**Buckingham, Hamilton and Ruskin Association**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.00pm on 20 November 2019 at The Coach House Trust, 84 Belmont Lane, Glasgow, G12 8EN**

1. Frances Goldman welcomed those present, and presented copies of the Agenda, Annual Accounts 2018-19, and draft minutes of the 2018 AGM and 2019 EGM which were distributed for review.

Committee members present: Joanna Clarke, John Elder, Frances Goldman, Christine McGuigan, Colin Miller, Tony Hughes. Around [35] members of the association were also in attendance.

1. Apologies: [Committee – Mark Rickards, Susan Triesman?]; Members – [? – didn’t catch first name read out by Frances]; Paul and Sheila Young; Annie Good
2. The draft Minutes of the AGM of 25 October 2018 were proposed by Frances, seconded by Tony and approved by acclamation.
3. The draft Minutes of the EGM of 19 February 2019 were proposed by Colin, seconded by Frances and approved by acclamation.
4. Convenor’s Report
   1. General

There has been an increase in membership; the Treasurer’s Report will follow.

The new refuse collection arrangements have come into effect; Tony will speak on that.

* 1. Viewpoint Garden

The Association is still in the process of agreeing a lease of the Garden with the Council, initially to be a short term lease for three years potentially to be followed by a longer term arrangement. In the meantime the Council’s DRS officer has advised that we have permission to use the Garden. Some members have been doing work in the Garden periodically and Frances would invite anyone who is interested to come and help with maintenance and upkeep. A Whatsapp group has been established for this purpose. Frances would like to suggest possibly following the model at the “triangular garden” in Belmont Lane, whereby the gardeners meet monthly to work on the garden and then go for a meal afterwards. We should aim to have more community use of the Garden and to manage it better. This year at the Garden the Association held a successful Summer party on Saturday 22 June and a Halloween/Guy Fawkes childrens’ evening on Sunday 3 November, the latter featuring mulled wine (for the adults), toasting marshmallows, excellent fancy dress, an atmospheric story reading by Paul Young and a joke-telling contest adjudicated very fairly by Colin. The more we make use of and maintain the Garden, the less likely it is to be vandalised or used for antisocial purposes.

* 1. Committee Changes

Frances explained that Tony is retiring from the committee having served the maximum term of six years. In that time he has managed us through the introduction of the permit parking scheme and the construction of the Barratt development and has attended many Hillhead Community Council (HCC) meetings on our behalf. The meeting recorded our thanks to Tony for his service.

We are pleased to advise that a new member has recently joined the committee, Mark Rickards, who lives on Buckingham Street. If there are other members who are interested in serving on the committee please ask one of us about joining.

With regret it is noted that Hilda Coleman, a former committee member, died this year. The committee is grateful for her contributions.

* 1. Membership update

We now have 92 members and hope to gain a few more from the new development. We have an email mailing list, please let Frances know if you are not receiving our periodic emails. The Association’s new website ([www.bhrassoc.org](http://www.bhrassoc.org)) went live this year, thanks to Christine’s hard work.

* 1. Activities

The association organised two community cleanup events during the year. The next is scheduled for 7 December and the usual event materials and bulk uplifts have been requested from the Council by Frances. There are three collection points, at the north end of Buckingham Street, at Ruskin Place and at the Viewpoint. Frances reported that we can request bulk refuse uplifts again at other times which are collected very promptly and which we will consider making use of where appropriate.

* 1. Hillhead Community Council

Frances, Tony and John have attended meetings of Hillhead Community Council on behalf of the association this year. Tony explained that HCC is useful for amplifying our views to the Council. There are normally two councillors present at meetings, usually one SNP and one Green party. HCC reports what it’s working on and receives responses from Council departments, and where relevant this will be put on the association’s website.

There have been presentations from the Council on plans for refuse handling, utilities, green spaces, the Byres Road improvement project, etc. and periodic reports from the community Police team.

HCC is a statutory consultee for planning and licensing and as such is useful for making representations on the Barratt development and adds weight to them, for example in relation to the relocation of the new electricity substation. So far we have been less successful in relation to the turning spaces constructed on Hamilton Drive, the Council concede that these are a mistake and there was no formal approval of the changes but they do not appear keen to press Barratt to remedy them. We have made representations in relation to refuse collection which have been successful in part, for example a better regime in Hamilton Drive Lane.

Some local students delivered a presentation on disused rail stations including the former Botanics station. They suggested it could perhaps be used as a restaurant and asked for other suggestion. Tony suggested transport use again, perhaps for trams; other suggestions included a homeless shelter and a cycle route.

The Otago Lane development within the HCC area has seen numerous planning applications. Permission for construction of houses was granted five years ago subject to difficult conditions. New owners of the development site say they didn’t know it was so difficult and applied for new permission. They now have permission to remove the pavement and turn the roadway into a shared surface, the idea being to stop parking on the pavement.

Future Traffic Regulation Orders which are going to be advertised are discussed at HCC. On Byres Road there are to be changes to parking, waiting and loading to match the improvements, including narrowing the carriageway with one lane each way, wider footpaths, a separate cycle lane and raised areas to calm traffic. A 20MPH limit is to apply to Byres Road, University Avenue and Highburgh Road to Hyndland Street. A new parking scheme is to be introduced in Hillhead like ours with shared parking bays. It is to be part of the same “W3 area” lying to the west of Byres Road but there is some suggestion that our “Belmont” zone might form part of the Hillhead zone. The new Hamilton Gardens is to be incorporated into the “Belmont” parking zone. A new North Kelvin parking scheme is also to form part of the “W3 area” and include a one-way system so that it is not possible to drive through it from Great Western Road to Maryhill Road, which Frances observed will put more pressure on Belmont Lane as a “rat run”. Kersland Lane is to be adopted, subject to the residents raising £9,000 to bring it up to adoptable standard. Following a recent fatal motorcycle crash at the junction of Clouston Street and Queen Margaret Drive a proposal for a cycle lane is to be looked at again.

The proposal for a Great Western Road business improvement district is ongoing.

The refuse collection timetables on the Council website are wrong, they report that they will be corrected by the end of November. The timetables are now on an 8-day rota for green bins and 15 or 16 days for blue bins.

Ruskin Place yellow lines still need to be repainted which has been reported again.

The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, the last one was in November with no meeting in December so the next one is in January. Frances explained that the association would like someone to join as the HCC representative, as the current committee members cannot commit to attending every month.

* 1. Refuse collection

As noted in previous minutes the Council have recently introduced new larger black metal street bins in the area in the last 7-10 days. These are larger than older bins, easier to empty and don’t require bags as they enclose a standard wheelie bin, and incorporate sensors to alert the Council when they are full. One had been placed on the pavement to the west of the bollards on Hamilton Drive but removed by the Council soon afterwards. It was hoped that an alternative location could be found for it near there, perhaps near the communal gardens at the foot of 35-51 Hamilton Drive or near the staircase leading down to Hamilton Gardens. Another bin has been located on Hamilton Park Avenue near the entrance to the Viewpoint.

Generally there remained an issue with domestic waste collection. It was reported that grey food waste bins are being used as general bins by some users. The large number of recycling bins at the Queen Margaret Drive end of the association’s area are filling up within two days of collections and not being emptied frequently enough. It was suggested that there should be notes on the recycling bins explaining in more detail what materials can and cannot be recycled.

* 1. Turning Spaces on Hamilton Drive

It was noted that the new turning areas on either side of the bollards on Hamilton Drive following the completion of the Barratt development remain inadequate for their intended use, particularly by delivery vans. Vans are unable to turn and reverse along the length of the street at high speed which is a safety hazard. Tony Hughes continues to liaise with the Council about this and potential steps to remedy the issue.

* 1. Traffic

The use of streets as short-cuts by through traffic continues to affect the area, particularly the terraces and Ruskin Lane. It was pointed out that access-only signage is obscured by bushes and is too high, and should be made more visible. It was also suggested that the raised areas of roadway in Ruskin Lane, which were reduced in height following the recent resurfacing work, should be improved.

1. Treasurer’s Report

Joanna presented the Statement of Accounts for the period October 2018 to November 2019. The main expenditure had been outlays in connection with setting up the Association’s website, and room hire for the AGM and EGM. Many expenses in relation to events, meetings and office costs had been met by individual members. An increased cash balance was carried forward.

1. AOCB

* A query was raised from the floor in relation to potential fundraising activities for the Viewpoint Garden. It was agreed that once the Association has a formalised occupancy agreement this will be looked at, and various potential sources of funding were discussed.
* A resident from the north-west side of Hamilton Drive noted concerns in relation to the proposed restaurant and function development by G1 Group at the Macintosh Building adjacent to their properties, and the potential for noise nuisance if it is used as a venue for events such as wedding receptions. Apparently one of the committee members spoke in favour of the grant of an alcohol licence at the licensing board meeting in order to facilitate the restoration of the building, it was noted that this was not a formal representation on behalf of the association.
* The residents at the western side of Hamilton Drive experienced significant noise nuisance from the recent GlasGlow event with loud music every night from the Kibble Palace, said to amount to 92 hours of looped music. They had complained to Environmental Health.
* A point was raised about dumping of rubbish in Ruskin Lane. Photographs of flytipping are being published on a @ruskinlane Twitter account. Bulk refuse uplifts are apparently taking up to a month to be carried out.
* It was queried whether brown waste bins for garden rubbish could be provided by the Council. Apparently the Council says no-one has requested these, but they are available (for example houses in Kelvindale have them).
* Blue bins in Ruskin Lane at the Hamilton Park Avenue end are in practice shared by flat owners, but one of the residents believes these are also being used by a new café on Gt Western Road to dispose of cardboard, which is filling up the bins. These bins are of course for residential use only and use by businesses should be reported to the Council.
* Residents from Ruskin Terrace raised an issue about inadequate street lighting around Ruskin Place. It is too dark at night, and intimidating for pedestrians as groups of young people are congregating in unlit closes. Tony thought that the issue was possibly connected to the new LED street lighting on Gt Western Road which is more directional than the previous types, so perhaps new lights are now required in the lane. This can be raised at the Community Council. Tony noting that there is also an issue with some of the new LED streetlights shining into houses on smaller streets as the Council seems to use the same type of lamp in every location.
* A resident raised a concern about broken tree branches overhanging cars on Ruskin Terrace. Frances will try to sort out the tree survey with the Council. The resident was unsure whether the areas of grass and trees on the terraces are private and the proprietors’ responsibility or whether they are owned and/or maintained by the Council. Frances also observed that there are issues with hedges overhanging pavements too much in some areas, such as a beech hedge on Buckingham Street, and that a pedestrian with a buggy should be able to pass along the pavement.
* One member, Linda O’Neill, expressed an interest in joining the committee and she was encouraged to do so and invited to attend the next committee meeting.
* Closing remarks – the convener thanked those present for their attendance and requested that they join the association if not already members and also encourage other households to join. Those present were also asked what they would like to see the association do in future and to suggest potential events. The next neighbourhood clean-up is scheduled for 7 December, Frances is liaising with the Council in relation to provision of materials and arranging refuse uplifts. Details on the Association’s website: <https://www.bhrassoc.org/>