

**DRAFT Minute of Meeting of
Dumbreck Community Council
held within 157 Urrdale Road on
Thursday 29th May 2008 at 7.30pm**

01 SEDERUNT: Mrs Ruth Maltman, Mr Kenneth Fee, Mr James Armstrong, Mr John Corbett, Dr Mair Crouch and Miss Kathleen Lanigan. Also in attendance were City Councillors Shaukat Butt and Allison Hunter; Mr Tim Kelly (Brisbane Court Residents' Association); Mr Asgher Mohammed (Al-Meezan) and resident Mr George Boyes. Newly Appointed Resource Centre Liaison Officer Alex Hewetson had been invited to meet Community Councillors and discuss with them the Scottish Government's National Consultation on the future of community councils. Apologies for unavoidable absence had been received from Dr Alastair Gilchrist, Mr Gerard McCudden, Mrs Carol Jacobsen, Professor Martin McIntyre, Mr Ian McLaren-Thomson, Mr Trevor Schuster-Davis and John Grant (Dumbreck Tenants' and Residents' Association); and from Mr Mohammad Sarwar MP and Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon MSP.

In the absence of Dr Gilchrist Mrs Maltman chaired the meeting.

02 MINUTE OF MEETING of 20th March 2008: The minute was unanimously adopted on the motion of Miss Lanigan seconded by Mr Corbett.

03 BUSINESS ARISING (a) Dumbreck Court Play Area: In reply to the Secretary's Freedom of Information request, Land Services had claimed exemption since land use was excluded under the Act. The Community Councillors who were lawyers would examine that but in the meantime Miss Lanigan urged that the matter should be pursued, since the complaint was that the £100,000+ grant, a stipulation of the planning permission, had been deliberately misapplied by Land Services.

(b) **Salter's Croft:** Sanctuary Scotland had still not replied to Mr Armstrong's request.

(c) **Rangers FC and littering:** Mr Armstrong still required photographic adminicles of littering by football fans. Mr Boyes testified that currently there had been a marginal improvement, although the Victorian bins were not being emptied before as well as after matches.

(d) **Dumbreck Station bridge:** Concern was expressed about the often dangerously overflowing bottle bank at the station gate. Mr Armstrong was unanimously requested, as part of his ongoing exchanges with the Land Services Director anent the flooding, to call for the bottle bank's removal also.

04 TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr McCudden, although indisposed, had arranged for the annual accounts to be audited and submitted to the City Finance Director, thus enabling her graciously to release the pitifully inadequate and even still unindexed £500 administration grant.

05 SECRETARY'S REPORT: (a) Visit by the Resource Centre Liaison

Officer: Mr Alex Hewetson, the newly appointed successor to Mrs Margaret Stirling, had been invited to the meeting to meet with Community Councillors and take the opportunity to discuss the Scottish Government's Consultation anent a model scheme for community councils. Mr Hewetson introduced himself and related his background of experience in Renfrew local government and as Glasgow's sole representative on the Community Council working party. He said he would not comment on the rumour that Glasgow's Community Councils themselves had been deliberately excluded from the working party since they were regarded as being a contentious and potentially counter-productive influence in that context; but he had done his level best to reflect Glasgow's general views and misgivings about how the Community Council movement had come to be regarded as in serious disrepair today. Glasgow's Community Councils' opinions were now being sought, however, via the Scottish Government's consultation, and he urged that this be responded to in detail by Dumbreck Community Council.

A lengthy and at times tetchy discussion followed. The Secretary reminded the meeting that in 1975 Glasgow Corporation had been strongly opposed to the foundation of community councils, both Conservative and Labour Groups voting against, resenting the resulting demise of the old Ward system which had acted as nurseries for their own Councillors. Nothing had changed today, he alleged, most City Councillors going out of their way to thwart the effectiveness of Community Councils by denying them proper funding, genuine consultation etc etc. He believed that the way forward was to disentangle Community Councils from City Councils altogether, since they did not constitute a third tier of government as some still alleged. This interpretation met with opposition from some Community and City Councillors present who wanted to move on, whatever the past had been. It was eventually agreed that a meeting of the twelve elected Community Councillors would be held in St Leo's Church hall on July 2nd. Dr Crouch volunteered to report the consensus views to the questionnaire electronically, with individual responses also being invited.

Mr Hewetson thought that the now reconstituted City Council's Area Committees and the new lavishly funded Community Reference Groups might provide a way forward, and he recommended that Dumbreck should elect representatives to them. It was agreed that all of this would be considered at the next meeting. The Chair expressed the Community Council's appreciation of all the work he was currently undertaking on behalf of Dumbreck and the other Community Councils.

(b) Lord Provost's Civic Reception for Community Councils: The usual invitation had been received to come and hear the Lord provost express his council's appreciation of all the work the Community Councils did for their communities and for the City..... Mrs Maltman and Dr crouch said they would try to attend.

06 ROADS: (a) Seaward St. Diversion:

Whilst fully appreciative of the decades of uphill energetic work which Dr Gilchrist had devoted to the scheme of which he had been the originator, both Mr Armstrong and Mr Corbett felt the term "Gilchrist Diversion" was now too confusing for the poor Land Services functionaries and they proposed that the original term should be used henceforward. In the meantime the functionaries kept repeating the mantra that the diversion and the clearing of Dumbreck Road could not possibly happen until the M74 were completed, with the revised forecast for this now 2013..... The Secretary was instructed to follow up his brief meeting with the Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson: and also

press the Land Services Director to install the long overdue temporary signage for the diversion.

(b) Rat-Running: The Secretary was instructed to ask Land Services to add concrete cushions to Farm Road as a deterrent to vehicles which were now speeding along the lane, endangering amongst others the Al-Meezan crèche toddlers who were now frequently being led along this service lane. City councillor Hunter agreed to add her support and press them for a date when the work would be completed.

Councillor Butt drew attention to a meeting, which the Roads Manager had scheduled for the following day with the Deputy First Minister and the City Councillors, and he thought the missing signage could be raised then. Mr Mohammed also asked that the traffic count – which he reminded had been incorrectly carried out – could be raised at the same time.

07 PLANNING: (a) Future arrangements for considering planning applications: The standing practice had been for Dr Gilchrist to handle straightforward applications between meetings. It was agreed that now the Secretary would pass those to Mrs Maltman, with Mr Armstrong being available for advice. This temporary arrangement might be reviewed in due course.

(b) Go-Ape update: It was believed that the highly unpopular decision would be referred to the Government with the outcome expected during July. It was agreed that contact should be maintained with the other Community Councils who were Objectors. Miss Lanigan moved, Mr Corbett seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that the names of the Planning Committee members who had voted in favour of the offending application should be printed in the next Newsletter.

(c) Al-Meezan – Cllr Butt's report: Cllr Butt said that he had been asked to intervene in a recent complaint about loud night-time noise from the house, although it had been resolved fairly readily.

A lengthy debate followed, with Mr Kelly recapping his residents' continuing distress at the parking and related problems which Al-Meezan, he alleged would still not address. Mr Mohammed responded by saying he thought it was time Brisbane Court accepted the situation, which had now been settled. A number of possibilities were discussed but in the end it was agreed that Cllr Butt should chair a meeting between the residents and the Al-Meezan board. Mr Mohammed requested that Mrs Maltman should also attend, and a date was fixed.

(d) Dawcliffe Hall: An application had been lodged for carrying out miscellaneous work, mainly inside. Mr McLaren-Thomson would follow up.

(e) 133 Urrdale Road: An application sought consent to build five garages, a gymnasium and a store at the rear of the feu. Mr Kelly volunteered to visit the Javeds to enquire about a large truck which had been making deliveries at the back lane gate of the house recently and whether that were relevant to the planning application.

08 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: The latest minutes were tabled.

09 NEXT NEWSLETTER: The Autumn Newsletter, the last in the 2006-2008 session would be announcing the forthcoming October Community Council election.

10 NEXT MEETING: This was scheduled for Thursday 21st August 2008 at 7.30pm.

11 OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS: (a) **Overgrown trees:** The Secretary was instructed to ask Land Services to expedite the removal of the epicormic growth which was inhibiting rat-running cars.

(b) **Road Races:** The re-siting away from Dumbreck of these now frequent events and their toilets was long overdue. Other venues had to be investigated.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.16pm with a vote of thanks to the Acting Chair