

Helensburgh Community Council



"Helensburgh - Be Better : Be Excellent"

Minutes of a Meeting of the Helensburgh Community Council Meeting Thursday 29th January 2009

Present: Karen Brabender, Ian Fraser, Marion Gillies, Catriona Malan, Jim Milligan, Stewart Noble, James Gorie, Nigel Millar, David Sinclair, Richard Trail and Gordon Tran .

Councillors: Vivienne Dance, Andrew Nisbet, Al Reay and James Robb.

Helensburgh Advertiser: Fiona Howard.

Apologies: Councillor Ellen Morton, Alastair Macbeth, Findlay McQuarrie, Maggie Sheen and Kathleen Siddle, Ronnie Finnegan.

Chair: Nigel Millar.

Topic	Minute	Decision / Action
1. Welcome and Recognition	<p>The Chair welcomed those present.</p> <p>He commented on the coming together of the Helensburgh Chamber of Commerce and the Retailers Association and expressed the good wishes of the Community Council.</p> <p>He also commended Helensburgh Heroes for bringing together at the Victoria Halls some 60 residents to record the backing vocals for the David Bowie song "Heroes". The event was most professionally led by Alan Craig and the record will be available in April.</p>	
2. Public Session	<p>2.1 Helensburgh Advertiser</p> <p>Fiona Howard of the Helensburgh Advertiser reported that the paper's town office will shortly be closed, along with the similar offices of its sister papers in the group. There will in future be a single office for all the papers in Clydebank. This has been brought about by the need to reduce overheads. There will be no reduction in staff, who will remain in Helensburgh, but working in a different way.</p> <p>2.2 Lomond School (planning matters)</p> <p>Catriona Malan reported that a letter of reply had been received from Lomond School to the representations made by the Community Council. It was indicated that the letter from the Community Council was inaccurate in some respects and that this would be looked into most closely.</p>	

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	<p>It was noted that there will be a site inspection by the Local Authority Councillors on 17th February (date subject to confirmation).</p>	
	<p>2.3 Retailers in Helensburgh Marion Gillies spoke of the desirability of concentrating the retailers in to a smaller area than at present to provide mutual support. It was also commented that the local authority has a role to play in the proper maintenance of the public realm. Attention was drawn to the desirability of providing advertising for Helensburgh as a visitor destination. 70% of visitors to Scotland were from England and well over half of these travelled up the A82. Helensburgh needed to be much better signposted on this road to attract more people to stop here.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting</p>	<p>The minutes of 18th December 2008 were considered. Proposed for approval Stewart Noble; seconded Marion Gillies.</p>	<p>The Minutes of 18th December 2008 were approved.</p>
<p>4. Matters Arising</p>	<p>4.1 Roundabout at Hermitage Academy It was reported that a safety audit had been carried out which is in process of giving rise to an action plan.</p>	
	<p>4.2 National Park The desirability of involving Helensburgh more in the National Park was considered. Is the National Park now more interested in economic development than natural heritage?</p>	<p>It was agreed to invite a representative of the National Park to a future meeting of the Community Council.</p>
<p>5. Local Issues</p>	<p>5.1 New wall at depot Favourable comment was made about the new stone wall adjacent to the new depot at the top of Sinclair Street. It was noted that the remaining works are in hand.</p>	
	<p>5.2 Painting of Palisade Fence It was noted that a trial section of the palisade fence around the amenity site had been painted, prior to painting the whole fence in dark green.</p>	<p>It was agreed that Scottish Water should be invited to do likewise with the fencing at their site.</p>
	<p>5.3 East Bay Esplanade It was reported that Scottish Water will reinstate the esplanade to its former condition with minor improvements to detail.</p>	
	<p>5.4 Hospital Bus Service Marion Gillies reported that meeting had been held with representatives of the Glasgow & Clyde Health Board about the Helensburgh to RAH bus service via the vale of Leven . The proposal for the new service is now that on working days there should be four trips daily leaving from Helensburgh Central Station. There would be a change of bus and comfort stop at the VOL. The first bus would get to the RAH by about 08.30 to allow for early appointments</p>	

Topic**Minute****Decision / Action**

and two trips would suit the visiting hours. On non-working days there would be two trips to suit the visiting times. A review will be made to ensure good connections for Cardross and the Peninsula.

Our thanks go to Marion Gillies for her perseverance in establishing these worthwhile proposals.

5.5 Community Council Review

It was reported that Argyll and Bute Council's review of the effectiveness of Community Councils will mean that the elections due in May will be postponed until at least August.

5.6 Public Realm Faults

It was **agreed** to postpone this item to a subsequent meeting.

5.7 Public Toilets

A notice of motion in the following terms had been submitted:

"The Helensburgh Community Council urges Argyll & Bute Council not to close any public toilets. However if closure is deemed necessary, this should only be implemented once a system of publicly available toilets on other premises has been established as an alternative."

Proposed : Stewart Noble Seconded : Nigel Millar

The motion was welcomed but in the discussion it became clear that it could be amended to make it more effective.

It was **agreed** that the motion be redrafted and resubmitted in the light of comments made.

5.8 Delivery of Children to Hermitage Academy

The question of parents dropping off children in Drumfork Road and Collins Road was raised. It is said that parents have been advised by the school to do this rather than do so at the school itself. It is said that the school has capacity to deal with this.

It was **agreed** to continue the matter to get clarification of the situation.

5.9 Centralised Planning

It was noted that work is ongoing in Argyll and Bute Council in connection with the new planning legislation which would have the effect of centralising planning applications and freeing local councillors to express views on planning issues.

5.10 War Memorial

Argyll and Bute Council are responsible for 72 memorials in their area. The sole Grade A listed one is Helensburgh's. The listing includes its walls and gates. A survey is being undertaken to establish what work requires to be done on it and others in Helensburgh and Lomond.

6. Finance

The Treasurer reported that the funds currently stand at £942, with some accounts for Remembrance Day still to

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	come in.	
7A. Planning	<p>Catriona Mallan reported on the activities of the Planning Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Street, Grade B listed building. Replacement windows, ongoing. • Hermitage Academy site. Proposal to build in three phases with affordable housing last. Not resolved. • Do. Appeal. In abeyance. It was reported that the Residents' Association is minded to take the matter of the hearing to the Ombudsman. • 16 Millig Street. Site cleared including very large tree. Notice to be displayed giving view of development. 	
7B. Planning	<p>The Chair reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business site at Colgrain. The development brief was prepared two years ago and will need to be revisited once the Local Plan is settled, e.g. to take account of new Hermitage Academy. • Helensburgh and Lomond Local Plan. HCC representations were : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The local authority have responsibility for assisting local businesses by making significant improvements to the public realm - There is a difficulty in getting about Helensburgh by bicycle, wheelchair or pram due to the poor state of the roads and pavements <p>The plan is not a plan in the conventional town planning sense, but is part of the Strategic Planning Framework of Argyll and Bute Council.</p>	
8. Future Agenda Items	<p>A number of topics, such as Police, retailing in the town, National Park, VoL Hospital, activities for young people, petrol retailing, were considered for future meetings up to the summer break.</p>	<p>It was agreed to invite Councillor Dance to speak on the VoL Hospital.</p>
9. Any Other Business	<p>9.1 Woodland at Cumberland Avenue The Tree Preservation Order has been revoked on one of the sites, thus allowing the trees to be felled.</p> <p>9.2 Clyde Street School A business case for developing the property as Council offices is to be brought to the March Area committee meeting. The Planning Application for this work is likely to be under the new legislation and procedures. Because of the size and importance of the development the matter should be the subject of public consultation?</p>	<p>HCC to write to A&BC requesting public involvement</p>
10. Next Meeting	<p>The date of the next meeting will be held on Thursday 26th February 2009 at 19.00 in the Victoria Halls.</p>	

