

FAIRMILEHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2006 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; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Norman Tinlin; Bruce Beveridge; Joyce Beveridge; PC Graham Harvey; Cllr Elaine Aitken; Cllr Jason Rust; Margaret Walker; Sheila Bulmer; Andrew Cross; Sandy Macpherson and Mike Brunsdon.

Part-time: Paul McCloskey and Brenda Webster

Apologies: Johanna Carrie and David McLetchie MSP

2. Reports from Community Beat Officer

PC Graham Harvey summarised the incidents for the month of December and said that there had been no domestic or commercial breakings. The number of incidents of motor vehicle damage, vandalism and assaults had been one of the lowest in the City. He was planning to work with pupils at Boroughmuir High School as part of a Pupil Support group and would be patrolling in the vicinity of Buckstone Primary School to help eliminate parking problems for residents.

Dennis Williams, Chair, asked if Sgt Sue Wilson, of Oxfords Police Station, could come along to one of the FCC public meetings.

Sandy Macpherson expressed concern about the cars parked in Swanston Avenue very close to Biggar Road which made it very dangerous for cars turning left. Cllr Mrs Elaine Aitken said she had raised this issue with City Development Department.

3. Mobile Library Timetable Consultation

Dennis Williams introduced Paul McCloskey who spoke about the services provided by the Libraries and Information Services of the City of Edinburgh Council. He invited those present to give their views and suggestions of where the mobile library might be usefully parked in the Fairmilehead area to allow those people who are unable to visit the Library at Oxfords to get regular book borrowing for children, young people and adults. The service includes music CDs, books on tape, large print books, and a request and information service with access to all Edinburgh City Libraries and Information Services lending stock.

There was a lively discussion and it was agreed that there is a need to promote the mobile service, spread out the stops, make them shorter and increase their number. Several suggestions for stops were made and Paul said he would come back to a future FCC meeting once a general plan had been developed. Three new vehicles with easier access and better parking options could be available by the autumn. FCC would be very willing to help advertise the mobile library service when the new timetable is available.

4. Minute of 6 December 2005 and Matters Arising

Amendments were made to two points under Councillor's Reports. Item (d) was changed to read "30 mph" and Item (j) was amended to read, "It was suggested that Norman Tinlin should accompany "...

The Minute having been circulated, and with the above amendments was agreed as a correct record: proposed by Louise Maguire and seconded by Dennis Williams.

Matters Arising

1 Dennis Williams drew attention to the article in the Evening News the previous day in which he had said that Scotland Gas Networks had responded quickly to his request for a programme of replacement. He suggested that FCC invite a Senior Officer to a meeting to allow the residents to ask questions in person. The Secretary will contact SGN and liaise with Cllr Elaine Aitken.

2 Norman Tinlin gave an update on the planning re-application from Lothianburn Golf Club for a Car Park. He said there had been responses from Pentlands Regional Park, the Council's Landscaping section and Planning had detailed certain conditions, including the erection of a wall or fence.

A resident of Fairmilehead had written to FCC saying it was now more dangerous to cross the road. The number of accidents will be ascertained under the Freedom of Information Act.

Cllr Aitken said the report had not yet been issued and the decision will be taken by the Council's Planning Committee.

3 Sheena Robertson said she had discussed Norman Tinlin's query about the Fairmilehead CC boundaries with Eileen Hewitt. She was informed that the decision had been taken at the 15 December meeting of the Council, that the multi-member wards which will come into place at the Local Government elections in 2007 would be based on the Scottish Executive ward boundaries and "will create coterminosity". There was no proposal to change the boundary for Fairmilehead, which will join Firrhill, Colinton and Juniper Green to make the proposed Ward of Colinton and Fairmilehead.

5. Correspondence

- 1) FCC letter to Head of Planning and Strategy re: 05/03897/FUL 106a Biggar Road
- 2) Lothianburn Golf Club responding to FCC objections
- 3) a) CEC Parking Strategy Review
b) Consultation Questionnaire due 27 January 2006
- 4) Colinton Amenity Association Newsletter Winter 2005
- 5) Community Information Bulletin December 2005
- 6) CC Newsletter December 2005
- 7) Scottish Water Winter Warm Campaign
- 8) Nigel Griffiths – Hilary Benn MP speaking in Edinburgh on 13 January 2006

- 9) Consultation paper on Planning and HMOs
- 10) Scottish Health Council News
- 11) FCC letter to John Morea Scotia Gas Networks Company
- 12) Review of CC Scheme
- 13) Calendars from Elisabeth Attwood MSP
- 14) Response to Joan Walker
- 15) Information on eConsult
- 16) Letwise Training for Private Landlords
- 17) EACC – Open Meeting 28 January 10-12 pm City Chambers
- 18) Pentlands LDC Wednesday 25 January Currie High School
- 19) Reply from Scotia Gas Networks – *Request speaker for February FCC public meeting and liaison with Cllr Aitken.*

6. Councillor's Report

Councillor Mrs Elaine Aitken reported

- a) Icy conditions in early January had contributed to a series of car bumps on Riselaw Crescent where the road surface had not been gritted. She has taken this up with Euan Kennedy, City Development Department.
- b) The AIP Scheme at Pentland View is going ahead. The TRO has been advertised and a start date is awaited.
- c) Residents have complained to her about the apparent inconsistencies in the granting of Planning Applications by the Planning Department and she is looking into this.
- d) She has written to Andrew Holmes, Director of City Development asking for a site visit with Keith Rimmer, Head of Transport, and that further consideration is given to reducing the speed limit on Buckstone Terrace to 30 mph.
- e) In response to complaints about the height, angle of the sides and position of the speed reducing cushions in the Buckstone Estate she said that six of them which were too high had been replaced. In response to Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association), who expressed his view that certain bumps in the Crescent, Road and Drive were “positively dangerous”, she said she will arrange a site visit with Caroline Burwell. Again, the meeting suggested that Norman Tinlin and Andrew Cross should make a thorough examination of the cushions and humps.
- f) The land on the island at Buckstone Court has been adopted by the Buckstone Association.
- g) In response to a question from Norman Tinlin, she said she had not heard anymore about the proposed right turn at Fairmilehead crossroads.

7. Planning and Environment Sub Committee

Louise Maguire reported that the footpath repairs had been done between Oxgangs Road and Caiystane Drive.

Suggestions for re-cycling Christmas cards, prepared by Johanna Carrie, were distributed. A copy to be put on the FCC Notice Board.

Sandy Macpherson drew attention to a proposal for houses on the south-side of Frogston Road West. It was agreed that FCC would give support to Liberton CC in protecting the Green Belt. Cllr Aitken will find out about this and report back.

8. Transport Sub Committee

Many of the issues had been covered earlier in the meeting. Norman Tinlin said that the Council had put out a new TRO for the work on Buckstone Terrace and he agreed to complete the Parking Review Questionnaire on behalf of FCC – any comments should be passed on to him. He urged residents to complete the Questionnaire, which is on the Council's website, individually.

9. AOCB

Sheila Bulmer enquired about the "old lamp post" on Swanston Avenue near the junction with Biggar Road. She also expressed her concern about inappropriate conifer trees which had been planted in Swanston Village. It was suggested she could check this out with the Pentlands Regional Park Ranger.

In response to a query about the proposed Pelican crossing on Buckstone Terrace, Cllr Aitken said that it will be installed in the next financial year but that further audits will be undertaken.

Dennis Williams referred to the Certificate of Thanks from the Lord Provost and the Leader of the Council in recognition of the work done by the Fairmilehead Community Council. It was suggested that it should be framed and could be hung in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls. Catherine Macpherson will find out from the Church if this would be acceptable.

The Chair said that an Officer from Scotland Gas Networks will be asked to attend the February meeting; a composting expert will give a talk at the March meeting and arrangements will be made for the Edinburgh Green Belt Trust and Pentland Regional Park to attend a meeting later on the year.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 February at 7.00 pm in the Caiystane Room Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls, Frogston Road West.