

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 1 May 2007 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Present: Louise Maguire (Vice-Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillors Elaine Aitken and Jason Rust; Johanna Carrie; Andrew Cross; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; PC Kenny Welsh; Ian Elfick; Dot Logan; Norman McKenzie; Jennifer Munro; Audrey Ryan; Margaret Walker; Inspector Sue Wilson (Part)

Apologies: Dennis Williams (Chair); Joyce & Bruce Beveridge; Messrs McKerrow and MacAskill

Louise Maguire was in the chair for the meeting in the absence of Dennis Williams on business

1. Reports From Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

The Secretary, Norman Tinlin, reported that there had been 10 public meetings with an average attendance of 23 persons. The highest attendance had been at last years AGM when 40 persons had attended at least for part of the time.

Guest speakers had attended 5 of the meetings where the subjects were – Swanston Golf Course development; the new system of policing; Scottish Water and the Edinburgh Drinking Water Project; Pentlands Hills Regional Park and an explanation of the new voting system for the Council Elections.

There had been an average of 17.5 pieces of correspondence per meeting and 7 consultations were discussed and responded to – Scottish Executive Age and Experience; Edinburgh City Local Plan; Edinburgh and Lothians Structure Plan; Vision for Capital Growth; NHS Young Peoples Consultation; Edinburgh Drinking Water Project and NHS Primary Care Strategy.

The Secretary also circulated to the meeting graphs relating to the website. This year there had been an average of 77 first time visitors per month. The average over the 3 years had been 612 first time visitors.

Of the last 100 visitors 97 were from the UK, 2 from Hong Kong and 1 from the USA. 41 people had been referred from the search engine, Google, 6 from the church website, 3 from the City Council website and 1 from another Edinburgh Community Council.

Sheena Robertson read over a brief report that the Chair, Dennis Williams, had left with her. In it he said that it had been another successful year for the Community Council and was due to the support, commitment and work done by the Office Bearers and members, the Community Beat Officers and Councillors Aitken and Rust. He also thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting and wished Councillor Scobbie well in his retirement from the City Council.

The Treasurer, Alison Elfick, distributed copies of the audited accounts and balance sheet a copy of which is attached to the main minute. She reported that the balance in the bank was £1,037.21 as at 1 April 2007. She also highlighted the fact that it appears the hall let had been paid twice in error. She had checked with the church office and this would be corrected this year.

2. Adoption of Accounts

Richard Hinton proposed the adoption of the Accounts, seconded by Andrew Cross and carried unanimously.

3. Appointment of Auditor

Mr Kenneth Miller was re-appointed as Auditor for the next financial year proposed by Alison Elfick and seconded by Louise Maguire.

4. Election of Office Bearers; Chair, Vice Chair; Secretary and Treasurer

Councillor Elaine Aitken assumed the chair during the elections of the Office Bearers and gave them her thanks for their involvement in the community during the previous year.

Office	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair	Dennis Williams	Sheena Robertson	Andrew Cross
Vice-Chair	Louise Maguire	Jennifer Munro	Andrew Cross
Secretary	Norman Tinlin	Cllr Elaine Aitken	Sheena Robertson
Treasurer	Alison Elfick	Norman Tinlin	Louise Maguire

Police Report

The new Community Officer, PC Kenny Welsh, introduced himself and gave some of his background. He has served for 21 years, the first 5 of which were spent at Musselburgh and the remainder in the City. He also introduced Inspector Sue Wilson who was also present.

He gave the Fairmilehead crime figures for the first quarter.

There had been 29 crimes in January of which 17 had been solved. 9 were dishonesty, 6 disorder 3 vandalism and 1 racial which had been solved. In February there had been 21 with 5 solved. The highest category was dishonesty and violence.

In March there were 24 crimes and 14 were solved. 3 girls had been charged with a racial incident on a bus. The other main types were road traffic offences and vandalisms. April saw 22 crimes with 12 solved. The highest categories were dishonesty and vandalism.

Various matters were raised by the attendees such as graffiti on the Buckstone Estate, persons depositing bottles in woods next to Winton Loan, concerns about contacting Force Communications Centre, youths in the area of Buckstone shops and Pentland Drive.

Inspector Wilson re-iterated that it was important to either phone in incidents or e-mail them to PC Welsh so that they can be recorded. She also gave an update on the position of the Inspector at Oxgangs. She was there temporarily covering for Inspector Margaret Lyall who was at present on long term sick.

The contact details are:

Oxgangs Police Station: 441 1518

E-mail: kenneth.welsh@lbp.pnn.police.uk or Oxgangs.cbo@lbp.pnn.police.uk

5. Minute Of Meeting Held On 10 April 2007 And Matters Arising.

Last paragraph page 2 should read John Watson Trust not John Walker Group and 2nd last paragraph on page 3 – instead of leaflet drop replace with “table at local shops”.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2006 were approved on the motion of Ian Elfick and seconded by Andrew Cross.

6. Matters Arising

Norman Tinlin reported that he had no response so far to the enquiry regarding the ANPR cameras at the Buckstone shops. He had sent a reminder as the 20 period under FOI had almost expired.

Richard Hinton reported that the Buckstone Association were investigating the possibility of matching funding to obtain a grant under the community projects scheme for childrens play equipment.

Sheena Robertson gave an update on the Safety Event on Saturday 16 June between 1pm and 4pm in the Buckstone Room. All organisations had been contacted and the next stage was to agree details for the day. Dennis Williams was arranging a brief dance programme by the Bellettes for the children. It was also hoped to have a tombola and the Buckstone Youth Project would attend to the tea and biscuits with the supplies being provided by the Community Council.

They were also looking at avenues for publicity and this would be discussed further at the next sub group meeting.

7. Correspondence

- 1) Receipted account from Viewforth Glazing for new glass in noticeboard - £122.45
(Passed to Treasurer)
- 2) 2 tickets for Show Scotland Gala Evening 4 May 2007
- 3) Tenants Voice newsletter – April edition
- 4) Licensing Department, City of Edinburgh Council – Nominations for Licensing Forum
(Due to timescales Secretary had nominated the chairman. This action was agreed by the meeting)
- 5) Eileen Hewitt, Liaison Officer, CEC – Community Council Joint Meeting, 25 April *(The Vice Chair and Secretary had attended)*
- 6) Brian Torrance, Traffic Control Manager, CEC – Advertisement of proposed 50mph limit on Braid Hills Drive and Speed limit reductions on Frogston Roads East & West and Brae.
- 7) Working Capital magazine – March 2007 edition
- 8) Eileen Hewitt, Liaison Officer, CEC – Keep Edinburgh Growing Garden competition
(Circulated and placed on noticeboard)
- 9) NHS Lothian – Outcome of Consultation on Primary Care Modernisation Strategy
(Report available at http://www.pcms.scot.nhs.uk/pcms_consultation_outcome_newsletter.pdf)
- 10) Nigel Griffiths MP – Nationwide Building Society Awards for Voluntary Endeavour
- 11) Inside Letting Magazine – Spring 2007 edition
- 12) Secretary, Liberton Community Council – Special meeting with Lothian buses, 15 May
- 13) SNP Manifesto for Scottish Parliamentary elections

- 14) E-Mail to Clarence and Police re roadworks at Buckstone Terrace – possible illegal road closures.

8. Councillor's Reports

Councillor Aitken reported on her recent meeting at Oxfords Police Station with Inspector Wilson and PC Welsh. She had highlighted the youth problems in Pentland Drive. There had been complaint about persons turning left from Biggar Road into the Swantsons during the prohibited hours. The situation was going to be monitored.

She was going to walk the route from Swanston, through Caiystane to Pentland school at 8.30am some morning with parents and children. She had also invited Caroline Burwell of Safer Routes to School CEC. She was also investigating the possibility of a light controlled crossing in Biggar Road near to the path through to the Wintons.

Councillor Aitken had been in touch with Bear Scotland regarding the potential loss of parking spaces in Biggar Road near to the golf course. Bear had taken over from Amey for the trunk road maintenance in the area. It had been confirmed that this had only been a study. A further study was to undertaken in the summer. If implemented it would only effect the spaces closest to the roundabout, allegedly because of concerns regarding commuter parking.

A horse with rider had got caught in quicksand in the Pentlands Hills Park and the area had been fenced off as a matter of urgency. She had written to David Fenton, CEC regarding problems with janitorial cover effecting school lets.

Councillor Rust reported that the 18 bus service was being re-instated on Sunday as he was having a confirmation meeting with Bill Campbell, Lothian Buses, Operations Manager. He conveyed the thanks of Colinton Amenity Association for the Community Council's lobbying to have the Association recognised as a valid body to sit on the neighbourhood partnership.

The following points were raised with the Councillors and, where appropriate, answered:
CCTV system for Oxfords Broadway – Sites have been decided but this not in the first tranche which was commencing in July.

Staffing at Community Centres – Being investigated

State of roadway in Buckstone Grove – Now house destroyed in explosion has been re-built this would be followed up.

The equipment for the play park at the roundel in Buckstone Circle was not going ahead at the moment as the Council had informed Richard Hinton that the funds to be used had been exhausted.

Swanston Road did not have a footpath from the bridge to the start of the track up to the golf course. – The Council had refused the farmer permission for use of the strip of land required although he had offered to pay for the necessary work. Councillor Rust was checking ownership of the land.

Alson Elfick said there was a car wash on the A702 opposite Hillend the running of which was causing concern to Damhead CC. It appeared the waste water was running into an adjoining field but the farmer was unconcerned. It was suggested that Damhead CC could be given our support through the Environmental Sub Committee.

9. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire said that there had been nothing of interest in the planning weekly lists. In Fairmilehead Park the double narcissi that had been planted last autumn by Pentland Primary were now in bloom.

10. Transport Sub-Committee

Nothing additional to report.

11. Neighbourhood Partnerships

The Secretary gave further information on the present update to date position and reported back on a City Council and Community Councils joint meeting he had attended with Louise Maguire the previous week. He also read over the response he had received regarding the questions he had raised in particular about the code of conduct. The Secretary also said that he had not yet had a definitive answer from the Standards Commission although he had been informed by them that the code of conduct did not apply to Community Councillors.

The joint meeting had been addressed by Angela Leith (Head of Performance and Community Engagement, CEC) and there had been workshops and a question session. He had raised the question of the code of conduct but had not received definitive answers. He had also said that Community Councillors were already guided by the Guidance Notes. There was unease amongst the Community Councils about their representatives being asked to sign a code of conduct particularly when there was no legal basis. In fact one delegate stated that they would advise their representatives against this unless a legal requirement.

After discussion it was agreed that at present FCC could not ask their nominees to sign the code of conduct nor the Partnership Charter which had yet not even been published.

He also read over the letter from Eileen Hewitt regarding the guidance on the nomination procedure. After discussion Ian Elfick proposed that the Chairman and Secretary be the two nominees from Fairmilehead Community Council. This gave them the flexibility to liaise between themselves how best to represent FCC on the Partnership. This was formally proposed by Richard Hinton and seconded by Johanna Carrie and unanimously agreed.

12. AOCB

Sheena Robertson suggested that the notices at Oxfangs Library and Fairmilehead Church be renewed/updated. The Secretary agreed to do this before the start of next session.

Johanna Carrie mentioned the incidence of litter in the area and asked that people pick up any they see and ask friends to do likewise.

13. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 5 June 2007 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Contacts:

e-mail: Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk
Website: www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk