**Ferryhill and Ruthrieston Community Council**

**Minutes of meeting of Wednesday 14th June 2023**

**Present:** Community Council members Michael Winn, Kevin McIvor, Catherine Campbell, William Rae, Leanne Ferries, Eleanor Leslie, Gregor McAbery

Cllr Derek Davidson, Cllr Lee Fairfull, Cllr Simon Watson, Cllr Iain Yuill, Cllr Christian Allard.

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees to the meeting with introductions.
3. Apologies were received from Michael Kusznir.
4. **Police Report**
* Sgt Ricky Burr & Insp Nick Searle presented to the meeting.
* Insp Searle introduced himself.
* West End area had ~2000 calls in May. 15% were crimes. The police rely on members of the public to report drug use etc.
* Ricky Burr provided a police report.
	+ Anti-social behaviour with 3 males using off-road ikes in Duthie Park. Police are following line of enquiries.
	+ Gairn Mews issues with youths banging on windows in early May, early interventions officer was involved.
	+ Rosebank Terrace car had window smashed on 25th May, however limited opportunity to
	+ Ruthrieston Circle resident paid £700 for a shed build, with no return from traders. Referred to trading standards.
	+ Small thefts
	+ RTC on Willowbank Road. Road rage on Holburn Street has been an issue with ongoing roadworks. ASB/ road rage in Holburn St area has been an issue, police have been on operations Friday and Saturday nights to issue fixed penalty tickets to drivers.
* Crime prevention – fraud, scammers, phishing etc. North East crime alert published by police and passed into community councils, with a briefing of activities across the north east.
* Many residents attended from Ruthrieston Crescent, to discuss crime and anti-social behaviour on their street. Ricky Burr passed his details to residents and encouraged them to contact him by email and phone.
	+ Residents do not believe police are sufficiently responsive to these issues. Information has been passed to the police for years with no apparent result; a resident called 999 after experiencing verbal abuse and despite being promised a visit from police, there has been no further contact.
	+ Police confirmed that every incident received is risk assessed and recorded with an incident number. Drugs warrants are executed across the city every day with sufficient evidence. There is a dedicated number for drugs offences – please use those channels. Credible intelligence from multiple sources is needed. Continuous reporting is needed, multiple reports around the same date
	+ From a housing perspective, it was noted that Ruthrieston Circle has a high number of elderly and vulnerable residents, however in recent years a large number of ex-offenders and those with substance abuse and mental health issues have been placed on the street, and the community feels overwhelmed by the issues encountered.
	+ What can the city council do? Cllr Yuill noted that unless there are convictions associated with that address, the council is unable to evict, however housing officers, the ASB team, city wardens and police Scotland together are acting to address these issues. A tenant may also be evicted due to non-payment (for example if they are in prison). Cllr Davidson asked residents to please report issues to the council (in writing to housing officer) as well as the police. If people are not evicted due to non-payment, evidence of anti-social behaviour may lead to eviction. Residents are also asked to email Cllr Davidson or Cllr Yuill if they feel housing officers are not addressing issues.
	+ It was suggested that police on the beat in the area would help, and residents developing a personal relationship with police may also help.
	+ It was suggested that city wardens distribute “Ditch the Dealer” leaflets in the local area.
	+ Crime stoppers is another option to report information anonymously.

**Action**

Add a note from Police Scotland to the CC facebook page.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

Councillor Christian Allard

* “Our Union Street” reported last week at the music hall with their themes for redevelopment. More information will follow in the coming months.
* Roadworks. Next Tuesday Bridges will be finished. S. College Street forecast for July.

Cllr Yuill

* The path from Ruthrieston Circle to the garages at Ruthrieston Road will be resurfaced and the handrail replaced, scheduled for the end of next month.
* Several residents have been in touch in relation to anti-social behaviour in Ruthrieston.

Cllr Davidson

* Potholes on Margaret Place. This road was never adopted by the council. Cllr Davidson has put in an enquiry to have the potholes filled, despite the road not being adopted. The road is not of adoptable standard, so could not be adopted.
* Potholes on Bloomfield Road at junction with Holburn Street. Also unadopted road, but widely used by the public.
* Suggestion of a 20mph speed limit on Ruthrieston Circle/ Crescent. Potholes around #63 Ruthrieston Circle. Cllr Yuill noted.

Councillor Simon Watson

1. Roadworks. Councillors had council officers give an explanation and there will be an internal review to see if these projects could have been managed better. A shortage of skilled workers and limited number of contractors meant that 24 hour working was not possible.
2. A briefing on community asset transfers has been offered by council officers.
3. Finance and resources committee regional economic strategy is coming up.

Councillor Lee Fairfull

1. Noted that a lot of great events are planned to help bring the community together - Aberdeen Highland Games on Sunday. Pipe band championship following weekend. Armed Forces Day the weekend after.
2. A review of Aberdeen City Library service including public consultation will shortly be released, on how to make libraries applicable to 21st century.
3. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting 10th May were duly approved by the community council.

1. **Feedback on F&R CC Website**

A website to host the minutes of the community council has been created at <https://e-voice.org.uk/ferryhillruthrieston/>

**Action**

Catherine add Kevin as admin on the website.

Catherine add Iain Yuill to website.

1. **Suggestions for use of Ferryhill library building (Andrew McKenzie)**
* Mr McKenzie attended the community council meeting to discuss potential plans for the Ferryhill Library building, and other closed library buildings.
* Noted the relatively small budget ~£280k for 6 librariesand large impact of closure.
* Noted there are many businesses and high worth individuals in Aberdeen – why not rally together to find private funding to keep libraries open in the short term.
* In the mid term, the building and land could be used to create a bookshop or some type of income, to keep the library.
* Mr McKenzie has set up a company called Aberdeen Library Trust to achieve these plans. Suggested to use Ferryhill Library as a first case study. To reduce £90K staffing costs, it is hoped that a core of professional librarians, plus volunteers may work to staff libraries.
* Aberdeen is one of the lowest served communities in Scotland for libraries.
* Cllr Allard noted that community asset transfer is possible and that officers have a duty to help community members through the process. It was also noted that other properties may also be available, and community bodies need not limit themselves to former libraries only, when considering possible CAT.
1. **Planning, licensing and public transport update (William)**

No further information.

1. **Financial Report**
	* The only transaction in the month was Ferryhill Room Hire £40.
	* Balance was reported as £1400.74
	* Outstanding bills not yet received for room hire at Ruthrieston Community Centre for February and April and now June meetings.
	* Passed a motion to donate £100 each to Ferryhill School and Broomhill School to support the school prom.
	* Regarding the proposed joint newsletter with Ferryhill Church and community centre, it was noted that the churches have merged into Devanha church, waiting to understand their approach to a newsletter.

**Action**

Gregor send Catherine Ruthrieston bills

Catherine liaise with Leeanne to make donation to Ferryhill School.

1. **AOCB**
* Rachel has never attended a meeting and is happy to be removed as a community councillor. The community council passed a motion to remove Rachel as a member, as reducing member numbers would reduce the number needed for a meeting to be quorate.
* Leeann resigned as a member, as she is moving on 17th July.
* Big art project by Sheila Swanson and other community projects being run by the community centre.
* Friends of Duthie Park are planning to have a winter wonderland and fairy garden in November.

**Action**

Kevin to email Karen to remove Rachel as a member.

Next meeting August 7:15pm at Ruthrieston Community Centre.

* **Michael Winn, Chair**