

Helensburgh Community Council
Forward Together



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Helensburgh Community Council
Thursday 24th November 2011

Present: Sonja Aitken, Dave Allen, Karen Brabender, Allan Carrie, Henry Deane, Neil Drummond, Tariq Durrani, Jill Fish, Marion Gillies, Darrell Hendrie, Geoff Holliman, Alastair Macbeth, Nigel Millar, Stewart Noble, Kathleen Siddle, David Sinclair and Richard Trail.

Councillors: Andrew Nisbet.

Helensburgh Advertiser: Jenny Faulds.

Public: Three members.

Apologies: Al Reay, Anna Rodgers, John Tacchi, David Williams and Sheila Wilson.

Topic	Minute	Decision / Action
1. Welcome and Recognition	The Convener, Darrell Hendrie welcomed those present.	
2. Minutes of Previous AGM	The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. Their accuracy was proposed by Nigel Miller; seconded by Allan Carrie.	The minutes were agreed .
3. Reports	3.1 – Convener's Report The Convener, presented his report for the previous year. See Appendix. 3.2 – Secretary's Report The Secretary, Kathleen Siddle presented her report for the previous year. 3.3 – Treasurer's Report The Treasurer, Stewart Noble presented his report for the previous year.	
4. Election of Office Bearers	At this point the Convener stepped down and the chair was taken by Councillor Andrew Nisbet who conducted the election. <i>Darrell Hendrie</i> was the sole nominee for Convener – proposed by Stewart Noble; seconded by Kathleen Siddle. <i>Nigel Miller</i> was proposed for Vice Convener – proposed by Marion Gillies; seconded by Allan Carrie. Ian Fraser was proposed for Vice Convener – proposed by Richard Trail; seconded by Dave Allan.	The sole nominees and Nigel Millar were elected .

Topic	Minute	Decision / Action
	<p>A secret ballot was held resulting in 12 votes for Nigel Millar and 5 for Ian Fraser.</p> <p><i>Kathleen Siddle</i> was the sole nominee for Secretary – proposed by Nigel Millar; seconded by Kathleen Siddle.</p> <p><i>Stewart Noble</i> was the sole nominee for Treasurer – proposed by Neil Drummond; seconded by Darrell Hendrie.</p> <p><i>David Sinclair</i> was the sole nominee for Minute Secretary – proposed by Geoff Holliman; seconded by Alastair Macbeth.</p>	
5. Close	<p>Darrel Hendrie took the chair, thanked the Councillor Nisbet and closed the Annual General Meeting, which was immediately followed by the resumed regular monthly meeting, see separate minute.</p>	
6. Next Meeting	<p>The date, time and place of the next meeting will be advised nearer the time.</p>	

The accommodation for this meeting was kindly provided to us by the Commodore Hotel.

APPENDIX
CONVENER'S END OF YEAR REPORT
(OR 'THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS')

My first year as Convener has been 'A Baptism of Fire' and a steep learning curve. I would like to thank John, Kathleen, Stewart and David for their guidance and advice over the last year.

We had a successful campaign to set Argyll and Bute Council to fix the street lights after we found a huge number of lights unlit.

We had Parklands School under threat. Fortunately the Council backed down and the school's future seems secure for now.

We had the Wetherspoon's and Cumberland Avenue planning applications which got the go ahead despite our views.

We also had some controversy over the project with a name beginning with 'C' that I shall NOT name.

There was good news with Helensburgh Heroes getting the 'go ahead' to build a cinema which is much needed in this town.

But the year was much dominated by the 3 supermarket chains wishing to build in and just outside the town. Like buses you wait ages one, then 3 come along at once.

I received a lot of emails regarding Waitrose from the public. I replied to each and every one of them within 24 hours.

I was very pleased with how our supermarket survey went as it gave the public a chance to engage with ourselves. I would like to see more public engagement in the future.

We had a good relationship with the media, with the Helensburgh Advertiser carrying our survey and also the Community Advertiser who have run stories...and not forgetting the newest member of Helensburgh's media – URTV who have been very helpful to us.

I hope that the good relationship with the press will continue into the future.

Membership of the Community Council has remained steady and while we have lost a couple of Community Councillors, we have seen new replacements elected.

During the year, Argyll and Bute Council, without warning, and contravening a well justified agreement with us, started charging us for the use of the Victoria Halls. This saw us move to the Commodore. In Helensburgh, we have well over 11,000 constituents yet we receive a grant appropriate to a centre of population of 5,000 constituents. The debate over the rent has opened up the issue as to whether we get enough money from the Argyll and Bute Council in the first place.

At the start of each meeting we give recognition to those who have gone some extra mile for the community. I would like to give recognition to everyone in the Community Council for their hard work over the past twelve months.