of the last meeting was proposed by Sandra Jones and seconded by Tom Goodsir.

3. Police Report

Two local police officers (Rachel and David) attended the meeting and advised that since our last meeting 33 crimes had been reported. The majority of these related to theft especially from cars which had not been locked and in which items had been left on display. There had been two cases of housebreaking during the period and it was expected that with the arrival of darker nights more crime could be expected. Incidences of youth disorder in the period had shown a decrease. This year firework related problems had not been so prevalent.

The Officers reported that an action plan would be put in place to cover the Festive Season.

The Chairperson asked the Officers what action should be taken in cases where a burglar alarm had become activated. The meeting was advised that in some cases the activation of an alarm system automatically resulted in the police being advised but in the first instance it was simply appropriate for members of the public to report the matter to the Police by telephone.

Turning to the matter of bank robberies the Officers said that an on-going operation was in place to protect local banks.

The police representatives asked that in future a copy of the minutes be handed in to Uddingston police station.

The Chairperson thanked the Officers for their attendance at the meeting.

4. Web-Site

The work relating to the updating of retailers details on the Community Council web-site requires to be completed and SM said that he would obtain the remaining information before the end of the year. GMcL said that it would be next year before she could update the web-site and create any links which were required between the retailer’s web-sites and our own web-site.

5. Treasurer's Report

SM reported that the bank balance at close of business on the 17th November 2009 was £3,262.26. He advised the meeting that the change of signatories form had been given to the Bank of Scotland.

6. Correspondence

G McL passed round SLC correspondence giving details of the new opening hours agreed for Tesco in Uddingston .These are Monday-Saturday 7.00-22.00 and Sunday 8.00-19.00.

7. Reports from Council Members

R McA said that the Appledore Tenants and Residents Association was holding a Christmas Fair in the Parochial Hall on the 29th November and asked for donations of nearly new toys. He went on to say that several fly-tipping warning signs were being put up in the Appledore area and that while the kitchen renovations were progressing well in several cases there had been problems due to the discovery of dampness.

T G commented on vans parking on and causing damage to the grass areas on Fallside Road and J McG said that he would take this up with those responsible.

SJ said that she was still following up some "greenery" issues and Langside Road was proving to be a particular problem. She also said that there had been no farmers market last Sunday as a trading licence had not been obtained in time. The next market will be held on the third Sunday in December.

8. Planning Matters

A general discussion took place on the proposed developments at Kirklands Hospital and the Covenanters Field.

No detailed plans have yet been submitted for the Kirklands development.

In relation to the Covenanters Field SJ passed out copies of correspondence received from SLC Planning Aid which set out areas of importance which should be considered in the submission of an objection to a planning application. Later in the meeting HM told the meeting that steps were being taken to establish if the Covenanters Field was "common good" land. If this was established any funds realised from a future sale would be earmarked for use in Bothwell.

J McG said that the Scottish Government was presently drawing up a list of battlefield sites on which it was the intention to place preservation orders. He proposed that the Secretary write to Mike Russell MSP, Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution asking that the Covenanters Field be added to this list. The Council unanimously agreed to this proposal.

9. Councillors Reports

MD- Councillor Devlin advised that the Silvertrees Hotel site has gone through the planning process and 60 flats are to be built there. She also said that a traffic light loop had been installed at the entrance to Bothwell Castle G.C.

JMcG-Councillor McGuigan said that children from Bothwell Primary School had visited the Council Chambers in Hamilton and had been given a tour and an opportunity to talk to councillors.

He went on to say that the repair work being carried out on Main Street would probably be finished by Friday.

HM- Councillor Mitchell gave the meeting the following information :-

Planning- planning permission had been refused for the building of a house in a

confined space in Merlewood Avenue. Hacking and Paterson had been refused permission to build four flats on the site of the old guide hut opposite Green Street Play Park.

Green Street Car Park- a crossbar has been erected at the entrance to the car park and lighting will shortly follow.

Traffic Management System- This system will give advance warning of traffic queues will be installed between Hamilton and Bothwell at a cost of £1M.

In response to a question councillor Mitchell told the meeting that in his view it was unlikely that the Raith Interchange work would begin during this period of financial restraint.

The Chair thanked the councillors for their reports.

10. The next meeting will be held on the 15th December 2009.