

# Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 3rd October, 2006 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

**Present:** Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice-Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Andrew Cross; Richard Hinton, Buckstone Association; Sheena Robertson; Daphne Sleight; Councillor Elaine Aitken; Pc Graham Harvey; Inspector Alan Grant; D Allen; Mike Brunsdon; Sheila Bulmer; Ian Elfick; Dot Logan; R Henderson; Norman McKenzie; Jennifer Munro; Audrey Ryan; Fiona Sim.

**Apologies:** Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Johanna Carrie; Councillor Jason Rust

Louise Maguire acted as Chair until the arrival of Dennis Williams during the Police Report.

## 1. Police Report

PC Harvey reported for the month of September. There were six vandalisms, 4 of which were house windows and the remaining 2 related to vehicles. There had also been a theft of a pedal cycle and a motor scooter, theft slip in for car keys and theft of vehicle number plates all on the Buckstone estate. There had also been a theft from a motor vehicle involving a Sat Nav system. The dwelling-house part of the Fairmile Inn had been broken into and an attempt had been made to break into Costcutters in Biggar Road. 2 assaults had been reported while 12 recorded crimes including drug offences, breach of the peace, possession of offensive weapon and other anti-social incidents which had been solved.

At future meetings he will also supply vehicular accident figures for the month.

The Buckstone estate had been busy with youths mainly from off the estate who had been committing assaults and other anti-social behaviour.

Inspector Alan Grant, Sector Inspector, Oxfgangs Police Station then addressed the meeting on "The Stand Up Together Campaign".

The campaign was a crime reduction strategy and was the idea of the Chief Inspector Hawkins who is based at Wester Hailes Police Station. There was not a lot of major crime in the area although there had been a recent robbery at Colinton Post Office but the culprit had been apprehended. 39% of all crime is vandalism and 50% was dishonesty but mainly of a minor nature. There was a need for support of the community and partners in the community. There were officers dedicated to high volume, low value crimes and vandalism. The general solvency rate was 40 per cent and rate for vandalism was 11%.

The Chief Inspector was at the forefront of using IT and there were several strands to the strategy. One was the neighbourhood watch scheme; another was a PITO (Police Information Technology Organisation) portal using Public Message Broadcast by phone, e-mail or text messaging. There is also Crime Stoppers. All initiatives needed the support of the community.

The Inspector also expanded on extra resources that were being provided at peak-times in the Buckstone area to overcome the problems mentioned by PC Harvey. Service to the community is critical.

A question was raised regarding Halloween and fireworks - Inspector Sue Wilson was dealing with this and informing local shops regarding the selling of eggs.

Regarding Neighbourhood Watch signs these was the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Watches but funds may be available from local crime partnerships.

## **2. Minute Of Meeting Held On 5 September And Matters Arising.**

Richard Hinton pointed out that the wooden sign in Item 3 of the previous minute was in relation to the Knoll and not the play park. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September were then approved on the motion of Andrew Cross and seconded by Alison Elfick.

## **3. Correspondence**

- 1) E-mail from Eileen Hewitt CEC - Questionnaire Training Opportunities for Community Councils – circulated by e-mail.
- 2) Association of Scottish Community Councils – AGM 14 October in Stirling.
- 3) Edinburgh Partnership – Local Community Planning Event 12 October Easter Road Stadium.
- 4) Pentlands Local Development Committee - Notice of meeting and agenda for 20 September, St Fillans.
- 5) Receipt from Planning Aid for Scotland regarding subscriptions (Passed to Treasurer)
- 6) Lumison – Annual invoice for web hosting (Passed to Treasurer)
- 7) Fairmilehead Parish Church - Hall let and Invoice (Passed to Treasurer)
- 8) Scottish Water – Network re-zoning in Edinburgh.
- 9) Elaine Hewitt CEC - Edinburgh Association of Community Councils annual meeting 28 October, City Chambers.
- 10) September edition of Working Capital, the joined up for jobs magazine.
- 11) SW Edinburgh Community Learning & Development - Training courses for community groups. Circulated by e-mail.
- 12) CEC - Licensing Board Liquor licence renewal applications for October Board.
- 13) Letter to Scottish Water re overgrown hedge at Buckstone Terrace.
- 14) Waterwatch Scotland - Complaints handling and customer representation information.
- 15) E-mail from Mhairi Threlfall re Fairmilehead Park (Passed to Louise Maguire)

## **4. Councillors Reports**

Councillor Aitken mentioned the Community Learning & Development courses mentioned above. The recent LDC Meeting at St Fillan's had had one of its youngest questioners when the matter of the pedestrian crossing in Buckstone Terrace was raised.

197 residents in the Grove and Crescent had had their gas supply cut off from 4:30pm that day due to problems found when undertaking the pipe replacement programme. Temporary traffic lights were being erected in the Crescent but there would be access to

driveways etc for residents. Andrew Cross pointed out that cars were going through the lights at a red. PC Harvey said he would monitor.

70 people had attended the Scottish Water Information Day and representatives were coming to our meeting on 7th November and the consultation was being extended by 14 days. The ownership of the "Water Board" field was in doubt as it may belong to the Education Department. Richard Hinton confirmed that the Buckstone Association had transferred ownership of field to the Education Department and it was to be kept for community use. She had information packs available in her car for anybody who wished one.

Norman McKenzie enquired whether there were any tree preservation orders on the water board site. It was thought not.

Regarding the parking in Buckstone Hill there were problems but it was all legal although some of it was opposite driveways. Once the roadworks in Swanston Avenue are complete a parking audit will be undertaken.

The 18 bus had been cut yet again and it was difficult for people to get to Gracemount leisure centre and ERI. She had attended the recent Open Day at Marie Curie and the 18 bus was used by staff and the patients but they found it difficult to attend due to the infrequency of the service. She was going to pursue the matter as a social issue.

The Monday youth club had had a registration evening and was full.

Report from Councillor Jason Rust:

In the absence of Councillor Rust on holiday the Secretary of read a brief report that had been e-mailed to him.

"I am pleased to report that I was correct in that no planning permission has yet been granted for the Swanston Golf Club site. Variations have been made to the application and generally the officials appear to be favourable towards permission being granted, but as yet no permission has been granted. The works have commenced effectively at the McClungs own risk and are in advance of the permission.

I have followed up regarding the CCTV issue and I am aware that Louise asked similar questions regarding the right of way next to Pentlands Primary at the Pentlands Local Committee.

The No. 18 bus service has been cut back further and I am arranging a further meeting with Lothian Buses and also with the NHS Trust.

Overhanging bushes in Swanston Road are to be looked at by the Council."

The Secretary stated that at the recent LDC he had raised a question regarding the criteria for CCTV cameras and was awaiting an answer. He gave the Chairman a copy of the letter received from the council regarding the criteria and the Chairman was going to follow this up. It was felt that there was insufficient justification for them in the local area but that they may be usual around Oxfords shopping areas.

## **5. Planning and Environment**

Louise Maguire said there had been nothing on the recent weekly planning lists.

She had checked with Craig Dunlop and bluebells were awaited for planting in Fairmilehead Park and the area was being strimmed.

## **6. Transport Sub-Committee**

The Secretary reported that he had submitted a FOI request for the results of any surveys of the heights of the speed bumps on the Buckstone Estate and was awaiting the information. Some of the speed cushions had already been lowered.

## **7. AOCB**

Louise Maguire on behalf of Joanna Carrie mentioned that the Fairmilehead Directory was being delivered to more homes in the area.

Sheila Bulmer commented that there were no dropped kerbs in Frogston Road West and inquired about the pedestrian crossing there. She also commented on the various speed limits on Frogston Road.

Louise Maguire mentioned that a NHS Young People's Consultation was being held at Oxfords Community Centre on 11 October at 10am.

Norman Tinlin informed the meeting that he was a Community representative on the Core Group for the NHS Lothian Public Partnership Forum.

He also said that our December meeting would be followed by cheese and wine and a Ranger from Pentlands Regional Park was attending our January meeting. He was also trying to arrange a speaker from the Council to come along to a meeting early next year to explain the new voting system.

It was agreed to invite representatives from Firhill CC and Colinton Amenity Association to our along to a December meeting.

## **8. Date Of Next Meeting**

This was arranged for 7 November 2006 in the Caiystane Room, Fairmilehead parish Church.

### **Contacts:**

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