Bishopton Community Council
Minutes of the meeting held in Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall
on 11th January 2017

Present: Brian Stewart, Colin Camelford, John MacIntosh, David Woodrow (Chair)
Aileen McLean, Ewing Mitchell. Peter Bryson, David Rigg. Alan Brown, Sam
Marshallays.

In Attendance: Sgt. Phil Moir (Police), Jane Russell, Ronnie Wilson (Bowling Club), Andrew
Swain, Lynne Hutchinson, (Community Centre+Bish Parish Church), Ken
Lawson, Mike Tomlinson (Dev Trust), Alan Conway, Suzy Bain (Girl Guides)
David Dunbar.

Apologies: John McGinnigle, Bill Sanders, John Anderson.

Adoption of Minutes: The minutes of 7th December 2016 were proposed by Colin Camelford and
seconded by Peter Bryson, with the following amendment:-

under “matters arising” mention was made of a letter from Renfrew Council, the letter was in fact from
Strathclyde Regional Council.

Matters Arising. Chairman David stated he had received an acknowledgement from Fiona Robinson-
son’s office in response to his letter re the health centre.

Correspondence: Sec noted he had written as instructed to HP re the amount of traffic using Ferry
Rd., rather than the motorway, and requested that the employees be urged to use the M8 access at
Erskine. No response had been received to date.
Sec had also written to Renfrew Council Roads Dept re the appalling state of our infrastructure, from
street lights to blocked drains, flooding, to potholes and traffic light sequencing. No response to date!
Councillor MacLaren had volunteered to take up the issues of the paths and stairs in the Craigton
development with the council. All details had been passed to him.
The Sec read out an email he had received from a resident who was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.
The gist of this email was that the resident had attended the public consultation on 7th December in the
community centre, had asked many questions but was totally underwhelmed by the answers he
received. His summary “a waste of (our) time and from BAe etc point of view, a cosmetic exercise to
show they are holding consultation meetings with the community” This was echoed by another
attendee.

Police Report: Sgt Moir reported that there had been 42 “incidents” in the past month, but this
included all phone calls, enquiries etc. There had been 8 “crimes” - one car vandalized. Speeding on
the M8 (90mph) with drugs possession, and driving under the influence of drugs. Theft from a motor
vehicle. One vandalism and one assault at a children’s home, another speeding on the M8 (80mph).
In all Sgt Moir stated it had been a quiet Christmas and New Year in Bishopton.
The hit and run accident of last month was still under investigation.

As this meeting has been dedicated to discuss the proposed planning application to significantly alter
the Master Plan for the Dargavel development our normal agenda was suspended, consequently there
are no reports from any subgroups etc.

Community Trust: No Report
Community Liaison Group : No report

Councillor’s Report : No Report

Chairman’s report : No Report

Treasurer’s report No Report

Environmental report. No Report

Sub Committee Report : No Report

Community Council Forum No Report

Local Area Committee No Report

Alteration to the Dargavel Masterplan

Background :- at the last CLG meeting BAe intimated that they intended to submit a new planning application to Renfrew Council to re-assign what was the Dargavel Business Park (138,000 sq meters), to now be more housing.

This action will take what was originally a development of 2300 houses to 3900 houses, almost tripling the size of Bishopton. In the original planning application it was stated this business park would “create 4000 jobs in a sustainable environment”. As the Community Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications, the Community Council felt obliged to garner as much opinion as it could before deciding on its approach. Consequently all identifiable organizations in the village were contacted and advised of this meeting. Notices were also put up around the village to encourage as much attendance as possible.

There was a wide ranging discussion on the development as a whole, and the lack of progress on the promised benefits to the village, e.g. the motorway junction(originally at 451 houses, now in 2020) library, infrastructure, and the general lateness of the section 75 commitments. This was perceived as a failure of the planning department in Renfrew Council to enforce these agreements.

Is there to be a new/separate section75 agreement for this amendment?? Would the use of “planning conditions” be more robust in ensuring things were actually done?

It was decided that BCC should invite the Director of Planning, or a planning officer, to one of the council’s meetings.

Points raised by the meeting :

Is the proposed new school big enough for the increased number of houses. Is Park Mains secondary school big enough to accommodate the increases that will surely follow? Mrs Elliot (Cairelliott Nursery) stated she had 155 “rising fives” this year and it was going up daily! She stated R.C. were well aware of this, she also intimated that the new primary school would have nursery facilities. The current primary school roll was 414 increasing to 420, and was seeing extra curricula facilities being returned to classrooms. Questions were asked about catchment areas, who would go to which school? It was felt this could be divisive, and not conducive to a unified community. The fabric of the existing school was also mentioned, it was feared that any money would be spent on the new facility and not on the maintenance of the current school. It was decided to write to the education department and request their plans to resolve the issues surrounding the increasing number of pupils at both primary and
secondary levels. All the youth groups represented indicated a rise in the number of young people in their organizations.

The question of both affordable, and sheltered type housing was raised. Buckshaw village, seen as the blueprint for Bishopton, had a lot of “sheltered” type housing. What plans, if any, are in place for both affordable (e.g. 1 bed apartments) and “sheltered” housing.

Communication from the CLG was raised. It was stated that the CLG was established to communicate to all the interested groups. The premise was that each rep would report back to their groups. However it was accepted that perhaps this was not happening very well. The public dissemination of the CLG minutes would be raised at the next CLG meeting (17th January). It was also requested that the comments left at the public consultation meeting be made public.

Transport was seen as an increasing problem, peak hour trains were packed to capacity already, with only 600 houses (of 3900) completed. The very thing that made Bishopton become a development area is now out of capacity!!

Parking at the station, despite the increase in spaces, is still a problem. It was felt that no cognizance of the fact that residents of Port Glasgow, Langbank, and other areas use Bishopton station. Also there was a need for parking within the development for Dargavel residents.

The Health Centre was raised again, time for appointments is becoming longer. What is the trigger point for more doctors, what is happening with the new health centre. Everyone urged to write to David Leese, Dir., Renfrewshire Community Health and Social Care, to urge a resolution to this problem.

All participants were asked what they, and their groups, wished from the meeting to feed back to BAe, the CLG and Renfrew Council.

General feedback from the Dargavel resident’s association was that they were quite happy with the planned changes.

The meeting, as a whole, felt that since the development would not be built out for 10 -15 years it was not immediately required to re-assign ALL of the commercial/industrial land to housing. Perhaps 50% or so could be retained as business park until such time as it was the last available block, and if there was still no interest could then, and only then, be re-assigned.

It was noted that although the Dargavel development looked good, Bishopton itself was looking decidedly tired, with pavements overgrown, hedges not cut back, roads potholed, signage broken, drains blocked and roads flooding. Renfrew Council to be challenged to do what they are supposed to do in the maintenance of the village infrastructure.

The Community Council was requested to provide a list of contacts to the wider public to enable individuals to petition the council. Sec undertook to provide such names if they were in the public domain. This is appended in an addendum at the end of the minute.

A.O.B

Next Meeting :

Close of Meeting

Next meeting Feb 1st 2017 in Bishopton Primary School.
Addendum List of Council Contacts

NOTE: Our three councilors should be your first point of contact for any problems. They are

Councilor Michael Holmes  cllr.michael.holmes@renfrewshire.gov.uk
Councilor James MacLaren  cllr.james.maclaren@renfrewshire.gov.uk
Councilor Maria Brown    cllr.maria.brown@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Partial List of Senior Renfrewshire Council Officebearers. (from RC Website http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/4365/Register-of-Senior-Officers-Interest)

Sandra Black            - Chief Executive
Fraser Carlin           - Director of Planning
David Amos              - Head of Policy and Commissioning
Shona MacDougall        - Director of Community Resources
R.Scott Allan           - Head of Amenity Services
Jean Cameron            - Project Director Paisley 2021
Joe Lynch               - Head of Property Services
Gordon McKinlay         - Head of schools
Steven Quinn            - Assistant Dir (Education) Chief Education Officer
Alan Russell            - Director of Finance and Resources
Andrea McMahon          - Chief Auditor

Email addresses usually follow the convention of Name.Name@renfrewshire.gov.uk Postal addresses are Renfrewshire House, Cotton St., Paisley.

Renfrewshire Health and social care Partnership.

David Leese            - Chief Officer, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (david.leese@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

Other details and full membership can be found on the renfrewshire.gov.uk website.