



Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday 6th December 2017
6.30pm
Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney Tom Ingoldsby, Eileen Frame, Celeste Di Vito, Helen Calder, Bill White Marion Romeril, Bill Jeffrey

In Attendance

SBC Convenor – Cllr David Parker, Christopher Bell – Amey, Gavin Yuill – Cameron Architects, Gregor Boot – Waverley Housing Association, John Patterson – Arc Consultants.

Kevin Janiak – Southern Reporter, Ali McGilvray – Radio Borders, PCAIstair Macrae., Cllr Anderson, Cllr Scott Cllr Aitchison
Kevin Ryalls and 4 Academy Students

9 Members of the public.

Chair Judith Cleghorn welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies

Liz Jardine. Claire Howden Cllr Jardine Drew Tulley Tony Brown,

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 1st November was approved by Celeste Di Vito and Seconded by Tom Ingoldsby

3. Matters Arising

Judith welcomed new Community Councillor Bill Jeffrey to join us at the table – Electoral role number 1523D – 94Glendinning Terrace.

4. Police Update and Questions

Police Officer Macrae reported that there had been 2 drug related deaths. Fentanyl –was now found to have been used.

Street Pastors who are a great help at weekends to the police have been given a big donation so that they can continue their hard work.

5. Speakers

Gregor Booth- Waverley Housing Association, John Patterson –Arc Consultants, Gavin Yuill- Cameron Architects

Waverley Housing are finding it harder and harder to let Beech Avenue so they are working with the Council to look at the options for the area. Arc give advice to the Housing Associations and get involved in regeneration. Cameron's will be supporting Arc and WHA and also focusing on regeneration and helping WHA and the local community to take Beech Avenue forward.

An open house event will be going on so that people can drop in and give their views.

6. Galashiels Academy

Kevin Ryalls plus 4 Academy students- Ben McLean, Archie Macadam, John Carr and Taylor Maitland spoke about the initiative that the Academy has introduced by giving younger pupils a chance of work experience.

Taylor Maitland- some students have been working as Police Scotland Youth Volunteers. STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics)

12 weeks Training programme covering

Five weeks in to training Met Ted the Dog

Ben McLean – Radio Communication

Notebook- volunteers are encouraged to use these like police officers do. They live by their notebooks.

Learned the Phonetic Alphabet.

After 12 weeks the youngsters are put in to the community to help out at various events

Archie Macadam- Member of the Army Cadets

Involved in STEM Space Club

Talk over the internet with NASA.

Also part of the engineering group and are currently making a Go Kart sponsored by Green power.

Also there is a Biking group with 18 in the group, the school has spent £5000 on tools and they are looking for more bikes to get more students involved.

John Carr- Inspector Lato spoke to students and told them all about a driving case that he solved.

John has done 2 weeks work experience at Clellands which has landed him an apprenticeship for when he leaves school.

Christopher Bell from Amey is happy to get involved with STEM

Judith pointed out that the application for the Bike trails was now in...

7.10pm Cllr Aitchison arrived

SBC Convenor Cllr David Parker and Christopher Bell and Frank McMorro– Amey

Discussion held about the traffic implications on the **A6091 BGH junction**.

Over the last 5 years there have been 16 accidents on the road.

Plan is to improve road safety and improve access to and from the Ambulance Station and the Hospital.

A few options were looked at , the best option is traffic signals, proposed 50 mph speed limit with onsite constraints.

In emergency situations a button will be pressed to let traffic at the junction know that an ambulance will be coming from the area of the Ambulance Station and traffic will be stopped until the emergency vehicle is out of the way.

Signals will be in place to make sure that the traffic slows right down on approach to the junction.

The road will be open at all times during construction.

Community drop in sessions will be available from Jan/Feb.

Play Park – Public Park

Tender went out to 11 UK wide companies – 8 returned bids- 3 matched required criteria. The one chosen matched all of the criteria.

Posters of how the new upgraded Public Park would look.

Scott Park and Victoria Park – further investment is being looked at. Park will hopefully be in place by summer 2018

7. Sub Groups Update

Planning and Licensing Applications

Planning Applications all in report

8. Chairs Update

Judith touched on the Focus Centre Asset transfer, lease for the Ability Centre runs out on 1st Jan 2018. This subject will be discussed more at the next meeting but looking to get funding in to revamp the Focus Centre and bring it up to date.

Bill Calder would like to bring the Ability Centre back to its original state as elderly disabled/limited ability have nowhere to go.

We would like to have this started by the summer.

9. Treasurers Update

The current balance in the account is £ 2201.54

10. Secretary's Update

Tracey said she had nothing to report but hoped the Community Council would take pity on her as the printer she uses has gone in to not working mode Cllr Parker added a new printer was a good use of Community Council funds. A budget of £400 was agreed.

11. SBC Councillors Comments and Questions

Cllr Aitchison

Bids are in for the area partnership so I will be sifting through these

Cllr Scott

He apologised for not getting his report in on time.

looking at retail in Galashiels and how to get more retailers in to town.

QA- regarding Border care Alarm Systems being transferred to East Lothian – how is this going to work? All Councillors agreed that only 9 full time posts are being transferred and not 32 as stated in the press. It is only the call centre that is being transferred; all of the hands on staff will remain in place.

QA – Hotel at Burgh yard what is the situation on this – discussions ongoing.

12. AOB

A discussion took place about the Waste Transfer station.

Date of Next Meeting February 7th 2018 - 6.30pm – Burgh Chambers