

HOWWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN HOWWOOD VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2003

PRESENT

Bill David (Chair), Andrew Wilson (Secretary), Nick Walker (Minutes), Ken Macdonald (Treasurer), Brian Young (Vice Chair), Amish Amin, Rosee Macdonald, Norma David, Linda Smith, Betty McArthur, Robert Scarsbrook, Christine Scarsbrook, Millar Leon, Craig Crawford, Gordon Weir, Grace Weir, David Bottomley, Norma Walker, Jeanette Fraser, Agnes Crawford, Jim Steel, Jane Hayes, PC Tracey Knox-McLean, PC Graham Barclay, Joan Whyte, Irene Mactaggart, Iain Mactaggart, Margie Stewart, Ginny Davies, Dave Davies, Ross Anderson.

APOLOGIES

David McKie, Danny McAlister.

SOUTH RENFREWSHIRE ACCESS NETWORK INITIATIVE

Prior to the AGM, Zul Bhatia, John Hannah and John Collie presented the outline plan of SRANI, which proposes to seek funding to improve access to the Semple Loch, Lochwinnoch RSPB land and the surrounding area, particularly emphasising rail, cycle and pedestrian access. Howwood residents felt that linking Howwood safely to the cycle track at St Bryde's Bridge and the Cartside right of way across Garthland Bridge would be valuable. Information is available at the RSPB and comments can be sent to Kate Cuthbert, Access Officer at Renfrewshire Council.

A MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING 1.10.2002

Accepted (prop. Rosee Macdonald, sec. Norma David). No matters arose.

B CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The year has been busy and much has been achieved. The Scottish Evening for senior citizens, the Howwood Fete and the village cleanup weekend were all well-received and successful. Several key issues have preoccupied regular Community Council meetings, in particular roads, traffic and speeding, and planning and development. David McKie takes the lead on Roads issues for the CC, and the Planning Working Group which monitors planning applications and brings contentious issues to the full CC for discussion, is establishing good contacts with the relevant Council officers and departments, and other sources of information and support. The Renfrewshire CCs Forum has continued to meet, providing an opportunity to share our experiences and concerns with other CCs.

The Howwood Playground Project has made dramatic progress raising around £76 000 (towards their £85 000 target) to redevelop recreational facilities for young people in Howwood. Howwood's village web site, www.howwood.com, continues to develop and receives "visits" and comments from all over the world.

The CC membership is currently 19 (of a maximum 21): Betty McArthur and Amish Amin joined the CC during the year and have already made a considerable contribution to CC work. Evelyn Currie and Tom Currie resigned their membership after a number of years' commitment; our thanks go to them for their input.

C SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year has been active and participation has widened across the village, and will continue to do so. A number of concerns have been brought to the CC by village residents and this is welcome, since it is a primary function of the CC to support villagers and to speak out on behalf of Howwood to Renfrewshire Council and other organisations. New members of the CC live in areas of Howwood not recently represented and this broadening of input from across the village is also welcome.

Apart from the areas mentioned in the Chairman's report, the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland has awarded the CC a grant to support the development of a village design statement. Andrew Wilson will lead this project which includes architectural and design support through RIAS; it aims to gather views on development in terms of housing, environment and other amenities through a comprehensive consultation process. A formal Village Design Statement will result which we hope will influence Renfrewshire Council when it considers applications to build or develop areas in and around Howwood. Look out for information.

D TREASURER'S REPORT

Audited accounts were presented for the year to 31.8.2003, and a summary sheet was circulated. Copies are available from Ken Macdonald. Fund raising income of almost £1500 was mainly from the Fete and fund raising expenditure represented the costs of running the Fete and the Scottish Evening. Howwood won the Community of the Year 2002 award for web site design, which included a £500 prize to allow further development of village information technology. As in previous years, CC funds were used to put on events such as the Scottish Evening and to support village groups such as the Guides and the Church Holiday Club. The year's surplus was £781.79, and the balance at 31.8.2003 was £6342.15. Ken Macdonald will lodge the accounts with Renfrewshire Council.

E OFFICE BEARERS & MEMBERSHIP

It was agreed that the CC business meeting would confirm Office Bearers. As indicated in the Chairman's report, the maximum membership of the CC is 21, but there are currently 2 vacancies. Formal nominations are requested, and should be with Andrew Wilson by 31.10.2003. Advertisements will appear in the local paper and on the village web site as well as by posters around the village. A decision on formal elections will be made at the November CC meeting.

F OTHER BUSINESS

Traditionally Howwood CC has met ten times per year, with no meeting in July or August. Nick Walker proposed that meetings be increased to one every month in view of the amount of correspondence and work now dealt with by the CC. Seconded, Ken Macdonald. Agreed by consensus.

G NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next Annual General Meeting is Tuesday 12 October 2004, but confirmation will be made nearer the time.

NW/2003.10.15