

FAIRMILEHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 7 March 2006 at 7.00 pm in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls, Frogston Road West, Edinburgh

1. Attendance And Apologies

Present: Dennis Williams, Chair; Louise Maguire, Vice Chair; Sheena Robertson, Secretary; Alison Elfick, Treasurer; Catherine Macpherson; Norman Tinlin; Johanna Carrie; Norman McKenzie; Bruce Beveridge; Joyce Beveridge; Sandy Macpherson; Audrey Ryan; Moira Vanbeck; Andrew Cross; Hatsui Hayashi; Mave Kilgallen; Carol Balantze; Jennifer McNally; Alison Patton; Ian Elfick; PC Graham Harvey and Cllr Mrs Elaine Aitken. Cllr Jason Rust and Steve Di Ponio (Part-time)

Apologies: Daphne Sleight; Sheila Bulmer; Margaret Walker; Mike Brunson, Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association) and Nigel Griffiths MP.

2. Planning Application For Swanston Golf Club

Cllr Jason Rust displayed the plans for a new clubhouse at Swanston Golf Club. After some discussion it was agreed that the Community Council did not intend to submit any objections to the planning application. Cllr Rust said that he would put a note around the residents of Swanston Village and that he had not had any adverse comments so far. The farmer has applied for a change of land use from agricultural to leisure which was thought to be an improvement. Some concern was expressed that there is no footpath on Swanston Road after the bridge which, with the increased traffic and development of the Club, could become a safety issue. The Community Council agreed it would support any measures to secure a pavement with lighting for the safety of walkers on that road.

3. Steve Di Ponio, Master Composter, Volunteer,

gave a talk on composting household and garden waste. He spoke about the best ways to achieve good, friable compost and gave many tips on how to use natural materials to enhance the soil. Dennis Williams thanked him for coming along.

4. Reports from Community Beat Officer

Graham Harvey PC reported that there had been a small number of incidents of vandalism to property and cars and an attempted housebreaking. He warned residents to be alert to bogus workmen and to check the identity of any unexpected caller who comes to the door before letting them into the house. The person who tried to "skim" the ATM machine at the bank at Fairmilehead had been caught on CCTV.

He had attended the Buckstone Residents Association meeting and spoken about the "Drug Awareness" event. Cllr Aitken said she planned to include it in her next Newsletter and an evening would be organised with the police if there is sufficient interest. It will be publicised on the FCC Notice Board and the website.

In response to a question about whether the traffic calming measures in the estate had actually decreased the speed of vehicles it was agreed that it was difficult to say as few speed measurements had been taken before and none since their implementation. There is anecdotal evidence that traffic has slowed down in the vicinity of the school. Louise Maguire spoke about the trick used by thieves who attach a paper on the rear window of the car and when the driver stops the car to examine it, the thief jumps into the car and drives it away.

5. Minute Of The Meeting Held On Tuesday 7 February And Matters Arising

The Secretary had been advised of two errors prior to the meeting under Matters arising Item 1), second paragraph which should read, "McKenzie" and Caiystaine "Crescent". The Minute having been circulated, and with the corrections, was signed by the Chairman as a correct record. Proposed by Andrew Cross and seconded by Norman McKenzie.

Matters arising

- 1) The Family Fun Night run by the Buckstone Youth Project had raised £333. The Secretary will contact Margaret Walker to congratulate her and the young people on their efforts.
- 2) The gas mains replacement programme was on schedule and the work on Buckstone Terrace should be completed by the end of the week. Cllr Aitken said she had spoken to the Contractor about the sign which made it difficult for traffic to exit Buckstone Road. It had been moved.
- 3) The Scottish Executive Questionnaire for the discussion paper on community councils had been completed and submitted.
- 4) Chris Lewis, Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Green Belt Trust, has agreed to give a talk on their current projects at the April meeting of FCC. Morningside CC had been invited. Cllr Rust said he would be speaking to Colinton Amenity Association and would ask them to come along. The Secretary will invite Liberton CC.
- 5) The Certificate of Thanks had been framed and Catherine Macpherson will give it to the Church Officer.
- 6) The Secretary has spoken to the Supervisor at St Fillans Playgroup and asked her to alert the parents to be vigilant when parking in Buckstone Drive as some drivers' attention may be concentrated on negotiating the cushions on the road.
- 7) The Church does not have a loop system. It was suggested by Dennis Williams, Chair that FCC should apply for a grant to the LDC for a loop system which could be used by the Church.

6. Correspondence

- 1) Invitation to Morningside CC to attend April meeting of FCC
- 2) The Edinburgh Green Belt Trust – *to invite speaker*
- 3) Nigel Griffiths MP re B & Q awards – *to be investigated*
- 4) ASSC Newsletter
- 5) Planning Application granted. *Secretary to write re lack of communication*
- 6) Playground Equipment – *Give to Richard Hinton Buckstone Association*
- 7) National Concessionary Travel Scheme leaflets - *Notice Board*
- 8) Council Tax Payment Cards – *Notice Board*
- 9) EACC Open Meeting March 11 at 10-12.30 Royal Overseas League
- 10) Gardening Competition leaflet – *Louise Maguire*
- 11) Scottish Executive Planning Advice on Community Engagement
- 12) Review of Affordable Housing Policy – *comments by 24 March*
- 13) Information on book entitled *Common Good Law*
- 14) FCC response to Scottish Executive paper on Community Councils
- 15) Hermitage Golf Club – *send info to Margaret Walker*
- 16) Nigel Griffiths MP – *apologies*
- 17) Edinburgh Standards for sustainable buildings – *comments by 31 March*
- 18) Scottish Executive acknowledgement for Questionnaire
- 19) Edinburgh Cine and Video Society – *email given to Cllr Aitken*

7. Councillor's Reports

Cllr Mrs Elaine Aitken reported

- 1) She had attended the meeting of Buckstone Association and several people had expressed an interest in a Drug Awareness event.
- 2) The street light in Buckstone Grove had been repaired.
- 3) The plans for a car park at Lothianburn Golf Club had been granted subject to conditions as it is a potential archaeological site and surveys will be done before any work can proceed. Secretary to write to Head of Planning and Strategy for an explanation why FCC, as a statutory consultee, had not been advised that the report was going to the Planning Committee nor of the Committee decision.
- 4) There had been changes to internal features of Pentland Primary School which should be approved at Committee next week.
- 5) Plans for Currie Primary School were going to the Scottish Executive.
- 6) The new draft City of Edinburgh Plan does not include land at Winton.
- 7) James Hunter had been asked to provide the information about the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park "Open Day", so that consideration can be given to having one in Fairmile/Camus Park. Additional bulbs are going to be available for planting.

- 8) A deputation from Buckstone Primary School had been to the Council to highlight the need for urgent maintenance and repair to the school playground.
- 9) A motion had gone before the Full Council asking for a report on what could be done to minimise damage to cars and pain suffered by passengers caused by the traffic calming measures. It will include the cushions in Buckstone Estate. A member of the public asked how many complaints there had been about the humps and cushions. She said she was not happy about the height of the cushions which caught the underside of the car when it was loaded with her family.
- 10) In response to a question she confirmed that the pedestrian crossing will be installed on Buckstone Terrace within the financial year 2005/2006.
- 11) City Development had been asked to reconsider the traffic speed on Buckstone Terrace and reduce it to 30 mph speed limit.
- 12) Norman McKenzie asked about the wall at the corner of Buckstone Terrace and Buckstone Gardens. He said that the neighbours wanted to have it repaired. The Newsagent was willing to collect contributions and Norman McKenzie asked if permission would be needed to do this. Cllr Elaine Aitken said that she had been trying to have a search arranged to ascertain which properties had a responsibility for the maintenance of the common land previously managed by the now defunct Buckstone Housing Association. The Council would only become involved if the wall was a safety hazard and it had to serve a statutory enforcement order.
- 13) The banner on Pentland Terrace advertising the Buckstone Nursery had been reported.

8. Planning and Environment Sub Committee

Louise Maguire said that everything had already been discussed.

Johanna Carrie said that the re-cycling theme for April will be Spring Cleaning – encouraging everyone to dispose of their ink cartridges safely.

9. Transport Sub Committee

Norman Tinlin said that several people who attended the Buckstone Association meeting had said that they supported the traffic calming measures when they were first discussed but were now disappointed that the whole Estate had been so heavily affected. The cushions were a source of worry to drivers and passengers. Due to illness a holding letter had been sent to City Development and a fuller objection will now be submitted.

Dennis Williams thanked Norman Tinlin, Andrew Cross and Mike Brunsdon for taking the time to examine and measure the cushions on behalf of FCC. He said that the main concern now was to find out what the Council was going to do to minimise the damage to cars.

10. AOCB

Norman McKenzie said the recycling of household paper, cardboard etc. now meant that the green bin was only half full and he wondered if the Council might reduce the frequency of the uplift cycle, however, other people didn't want to see any change at the present time.

Alison Elfick drew attention to the refurbishment of the water cistern building near Swanston Village which had been done by Mr Alistair McClung. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to him on behalf of Fairmilehead Community Council to thank him for undertaking the work and he should be invited to a future meeting to give a presentation on plans for the whole area.

Sheena Robertson, Secretary drew attention to the forthcoming Triennial Community Council elections. FCC can have a maximum of 10 elected representatives and five nominated representatives. There are currently five elected representatives and one nominated representative. Those present were asked to consider putting their name forward. Nomination Forms will be available at the FCC meeting on 4 April and elections will be held in May for all Edinburgh Community Councils.

11. Date Of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 April at 7.00 pm in the Caiystane Room, Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls, Frogston Road West.