

Grangemouth incl. Skinflats CC

Minutes of Public Meeting via Zoom

Date 19th August 2021

Time 7pm

Attending:

A.Mullen, W.Inglis, M.Richards, K.McIntosh, A.Gillies, D.Higgins, T.Brown, A.Black (Cllr)

Apologies:

S.Aitkenhead, R.Spears

Police Scotland Report Noted

DH expressed concern in relation to vehicle speeding stats in relation to locals observations.

WI suggested that contact be made with PS to request more detail in terms of the stats.

AB asked if GCC had any contact from residents in relation to the behaviour of cyclists as she had and had been in contact with PS following complaints she had received .

MR advised that our recent request for a meeting with the local police Inspector had as yet not been fulfilled due in the main to the demands on his time in relation to other policing matters. MR suggested that we revisit that request and specify our concerns in terms of the wider issues relating to road safety within the community. It was agreed that MR revisit our request for a meeting with the local inspector.

SEPA Report Noted

DH expressed concern that there was no mention in the report about a new tank cleaning business that had opened within the Port of Grangemouth. WI highlighted that the developments within the port are in the main covered by Permitted Development Rights hence there tends to be no prior notice. DH further raised the issue of what agencies or regulators monitor environmental emissions associated with operations within the Port. WI will contact SEPA to seek further information on this question. *Post meeting note: see addendum copy of email to SEPA.*

DH advised that Forth Ports had recently cleaned up detritus in various forms at Grange Lane as part of the efforts to address the issues related to overnight parking of HGVs.

Presentation Slot Cancelled

Councillor Robert Spears who was going to present has had to cancel due to family commitments

Minutes of Previous Meeting

WI advised that minutes had been circulated to interested parties. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by KMcl and Seconded by DH.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

WI asked if AG had any further information on the potential establishment of a Tenants Association by residents at Coll Place. AG advised that he was not aware of any progress on the matter. AB advised that she had been involved in the initial stages of this process and would seek further information on progress if any.

AB further advised that a report would soon be going to the council in relation to improving the condition of communal spaces and how tenants could be encouraged to participate in the maintenance of these spaces.

WI welcomed this initiative but highlighted a concern that the community council had expressed in its response to the Falkirk Council Community Conversation process. The concern being the policy of cutting grassed areas and not collecting the cuttings. This is resulting in the proliferation of weeds on under maintained footpaths and roadside gullies resulting in poor drainage and flooding issues. These related issues undermine any sense of place and wellbeing that dissuades people from seeking to maintain communal areas. Creation of wildflower borders on main thoroughfares and reduced frequency of cutting may have ecological benefits but low and reduced maintenance of communal areas within the community is creating problems.

WI also expressed the view that all the good work being done by the “Glitter Team” is being undermined as a result of this poor maintenance and policy. KMcl gave examples of locations close to the Town Centre where footpaths are being encroached on by foliage including brambles.

MR advised that in relation to future public meetings he has booked the Community Education Unit for public face to face meetings on the third Thursday of each month. This has been done to secure a meeting premises following the extended break due to Covid and taking into account also of the upcoming Community Council elections it was felt prudent.

WI commented that consideration would need to be given to what if any protocols would need to be in place and who would dictate what those protocols should be. MR also sought guidance on how we should proceed in terms of ad hoc meetings. It was agreed that we would retain the Zoom meeting facility as it would provide more flexibility for colleagues to meet at short notice. WI suggested that the CCLO be contacted with regard to establishing generic meeting protocols as guidance for CCs going forwards.

Correspondence

MR advised all correspondence had been circulated to colleagues

Planning Report/Grangemouth Future Industry Board (GFIB)

WI updated colleagues on planning application P/20/0552/FUL Sportex Ltd waste recycling. Planning advises that this application has been withdrawn. However this does

not mean that the development will not go ahead, it just means that the proposal fell within the existing planning classification for the premises. There will need to be a waste management licence issued for the operation at the premises. WI has been in correspondence with SEPA to reinforce our concerns on a number of fronts and awaits a response. *Post meeting note SEPA have been in touch and an online meeting will be arranged to discuss and explain what the licensing process will cover.*

WI has left messages with Pete Reid acting head of Development Services reference our involvement/non involvement with GFIB at this stage when there is clear evidence on the SG website that progress is being made.

Local Community Planning

NTR

Treasurers Report

Annual Accounts are being compiled. Account Balance at 20th July £4535.50p

Matters Raised by Members of the Public

DH raised concerns in relation to street lighting problems at York Square. DH will submit a fault report.

AG has had reports of need to have the Spitfire Memorial cleaned. There were various suggestions made of contacts that might be able to assist. *Post meeting note social media reports suggest that this work has been done. Thanks to all involved.*

AM gave a short report on the meeting she and SA had attended with the CCLO in relation to how interest could be generated in the work of CCs and encourage new members. Various concerns had been expressed and noted. There will be a follow-up meeting.

AOCB

KMcl advised colleagues that she intends to forward information to waste management at the council showing examples of communal waste bins used abroad that offer less visible impact on the streets but have extensive storage underground. The waste stored underground is only accessible to collection teams. The benefits being less visual impact on the community and reduced spreading of waste from overfilled surface bins.

AB advised that she has been working with the waste management team and that there are proposals to install more secure bins. AB provided contact details for KMcl to pass on her suggestion.

AG highlighted a recent concern in a location close to Inchyra Park which received some publicity where a garden area was full of waste. It took the intervention of councillors to have it removed. The point at issue seemed to be who's responsibility it was as the various landlords in the location were fobbing it off as not their responsibility. WI again highlighted the response the community council had made to the Falkirk Council

Community conversation when we highlighted the need for all landlords operating within the community to be working together and to the same standards to ensure a coordinated response to a range of issues. MR was able to advise that Paragon Housing does take the issues of waste disposal seriously and have acted and spent funds to have waste removed. WI made the point as with other issues the authorities are to some extent constrained in what they can do unless they can be provided with reliable evidence on who the perpetrators are. People are reluctant to come forward with information and unfortunately this is resulting in the types of problems that are creating a decline in the fabric of the community.

DH advised that the Earls Gate Community Fund had received applications from 4 local groups and these applications will be carried forward to the next phase of the process.

MR highlighted an email circulated by WI in relation to contacting our MSPs on the subject of parking on pavements. Views were expressed that enforcement was going to be difficult so what was the point. WI made the point that the email was to encourage people to contact their MSP to pressurise their ministerial colleagues to progress their commitment to address this issue so in that respect it was up to individuals how they chose to respond to the request.

DH and KMcl raised concerns relating to the condition of installed seating in the Town Centre. AB undertook to contact relevant personnel to request cleaning.

Next Meeting 7pm 16th September 2021 Venue to be advised.

Addendum

email to SEPA

Good Morning Linzi,

A question was asked at our community council meeting last night in relation to environmental monitoring and oversight that none of us could answer. Hopefully you can assist by directing this enquiry to an appropriate colleague who can answer the question?

The question:

Who monitors and regulates activities within the Port of Grangemouth that could potentially have environmental impact on the surrounding communities?

The question arose following publication of a recent development within the Port that involves the cleaning of road tankers that transport among other products, chemicals. So what happens to the effluent from the cleaning process?

The broader question arising from the initial one is that given that the Port authorities have permitted development rights what checks and balances are in place to ensure compliance with environmental legislation at the development stage? Also what mechanisms if any are in place for public consultation should there be a potential environmental impact identified?

Kind Regards

Walter Inglis

Vice Convener

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Sent from my iPhone