

# **RENFREW COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES of the MEETING**

**TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

### **RENFREW LEISURE CENTRE**

The President opened the meeting by welcoming fellow Community Councillors, Renfrewshire Councillors, Guest Speakers and members of the public

#### **Fire Procedures**

Councillor Gamble reported that there were no fire alarm tests scheduled for the evening and should the fire alarm sound we should evacuate the building in an orderly manner following the green signs. We should congregate in the car park and await further instructions.

#### **Attendance**

##### **Community Councillors**

E. McGachie, Stephen Martin, E. Livingston, J. Gamble, G. Burgess, A. Kinnear, J. Livingston, Susan Martin, E. Gallagher, L. McKillop, M. Young, E. McGuinness, W. McGuinness, G. Newlands, J. McDonald.

##### **Renfrewshire Councillors**

D. McKay, M. Fee, C. McEwan, W. Perrie

##### **Guests and Members of the Public**

Sgt. F. Williams, PC B. Herren (Renfrew Police), Mr. D. Stewart, Mr. M. Courtney (both from Arriva), M/s. J. Black (Gazette), Mr. T. Thomson

#### **Apologies**

Community Councillors J. McQuarrie, R. Brady, H. Grady, P. Sloan, L. Fairns, P. Watson, M. Smith, M. Reid-Calvert, Renfrewshire Councillors A. Murrin, E. Grady.

#### **Minutes**

Renfrewshire Councillor Perrie wished it noted that during the Correspondence when discussing licensing issues he left the meeting. He also pointed out an incorrect spelling of his name.

The minutes were approved as a true record of events by Councillor Newlands and seconded by Councillor Kinnear.

## **Matters Arising From Minutes**

- a) Dog walking area in Robertson Park. Renfrewshire Councillor Perrie said that it may be difficult to move, but that he would continue to investigate.
- b) It was reported that the missing rubbish bin in High Street had not been replaced. The Secretary was asked to use the Protocol to further the issue.
- c) Rocep site. Councillor Burgess reported that he had contact with Montagu Evans and that following a site visit by the principals it was decided that the whole area would be cleared. Work should begin in the month of November. Regarding the Christmas lights which were on the trees outside the Balfour Kilpatrick building, Montagu Evans said they had not removed them so it has to be assumed they were stolen.
- d) Town Hall. Renfrewshire Councillor Perrie reported that all the asbestos removal work had been completed and a fence around the site had been erected. Councillor McGachie asked if there was a timetable for the work being carried out available. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said that there was a scheme of work available, but it should be remembered that in work of this size unforeseen problems may occur and there could be no guarantee of work going exactly to schedule.
- e) Hillington roundabout at junction 26 on the M8. It was reported that the rubbish and graffiti were still evident. Renfrewshire Councillor Perrie said that he had passed the information to the Roads Department of the Council. It was pointed out that the Community Council had previously written to Amey on this subject and had not been favoured with a response. The Secretary was asked to add the issue to the Protocol.
- f) Bins from commercial premises in the town Centre. It was confirmed that the days the bins were emptied were a Tuesday and a Wednesday. Renfrewshire Councillor Perrie said that identification of bins being left out was required before action can be taken.
- g) Swings in Moorpark. Renfrewshire Councillor Fee reported that Belmay are to contact residents in the area to establish what their thoughts are. Once complete the findings would be reported to the Council. Councillor Fee said that the contact with the residents had still to be formulated.
- h) "Cockles Loch". Councillor Kinnear said there was no update available.

## **Police Report**

Sergeant Williams introduced himself and gave a brief outline of changes that were being carried out in the local police force. He also said that Councillors should not wait until a meeting to report any issues, but should contact the local police. Information gained could be vital to other operations being carried out by the police, but it also served to highlight any problems and could show up any crime hotspots.

Sergeant Williams said that the vandalism to motor vehicles noted at the previous meeting was carried out over a 30 to 45 minute period. Around this time a large drugs haul was found in the area and it was thought that this action could be related to the drugs seizure by distracting the police from this event. He reported that no-one had been arrested for the crime, but there was one possible suspect. He asked if anyone at the meeting had any

information this would be appreciated. He said that there was no apparent motive for the crime.

There was instances of “tagging” (graffiti) around the town. Andrew Avenue and Tarras Drive were mentioned. 5 youths aged between 15 years and 17 years old were arrested for carrying out this action. The “tag” read “BOC” and the police knew who this was.

There was an assault and robbery in High Street on a 15 year old person. An arrest had been made and the suspect was presently under a curfew order.

There has been a spate of housebreaking incidents mainly around the South end of the town. This is possibly connected to the darker nights and the possibility of residents having Christmas presents in their house. Sergeant Williams reminded Councillors to take necessary precautions and to be vigilant.

There was no other reported serious crime in the area.

Sergeant Williams said that from the 25<sup>th</sup> October changes were taking place within the force. Response teams would be set up. He said that there will be a period of adjustment so that the system can be set up properly and that changes would take place over the next 2 years. There will be a concentration on hotspots for criminal activity and these would be noted from analysis currently being carried out.

At this point the President asked for any questions from Councillors.

Councillor Susan Martin asked about police response to house alarms going off and would the police attend. Sergeant Williams said that if the alarm was linked to the police then they probably would depending on response level. If it was not linked then they would not attend. However, he said alarms do provide a measure of security for the premises and even false boxes can deter.

Councillor W. McGuinness asked if we could have a telephone number for the local police rather than having to go through a call centre where the operator does not have local knowledge. Sergeant Williams said that all calls must now go through a call centre as this is part of the analysis system being put in place. If it is a serious crime then a 999 call should be made and a 999 operator would deal with the call. If this set up was not satisfactory then representation should be made to the local police. Part of the reason for the call centres was down to cost. It is cheaper to run a call centre with civilians rather than have police man the telephones. This was not a local decision, but an executive one.

Councillor E. McGuinness asked if the CCTV cameras could be utilised and turned to any prospective problem. Sergeant Williams said that they could, but calls still need to go to the call centre.

Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said he felt the information given by Sergeant Williams was not helpful. He said that there was no change in the operation of the CCTV system, and in fact it had been upgraded. There are more police on the beat in Renfrewshire. The call centre

will be in operation for 5 years. He continued that he had met with the new commander and no cuts to the force were envisaged and that police numbers will be sustained.

Councillor Young said that her car was one of those damaged and the police treated her very well and considerately.

Renfrewshire Councillor Perrie said that what has changed is that calls must now go through the call centre. This was a decision that was made. He did accept that there was trouble initially with the call centre. CCTV operation was down to the operator.

Councillor McKillop asked if police monitoring of Anne Avenue could be carried out as recently there had been problems with youths in the area. Sergeant Williams said the police were aware that problems were occurring and that they knew some names of youths in the area. Councillor McKillop said that there was a tree in the area that required maintenance as it provided a possible hiding place.

Councillor McGachie asked if the police could do anything about the vehicles parking on the centre of High Street on the double yellow lines. Sergeant Williams said no. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay refuted this statement by Sergeant Williams by saying that the police could in fact pursue illegal parking. Other staff could be brought in to help. Councillor Burgess said that on the morning of Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October there were some 15 vehicles parked on the centre of High Street. 8 on the eastbound side and 7 on the westbound side and that beat police walked past and did nothing. Could some sort of physical deterrent be installed, or if no-one is bothered why not just take the yellow lines away and allow parking. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said that previously any physical deterrents were damaged and it was a case of motorists flouting the law. He also said that bus companies would not welcome physical deterrents as it would narrow turning points into High Street. He said the Council had put in flower containers in the gaps to stop motorists using the gaps as turning points. The police were able to issue tickets if parking was dangerous. Councillor W. McGuinness asked if the CCTV camera could be used to monitor illegal parking and if it was seen that it was being done the police could then attend. Sergeant Williams said this was possible. Councillor W. McGuinness asked if this could then be put in place as a standing action. Sergeant Williams said that it can be done. Councillor Stephen Martin asked what the fine for illegal parking was. Sergeant Williams said that it depended on the circumstances, but was nominally £30. Councillor martin said that now the fine revenue was going to the Council, could extra wardens not be funded from the revenue.

Councillor McGachie asked if the police would again stop the traffic for the duration of the Armistice Service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Sergeant Williams said that this may be difficult as not everyone in Renfrew appreciated the sentiments being expressed as they had things to do. Mr. Stewart of Arriva said that whilst he would advocate this he thought that bus passengers held up for say half an hour would be upset. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said that any road closure required a road closure order from the Council. He said that in any case there was enough space in the civic area around the cenotaph to accommodate the numbers of

people attending. What caused the problem was people standing on the other side of the road. Councillor Gamble asked if the Gazette could advertise the event.

President McGachie thanked the police for attending, and they left the meeting.

At this point President McGachie invited Mr Stewart and Mr Courtney of Arriva to give their presentation to the Community Council.

Mr Stewart said that the theme of the presentation was Health and Safety with regard to bus journeys. Changes were being put in place. Firstly, there will be no need for passengers to indicate that they wish to board a bus by putting their hand out. When a driver sees someone at a bus stop he will then stop to allow boarding of the bus. Should anyone require time to get seated, then they should ask the driver to wait until they are seated before proceeding. When wishing to alight from the bus, the bell should be pushed once and the passenger(s) should remain seated until the bus stops and then they should alight. Handles, straps and poles should be used both when alighting and boarding buses. When alighting the bus it would be helpful if passengers turn to the right as the driver can then keep them in view. Passengers should not go between the bus and any barriers. These changes not only affect the elderly and infirm, but could also help schoolchildren and Mr. Stewart wondered if this presentation could be done in schools.

Renfrewshire Councillor McEwan said she could foresee quite a lot of problems, one of which was will timetables be affected. Mr Stewart said that timing had been built into the schedule, but there would not be any major holdups occurring. The unions had accepted the proposed scheme. Not every passenger will be affected, only passengers who require it. He also said the bus stop on the east side of Hairst Street will not be serviced by buses going to Erskine.

Renfrewshire Councillor Fee asked when the changes were due to be put in place. Mr. Stewart said from the 15<sup>th</sup> November. There will be press adverts and signs up detailing the changes. Buses were equipped with 8 CCTV cameras, 4 inside the bus and 4 outside. If any problems are encountered then representation to the bus company should be made and an investigation can easily be made. Any driver found not to be following the code will be disciplined.

Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said he felt the proposals could make a difference. He also said that whilst a lot of road safety details were already in schools, the presentation made could be given. He also suggested using STV as the Council had got good results from using the service in the past.

Councillor Kinnear asked if this scheme was only in regard to Arriva buses. Mr Stewart said that it was, and he could not comment on what other companies were doing. Councillor Kinnear wondered if what Arriva were doing could impinge on other companies. Mr Stewart said it could perhaps do so. Councillor Gamble asked if the SPT could be used to force other companies to follow suit.

Mr Thomson said that drivers on a public service vehicle were required to sit an advanced drivers course and that there was help available from central government. Driver's licence was valid for 5 years and in that period they were required to attend 35 hours of training.

At this point Mr Stewart and Mr Courtney left the meeting.

### **Correspondence**

Councillor Livingston presented the following correspondence received during the month.

1. Letter from Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Authority giving a report. Noted.
2. Letter from Renfrewshire Council acknowledging the Community Council's objection to a licence asked for by Allmarks in Inchinnan Road for the provision of alcohol. Noted.
3. Letter from Renfrewshire Council advising of a meeting to be held in Trinity High School on the 9<sup>th</sup> November on the subject of Fairtrade. Councillor McGachie said that any Community Councillor was free to attend. Noted.
4. An e-mail regarding the set up of a committee to look at the Renfrew Museum and its contents. Noted.
5. A Letter from Scott Allan of Renfrewshire Council Roads Department on the subject of Senior members attending meetings. Noted.
6. Brochure from Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland re a meeting. Noted.
7. Details from ASCC re AGM along with other data. Councillor McGachie and Councillor Livingston will attend. Noted.
8. E-Mail from Anne McNaughton on the subject of IT supplies to Community Councils. Noted.
9. E-mail from Anne McNaughton regarding the new police divisional commander. Noted.
10. Letter from ROAR with details of Agefest 2011. Noted.
11. Letter from Renfrewshire Council regarding date of the Community Council Forum meeting date. Noted.
12. E-mail from Renfrewshire Council giving details of the activity generated by the new Protocol. Noted.
13. Letter from Renfrewshire Council on the subject of the Rocep site. Noted.
14. Street Traders licence for John McLeod for Rocep Way for hot food. It was noted that the request was received only 2 days prior to the closing date for objections and that the request had no reference number or map attached. Councillor Gamble suggested that we should write to Renfrewshire Council on these matters. Noted.
15. Planning application from Renfrew Bowling Club for the erection of 8 non-illuminated signs. There was no information on the requested signs attached to the request. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay will investigate and report. Noted.
16. Request for Change of Use from a shop to an office for 18 High Street. Noted.
17. Letter from McNally for the erection of signs at the Hillington Estate frontage. Noted.

18. Traffic Order re Kings Inch Drive/ M8 slip road junction 25A prohibition of U Turns. Noted.
19. Street Traders licence from Stringfellows for the square outside Somerfields for entertainment licence for the 20<sup>th</sup>. November. It was noted that the prices charged last year for the same event seemed excessive and could the Council do something to reduce the charges. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said he would investigate and report. Noted.
20. Request from Miller Homes for the erection of Houses and Flats in Ferry Village. Noted.

Councillor McGachie asked how street names were chosen in new developments. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said there had been a change to use boats and ships built on the Clyde, but assured us that the Council would maintain local interest.

### **Elected Councillors Update Report.**

Renfrewshire Councillor Mckay made the following points of interest.

1. Decant of Kirklandneuk School to Moorpark School had gone well.
2. Work on upgrading Kirklandneuk School begun.
3. New St. James' School in the planning stage.
4. A footpath has been created at the Town Hall as there were instances of members of the public passing the site by walking on the road.
5. Floodlighting in the skatepark in Robertson Park now functioning.
6. Youth Street Work going well.
7. Christmas lights on schedule.
8. Fireworks will be launched from Renfrew Juniors football ground.
9. Town Centre junction complete ahead of schedule and under budget. SPT paid for changes.
10. Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November the budget for Renfrewshire will be announced.

Councillor Kinnear asked about the situation with the traffic lights erected but not functioning. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said that he would check and report.

Councillor Livingston said that we had received a message via the web site regarding the use of a "right of Way" through Moorpark School. This could not now be used as the school gates were locked. We advised going to their elected Councillor for advice and also to approach the headmaster. Renfrewshire Councillor McEwan said that she knew of the situation and had contacted the education department. Signage could be put in place. Councillor Gamble wondered if there were any Health and Safety issues regarding the locking of the school gates. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said that this was for security and that an evacuation plan was in place. A risk assessment study had been carried out.

### **Any Other Competent Business**

Councillor W. McGuinness reported that a coach party from Inverness had attended the Skatepark.

Councillor Stephen Martin asked if sufficient rocksalt was in place for the coming winter. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said that orders had been placed. Last winter was excessive in its use of the material.

Councillor Martin asked if leaves were being cleared from the streets. Renfrewshire Councillor McKay said that the problem was being attended to.

President McGachie said that those Councillors wishing to attend the Cenotaph should be in place for 9.15am for the start of the service at 9.30am.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The date of the next scheduled meeting of the Renfrew Community Council is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15pm prompt in the Renfrew Leisure Centre.

There being no further competent business President McGachie closed the meeting by thanking all those who attended.