

Minutes of New Farm Loch Community Council Meeting, of Thursday 27th March 2014, held in St Joseph's Academy at 7pm.

1/ Welcome & apologies

In attendance – Sandy Brown(chairman), Archie Pryce(secretary), Willie Craig(treasurer), Julie Quinn, Gordon McGowan, Larry Tommie, Shona Milligan, Molly Morton, Elsie Roney, Marion Craig, John Huston, Lauren Murdoch(JHA), Scott Robertson(JHA), Sandra Stevenson, Michelle Mitchell(Atrium Homes), Chantelle Cowan(Choice Places), Sandra Pryce, Peter Mabon, Ben Davis(St. Joseph's), Ms McDaid(St. Josephs) Heather & Jade(St. Joseph's).

Apologies – Cllr MacIntyre, Cllr Buchanan, Cllr Campbell & Cheryl

Chairman opened the meeting welcomed all and introduced Ms McDaid, Heather & Jade from St. Josephs, Chantelle Cowan(choice properties) & Michelle Mitchell(Atrium homes).

2/ Presentation by senior students about their trip to Ecuador in 2013.

Ms McDaid, Heather & Jade from St. Josephs, gave a very interesting and informative presentation on their most recent trip to Ecuador. They showed improvements that have been made to the lives of the people they are working with in Ecuador, made possible by the fundraising carried out by the school and support of the local community.

Sandy thanked Ms McDaid, Heather & Jade for their presentation.

3/ Police Report

No officers present and no report previously submitted.

4/ Minutes of meeting held 30/01/14

Approved – Shona Milligan; Seconded Julie Quinn

5/ Matters arising

Pg 1. Action for Children – Secretary advised he had phoned Susan Taylor who is on annual leave, so no update available. Pg 2. Lowering of kerbs – Secretary advised he has not as yet contacted the roads department; Trees around the loch – these will be replace around the end of March as the budget is now in place for this; Pg 3. Health Plan – Secretary advised he has read the health plan, it contains no new information and there is no need to reply. Pg 4. Federation – Larry advised that the federation will only continue for one more year due to lack of funding. Pg 5. Printer – Secretary reported that this is now in place.

6/ Councillors Reports

No councillors present to provide reports

At this Point Chair invited Chantelle and Michelle to speak.

Chantelle advised that there would be a residents walk about on 10/04/14, and that the grass cutting program for Atrium Homes has already started.

Larry Asked if Atrium had any control over private landlords - Chantelle advised that they do not but that EAC have a Private Landlord liaison team, which have enforcement powers, Chantelle advised that residents could contact them to report any concerns. John asked how private owners are dealt with – Chantelle advised that no one has power over private owners and individuals may need to seek legal advice if they have issues or concerns about these properties. Elsie advised that the ASB team can also provide help and advice. Sandy suggested it would be helpful to have these contact numbers in the next issue of the Inspire magazine.

Sandy thanked Michelle and Chantelle for their attendance.

Archie said that had the councillors been there that there were 3 points he wanted to raise with them. 1/ Parking Permits – there are 4 surgeries affected by these proposals and this is causing concern for both staff and patients. Discussion took place regarding this issue. 2/ Parking at funeral parlours in Portland St. Secretary stated that the building of housing in the car park nearest these parlours means that there is no nearby car parking available for mourners. This was discussed also. Peter advised that the permit parking is at consultation stage and that responses to it can be made online, and suggested that members do this. Discussion took place about the council tax being frozen, and the council trying to secure funding from other routes. The secretary proposed writing a response to the consultation on behalf of the community council stating concerns over the access to health care services; Peter seconded the motion. All agreed to ask the councillors at the community council AGM in April about the parking at the Portland Street funeral parlours. Archie stated the third point he wanted to raise with the councillors was regarding the consultation of the new school. He said that the community council had been advised that we would be involved in the consultation but have heard nothing. Peter advised that the JHA parent council have not been advised of when the consultation will be starting and stated he would keep the community council informed. Peter advised that Gaelic will be taught at the new campus; Julie asked if the community centre will be included in the new campus – Peter advised it would. Ben advised that Fred works out of St Joseph's and if the community council wanted he could ask him to attend one of our meetings and perhaps provide a time line. It was agreed to invite him to our June meeting.

7/ Youth report

Scott stated that they are busy at the moment organising the Easter service, and that for sport relief they had a mad hair day; some of the senior pupil attended a referendum event at council chambers and he feels more informed; Lauren spoke about a referendum debate held in the school with 2 people for both sides speaking and that they also took questions from the floor; Lauren said that 3rd yr pupils “ran away” to London with an inflatable phone case and met Cathy Jamison; Peter advised them that if they want to have other charity events, they should go through the parent council and give as much notice as possible. Scott spoke about the house names changing and said that there is a list of names for pupils to vote on; Ben asked if they had done the voters registration event yet – Lauren advised they had not, Ben explained this.

Ben spoke about the new “Nationals” exams, and said that teachers in all schools are going above and beyond to provide support to pupils; Ben spoke of pupils returning to school after the summer, that would like to participate in more hands on work rather than academic work. He asked if this was something the community council could help with. This was discussed, Marion suggested speaking to the “Helping Hands” organisation as they were looking to be involved with schools. Sandy advised that perhaps the pupils could become involved in the work happening at the Dean Castle through “Action for Children”; Ben spoke about the community sports hub in the school which receives funding from sport Scotland. He said that the school already have a shop but would like to expand into opening a café which would be open to the public at certain times. He explained this would require volunteers to work in the café and provide home baking, he advised that the school would put people through the required RHIS, to enable them provide baking made in their own homes. He stated he hoped it could be open before the summer holidays. Sandy advised that although it was too late to be included in the inspire magazine, it could be put into the churches newsletters and websites. Larry stated that pupils at St Andrews are taking money in on a Friday for various activities taking place throughout Lent; Sandy asked about new representatives from JHA as Lauren and Scott will both be leaving the school at the end of term. Lauren advised that this will be agreed when the new prefects are selected; Ben advised that they have 2 pupils from St Josephs who will attend the community council meetings when the new term commences.

Sandy thanked Ben, Lauren and Scott for their input.

8/ Action for Children

This was discussed earlier.

Peter asked the Chairman if he could provide the reports of meetings he has attended as he had to leave the meeting, chairman invited Peter to give his reports.

Peter reported that at JHA parent council meetings the Head Teacher gave a report, at one meeting there was a Fire Safety representative who gave a talk on fire safety within the school. At the other meeting Mrs Teal(head teacher) spoke of various subjects in which there were not enough pupils to make up a class. Lauren said that sometimes pupils go to different schools to take subjects not available at their own. Peter stated that this was likely to happen oftener, but that travelling may be an issue. Peter advised that consolidating the secondary school timetables throughout East Ayrshire is being looked at.

Peter reported that at the Silverwood parent council they had discussed the charity activities happening within the school. The recent school inspection did not go well, Peter stated that Mrs Wright(head teacher) has plans to improve the areas lacking, but the lack of funds and resources make this difficult. Mrs Wrights time is also restricted as she is also head of New Farm Primary.

Sandy thanked Peter for his reports.

8a/ Treasurers Report

Treasurer advised that there is £1031.01 in the bank, made up of £460.37, NFL@40 fund; £515, inspire magazine; £55.64 community council funds;

Willie advised that there is funds to pay for the next issue of the magazine, and money is still to come in for 2 adverts.

9/ Asset Transfer

Secretary reported that the Community Council expression of interest had been accepted, he and Sandy have been attending information meetings to advise them of the correct procedures they would be required to follow should the Community Council go ahead with this. Archie explained, once the building has been cleared and necessary work carried out it could have many uses, he gave an example of a community café during the day, and youth groups or other community groups using the building in the evenings. He stated that if we move forward with this then we would be looking to set up a separate trustees board, with 2 members from the community council and members from other community groups, such as from schools and churches, and a business plan would need to be drawn up. He suggested that the community council office bearers and 2 other community council members could start this off, and advised that they should look at a timescale of 6months to get the plans together. This was discussed and Shona and Lauren agreed to do this.

Peter left the meeting.

10/ Members Social Evening

Archie advised that he has made a provisional booking at Caprington Golf Club for the 30th May, it would be a 3 course meal and possible entertainment, the cost would be £10 per head. This was discussed and agreed. The secretary will send out slip with April agenda for people to complete and return so he has an accurate number of those attending.

11/ Correspondence

Secretary advised he has received the following correspondence;

Complaint of traffic speeding at St Mathews; Street cleaning which ALVN will be helping to organise; information on the provision of Gaelic for 3 -18yr olds; information on police provisions; Change of use variation on license for the Charleston, as they will be starting to serve meals – no objections received; information from governance and scrutinises committee; Vibrant Communities training courses.

12/ AOCB

Sandy advised that the magazines are ready for delivery, Shona is going to sort out the magazines into areas and will contact people to arrange to have them picked up.

Next meeting is 24/04/14 at 7.30pm in the community centre, this meeting is also the AGM

Molly gave her apologies for the next meeting.

Sandy closed the meeting and thanked all for attending, and thanked Ben for the use of the room.