

Ruchill Community Council  
671 Bilsland Drive  
GLASGOW  
G20 9NF

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**Minute of AGM held in Ruchill Community Centre, Bilsland Drive on 2nd October 2014**

**Attending:** Eleanor Brown, Flo McGrehan, Sandra Blair, Gordon Blair, Kate Mulgrew, Robert Stewart, Councillor Kelly, Marion Coleman, Councillor Stephen, Joan Dreghorn, Billy McAllister, Suzanne Halliday and Dawn Baird.

**Apologies:** Bob Dorris, Anne McKechin, Patricia Ferguson

1. Eleanor as chairperson for 13/14 opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2. **Approval of previous AGM minute:**

Proposed: Sandra Blair

Seconded: Suzanne Halliday

3. **Approval of Chairperson's annual report**

A copy of the report was given to all present and approved.

4. **Approval of Independently Examined Statement of Accounts**

Statement of Accounts (Income and Expenditure a/c)

Prepared and presented by Robert Stewart

Accounts approved: Proposed Suzanne Halliday

Seconded Flo McGrehan

5. **Current officer bearers step down**

At this point in the meeting all officer bearers stepped down. The meeting continued with Dawn Baird acting as interim chair to oversee the election of the new committee; the results of which are shown below:

6. **Election of Officer Bearers**

**Chairperson: Eleanor Brown**

Proposed: Kate Mulgrew Seconded: Flo McGrehan

**Vice Chairperson: Kate Mulgrew**

Proposed: Flo McGrehan Seconded: Eleanor Brown

**Correspondence Secretary:** Flo McGrehan

Proposed: Eleanor Seconded: Kate

**Treasurer: Francis O'Rourke**

Proposed: Eleanor Brown Seconded: Kate Mulgrew

**Minute secretary: Dawn Baird**

Proposed: Eleanor Brown Seconded: Kate Mulgrew

7. **Appointment of an Independent Examiner of accounts for 14/15**

Robert Stewart. Proposed: Kate Mulgrew Seconded: Marion Coleman

8. **Appointment of Associate Members**

Jill McKay - NUC

Robert Stewart Ruchill - Furniture Project

Dawn Baird – Maryhill Housing Association

8a. **Guest Speakers – Councillor Billy McAllister, Councillor Chris Kelly and Councillor Helen Stephen**

**Councillor Billy McAllister**

Councillor Billy McAllister highlighted that fantastic work being carried out by Jill McKay and the team at NUC. Projects like this are vital in communities; tackling anti social behaviour, helping kids to avoid criminality, taking young people off the streets and giving them something to aspire to. People of the community should be at the heart of process when deciding where funding should be spent as they know exactly what is required in the community.

**Councillor Helen Stephen**

Councillor Helen Stephen congratulated the Community Council on their dedication and hard work during the last year. Councillor Stephen thanked everyone for a warm welcome at each community council meeting and also the hard questions which are raised, which she has been grateful for.

The new development at Sanctuary building is taking place which will bring a community benefit. This will hopefully bring new benefits to the community in terms of in kind services. Cllr Stephen has also offered her support to Jill at North United Communities and worked together on proposals for future funding.

**Councillor Chris Kelly**

Councillor Chris Kelly offered his congratulations to the group on their achievements over the year, he has enjoyed meeting with the community council and has also enjoyed the Thriving Places meetings alongside Eleanor Brown. Cllr Kelly passed on his congratulations to Jill McKay from NUC and the successes of the project.

9. **Review of Inventory and Additional Resources**

10. **Date of next Annual General Meeting**

7<sup>th</sup> October 2015

11. **Chairperson - Close meeting**

Eleanor Brown thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for coming every month. Eleanor then closed the meeting.

### Chairperson's Report for 2014 AGM

Last year I spoke about the need to develop the hospital site. Nothing has happened in the intervening 12 months. It is sad to see this potential resource lying underutilised and my hope is that some positive activity happens within the coming 12 months.

Staying with the physical development of the area, I was pleased to note that Sanctuary Homes have commenced building houses at Hugo Street, Bilsland Drive and Ruchill Street. There is a great need for socially rented properties in Ruchill however it is healthy for the area to see a mix of both rented and for sale houses being built.

The new school campus appears to be operating successfully, incorporating as it does 4 primary schools and a nursery. It is good to see all the children of Ruchill being educated on the same geographical site and sharing the facilities. If they learn about community and sharing at school it augurs well for the future.

I was disappointed to hear that North United Communities had lost part of its core funding. This cut related to the provision of services to our 5 to 12 year olds. I have many years experience working with this age group and am totally convinced that it is essential to induct children into the community from age 5. This allows them to be part of the development of the community, to feel part of it and in later years gives them the ability to help shape the future direction of their area and people within it.

NUC currently provides its services in Wyndford Hub, Milton (old Wanderers club opened in May this year) and of course here at the Centre. Hopefully the establishment of "Thriving Places" during the past 12 months will complement and support the NUC. Focusing on Ruchill and Possil, the Thriving Places initiative is designed as a "bottom up" approach to community development where the views and ideas of the 2 communities involved are sought and with professional help are nurtured and realised.

A working officers from NG2 has been drafted in to lead this exercise and we shall assist him in all his efforts. His remit, apart from listening and gathering views from the community, is to map out what is happening at present and to determine where the gaps in service are then to present options for consideration. His post is only funded for 12 months so there is no time to lose. Hopefully further funding will be available but my concern is that existing projects and activities are not disadvantaged by this new approach WATCH THIS SPACE.

The small community furniture activity continues and its service provision is still in demand both from the public and agencies. It is a need-driven service, there are such a wide variety of families and individuals from ex homeless, refugees, asylum seekers, those on benefit and low waged etc who struggle to furnish their homes. Although we apply a nominal charge to furniture, over the past 12 months we have distributed 20 household packs free of charge to those in our communities have nothing. Agencies such as NG2 and MHA have, in the past few months, expressed an interest in using our services.

In parallel with our furniture service, the last 12 months has seen the establishment of the Greater Maryhill Foodbank. Both the Community Council and Ruchill Furniture are official

referral agents and it's self-evident that those who visit the furniture outlet are also those most likely to need food.

I still see real issues with poverty and in my opinion the gap is widening between those who have and those without, I trust that in the next 12 months real steps are taken to reduce this poverty gap and make for a fairer society.

My hope, now that the referendum is passed, is that priorities will change and grass roots communities will be listed to by government and local authorities with the result that a more cohesive society is established where promises are kept, more real employment is created and that the health of our sick is once more at the top of the agenda. It is essential that the moment gained is not lost and that the healthy debate engendered by the vote is not allowed to fade the status quo returns.

My hopes and dreams for the next 12 months are

- Development of hospital site
- More socially rented houses constructed including sheltered homes
- NUC to receive funding to cover core costs
- Thriving Places initiative delivers on its objectives
- All agencies consult the community before major decisions are taken

Not forgetting our best wishes to Ruchill Credit Union in their attempt to secure the Community Award at the Evening Times presentation taking place tonight.

In closing, thanks to GCC Community Council resource team, local councillors, our MSP and MP and all those who have supported the community council in the past 12 months.

A final thanks to my fellow community councillors for their dedication and hard work, and quite simply, for putting up with me.

**Eleanor Brown**  
**Chairperson**