

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 2 October 2007 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice-Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillor Elaine Aitken; Councillor Eric Barry; Johanna Carrie; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; Councillor Jason Rust; Daphne Sleight; PC Kenny Welsh; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Ian Elfick; Bryan Fisher; A McCutcheon; Norman McKenzie; Jennifer Munro; Audrey Ryan; Fiona Simon; Lindsay Walls; Charles Whytock; and 7 members of the public

In Attendance; Richard Anderson; Neil McCulloch; Kenneth Naylor – All Scottish Water

Apologies: Nigel Griffiths MP; Dr Ian McKee MSP; Colin Manson

1. Scottish Water

Richard Anderson, Senior Project Officer, Scottish Water gave a presentation on the Edinburgh Water Project and answered questions.

He briefly explained the reasons behind the decision to select the Glencorse option. A planning application had been submitted to Midlothian Council and meetings had been held with stakeholders including the local community.

There will require to be a pipeline constructed between Glencorse and Fairmilehead which were possible will go over arable land. Test bore holes will be made along the proposed route starting in October. Pipe diversions may be required in Buckstone Terrace, Frogston Road West and Biggar Road but advance notice will be given. This is not thought to be until 2009.

Notification of works will be given to the community and effected residents in advance and there will be proper re-instatement of roads and working areas although the final route of the pipeline has not yet been ascertained. Any local events that might be affected at the time should be notified to the Project Team.

Fairmilehead water treatment works would still be in operation at least until the end of 2010 and will not be available for other uses until Glencorse is operational. There have been speculative approaches regarding the site already but it is not yet known to what extent the site will be vacated.

It is thought that construction will not start on the new site until summer 2008 depending on the progress of the planning application.

Any persons or staff going round doors in connection with the project would be carrying proper identification.

There was also a website giving details: www.scottishwater.co.uk/edinburghwater. (This can be accessed through Fairmilehead CC website) and the telephone number is: 0845 601 8855.

2. Police Report

Pc Kenny Welsh gave his report for September. There had been 31 crimes and while this was a much higher figure than normal 10 related to the theft of car registration plates in the Swanston area. Some of them were recovered nearby and sent away for examination. Since August there have been 25 plates stolen and the cost of replacement was £15 each.

There were 9 road traffic offences, all solved, 4 assaults and 2 breach of the peace. 5 of these latter crimes related to 2 incidents and were solved. There were 3 break ins to motor vehicles, 2 in Queen Margaret close and 1 at Mortonhall Golf Club. 3 cars had been vandalised. 14 (45%) of the month's crimes had been solved.

Pc Welsh re-iterated Scottish Water's warning regarding bogus workmen and said that genuine workmen would not object to being asked to wait whilst a check was made with their office and that ID should always be asked for. As a result of a question he said that the empty Fairmile Inn had been found with the emergency doors open. He had spoken to the owners and asked for the premises to be boarded up but at present there was still access to the premises. It was suggested that the community safety route may be required.

In answer to another question he said that the Pentland View Support Unit was no cause for concern but there was bit of a problem with the young peoples unit. In response to concerns with dropping off pupils at Pentland Primary Councillor Aitken said she was meeting with Caroline Burwell from CEC and requesting a new audit now that the new school was in full use.

3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 2 October 2007 And Matters Arising.

In line 1, paragraph 6 of the Police Report there should be "their" With that amendment the minutes of the meeting on 2 October 2007 were approved on the motion of Alison Elfick and seconded by Sheena Robertson.

4. Matters Arising

- a) 17 Buckstone Crescent
- b) Pentland Primary School – this two items covered under Councillors' reports.
- c) Parking Buckstone Road and estate – Councillor Aitken said she was arranging for an on-site meeting with the Network Manager. The Secretary stated he would also like to attend to point out the particular problems.
- d) Survey for Association of Scottish Community Councils – The draft completed version previously circulated was approved for submission.

5. Correspondence

- 1) Scottish Water e-letter number 3 – *Circulated and put on FCC website*
- 2) BAA – Notice of temporary change of flight path for Edinburgh Airport – *Placed on noticeboard*
- 3) Planning Aid for Scotland – Questionnaire for Reach Out project
- 4) CEC Children & Families Dept – Draft parental Involvement Strategy – *circulated by e-mail*
- 5) Association of Scottish Communities Council – Papers re AGM 3 November at Scottish Parliament (*Passed to Louise Maguire*)
- 6) CEC – Edinburgh Partnership News
- 7) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Notification from NHS Lothian re Better Health:Better Care consultation.
- 8) CEC – Intimation re draft Core Path Plans – *Circulated to Louise Maguire, Alison Elphick and Johanna Carrie*
- 9) NHS Lothian – newsletter re Sick Childrens' Reprovision Project – Circulated by e-mail

6. Councillor's Reports

Councillor Aitken reported that regarding 17 Buckstone Crescent the owner had been located and agreed to pay the arrears of council tax. Prior to the owner being contacted the garden had been cut back and the windows properly boarded up. The problems encountered

were going to be used as a Community Safety pilot for other similar situations involving derelict properties.

There had been a lot of complaints regarding street lights not working and not being repaired when reported. This was apparently due to a combination of sickness and the department moving office. There had also been issues with the cutting of undergrowth adjoining paths and grass cutting in Fairmilehead Park.

She was hoping to have a meeting with the Network Manager as there were problems in Mounthooly, Pentland View and Biggar Road. There was also rat running in Swanston.

Councillors Aitken, Rust, Louise Maguire and Susan Brown from Children and Families had a meeting about the path next to Pentland Primary School. There will be further meeting with the Planning Department regarding the issue. They were looking at upgrading Cockmylane. Hunters Tryst was up for sale and the closing date was 31 October. The three ward Councillors were having a meeting with the Estates Department to discuss potential issues.

She had been at the Marie Curie Open Day and was very impressed with the work undertaken there. She was also involved at the end of the week with the sponsored walk in Holyrood Park for Boroughmuir School.

The finalised Local Plan had been published and about 160 objections had been received. Builders were objecting that some areas such as Winton and Morton Mains, which were in conservation areas, had been removed from the plan. It was likely that due to the number of objections there would be a public inquiry in due course. There was going to be a green belt review shortly.

The Secretary said that although FCC had submitted two objections to the final plan only one had been published. He had checked with the Planning Department and both had been received and accepted.

Councillor Rust said that he had also been at the Marie Curie Open day and found it an uplifting experience. He also emphasised the Local plan and that Colinton and Fairmilehead areas had been targeted by the builders wishing to build on the green belt or in conservation areas. The flight path changes had raised some concerns and they were being investigated. He also informed the meeting regarding the next Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting (9 October) and said that grants were available for community groups.

Councillor Barry said there had been issues regarding the standard of maintenance of street lights and the delays in repairing them were unacceptable particularly in view of the nights drawing in. The Council did not recycle their grass cuttings but just left them in place. The Council had a composting facility and was suggesting to them that this be used instead of just leaving them in situ. He was a member of the Transport Committee and was taking an interest in speed bumps particularly in Buckstone. He had been assured that all bumps were designed so that a driver could negotiate them at a steady 20mph. This was not the case and some of them were higher than the specifications.

7. Planning and Environment

Richard Hinton raised the question of the future plans for the water treatment works. The mention of housing on them appeared on the final Local Plan but had not been on earlier versions. The Secretary would try and find out further information and if necessary lodge an objection.

Alison Elphick said that Scottish Water had put the "Swanston tank" up for sale but it appeared that there would be no access to it. Councillor Rust said he would make enquiries.

Louise Maguire reported that the lights in Cockmylane were dark and had been reported and Craig Dunlop was arranging to cut back the branches.

8. Transport Sub-Committee

Lindsay Walls said that he had been able to persuade Lothian Buses to change the name of the bus stop from Buckstone Gardens to Buckstone Road now that it had been moved due to the pedestrian crossing.

9. Better Health: Better Care Consultation

It was decided that a meeting would be arranged at the Chairman's house to discuss this document.

10. AOCB

In response to a question Councillor Aitken said that a safer routes to school was going to be implemented for the Pentland Primary.

The Secretary drew attention to funding of up to £500 that would be available from the Community Engagement Fund and asked members to think of suitable ideas. He also mentioned the CEC consultation on "Café Culture".

Sheena Robertson commented on the lack of heating in the church (Heating was broken and part awaited from Germany)

Johanna Carrie informed the meeting of the Climate Change Bill that was going through Westminster but that she felt the Scottish version was a stronger one.

11. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 6 November 2007 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Contacts:

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