

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held via MS Teams on 25 October 2021

Chair:

Councillor Eileen Logan

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson (*substitute for Councillor Maureen Chalmers*), Councillor Gerry Convery (*substitute for Councillor Graham Scott*), Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Lynne Nailon

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Jackie Burns (Chair), Councillor Maureen Chalmers, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Graham Scott

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

S Laird, Engineering Manager; A Martucci, Parking Unit Team Leader

Finance and Corporate Resources

C Lyon, Administration Officer; G McCann, Head of Administration and Legal Services; L Wyllie, Administration Assistant

Appointment of Chair

In terms of Standing Order No 32(b), Councillor Logan was appointed Chair for this meeting.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Petitions Committee held on 25 August 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record. However, as there was only one member present who was in attendance at the previous meeting and approval required a mover and seconder, it was agreed that the minutes be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided:

that, as there was only one member present who was in attendance at the previous meeting, the minutes be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for approval as a correct record.

3 Petition Requesting Resident Only Parking in McNeil Street, Larkhall

A report dated 5 October 2021 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on a petition lodged by Y Johnston (Lead Petitioner) requesting resident only parking in McNeil Street, Larkhall.

The Petition had been assessed and met the criteria for being considered by this Committee.

Comments had been received from Roads and Transportation Services and were highlighted in the report. Comments from the Lead Petitioner, who was present at the meeting, were also detailed in the report.

In support of the petition, the Lead Petitioner made reference to the following :-

- ◆ there were many common issues in relation to parking around community facilities and those residents who had stayed in McNeil Street, Larkhall for 40 years had been complaining for a number of years
- ◆ there had been issues with parking at certain points in McNeil Street before the railway was re-opened
- ◆ residents considered that the Council had taken into account the parking needs of commuters and parking areas to serve local business, however, had not taken into account the parking needs of residents
- ◆ residents did not expect to park outside their homes, however, they did expect to park within a reasonable distance
- ◆ the car park next to the railway station was never full, however, people still chose to park in McNeil Street
- ◆ many elderly residents in the street had chosen to purchase a house in the area as it was local to the community and its facilities
- ◆ many drivers who chose to park in McNeil Street arrived at 7.00am and did not return until 10.00pm
- ◆ recent works in McNeil Street had taken 3 days to complete due to drivers removing cones which had been placed there to restrict parking
- ◆ the volume of parked vehicles in McNeil Street which did not belong to residents
- ◆ an awareness that a review of parking was due to be carried out in 18 months, however, residents considered that they had waited long enough and were not being listened to
- ◆ having resident only parking in McNeil Street would not move the issue to another area as no other street was closer to the train station

Officials from Roads and Transportation Services advised that:-

- ◆ the current restrictions had been reviewed as part of the Streetscape works which dated back to around 2006
- ◆ McNeil Street was currently 'no waiting and no loading at any time' on the south side from the cross at Union Street to the other side of the railway bridge. On the north side, restrictions were in place for some of that length and there was on street parking available where the residential properties were situated
- ◆ the usage of the park and ride facility had been monitored for a considerable length of time and, prior to Covid-19, the car park was two thirds to three quarters full
- ◆ on street parking was available on Caledonian Road and the Service was conscious that other parts of the town were potentially also being used for town centre parking or commuting
- ◆ since lockdown, usage of public transport had reduced and the Service had undertaken a review of the park and ride facilities across South Lanarkshire. The park and ride facility at Larkhall was only 30% full during September 2021 which showed a reduction in both usage and commuting
- ◆ the Economic Development Team had completed a town centre strategy last year which involved community engagement with numerous bodies and all residents had the opportunity to comment. Some of the themes arising from the consultation referred to car parking within the town centre and commuter parking
- ◆ parking in the wider town centre area would be subject to a review over the next 18 months
- ◆ McNeil Street could not be considered in isolation for residents only parking, as a wider area required to be considered to ensure that the problem was not just moved to another area

- ◆ other restrictions might be requested or required as part of the wider town centre review and a traffic regulation order for McNeil Street could have a knock on effect for other areas, therefore, it was considered that this be part of a wider review
- ◆ consultation for any traffic order was open to the public and generally the process could take from 6 to 9 months to complete or longer if objections were received

The Committee decided:

that, as the request for residents only parking in McNeil Street, Larkhall and the issues raised merited further action, it be referred to the meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 7 December 2021 with the recommendation that the process to implement residents only parking in McNeill Street, Larkhall be commenced.

Councillor Anderson joined the meeting during this item of business

4 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.