

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 4 September 2007 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice-Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillor Elaine Aitken; Johanna Carrie; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; PC Kenny Welsh (Part); Ian Elfick; Bryan Fisher; Dot Logan; Colin Manson; A McCutcheon; Fiona Simon; Charles Whytock; Alan & Pam Wight;

Apologies: Councillor Rust; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Audrey Ryan

1. Police Report

Pc Kenny Welsh gave an update on crime for June, July and August.

In June there were 2 housebreakings with intent to steal in Camus Avenue. In both cases entry had been gained by rear patio doors but the alarms had been activated. Buckstone Primary School was broken into again. Windows had been smashed in Buckstone Howe and Road while wing mirrors had been kicked off vehicles in Swan Spring Avenue. As a result of an incident at Pentland View Support unit a juvenile had been reported for assault and breach of the peace.

Several motorists had been given conditional offers (£60 plus 3 penalty points) as a result of the prohibited left turns from Biggar Road into the Swanstons.

During July there had been 10 recorded crimes. A theft by slip in at Caiystane Crescent where 2 people had been reported; a housebreaking in Caiystane Gardens and a stone ornament stolen from a garden in Buckstone Terrace. A handbag was stolen by slip-in from a shop in Buckstone Terrace and the keys used to break into a house in Comiston Spring Avenue.

There were windows broken in High Buckstone and Frogston Road West whilst a water pump and tank on Lothianburn Golf Course was damaged. There was also damage to vehicles in Broad Road and Buckstone Crescent.

In August 7 cars in Caiystane Crescent, Swanston Green and Drive and Caiyside had their number plates removed. Two vehicles in Swanston Gardens and Caiystane Avenue were damaged as were garden ornaments in Buckstone Terrace. In Frogston Road West a vehicle was stolen having previously had a wheel stolen. Jewellery was stolen from a house in Buckstone Avenue and a garage was forced in Winton Drive. Ladders within were used on an attempt to break into the house.

A secure shed on Mortonhall Golf Course was forced and a quantity of insecticide and pesticide stolen. Due to their dangerous nature publicity was given and the stolen chemicals were returned. Garden equipment was stolen from Lothianburn Golf Course.

A person was seen in a garden in Buckstone Lea in suspicious circumstances and after an incident in Caiystane Crescent a person was reported for breach of the peace and possession of an offensive weapon. 2 Youths have been reported for the theft of 2 mini motorbikes from Buckstone Circle.

It was reported that the apparently abandoned car in Caiystane Hill had been removed. Colin Manson raised the question of chemical storage on Mortonhall Golf Course. PC Welsh stated that the chemicals had been stored in compliance with the appropriate laws and that they had also been securely stored.

The Chairman raised the question of police cover in the area the previous Sunday evening (2 September) which had been the evening of the fireworks display. There had been a large gang of youths drinking in the area of the shops at Oxgangs Broadway possibly on their way to the Braids to watch the fireworks. There was apparently no police presence at Oxgangs and 2 officers covering the whole area. After discussion it was decided that the Secretary would write to the Chief Constable to complain about the situation.

The Secretary informed the meeting that he was a member of the Pentlands Community Safety Panel and that Councillor Aitken had been elected as Chair at the previous meeting. This was another forum for raising matters such as this.

2. Minute Of Meeting Held On 1 May 2007 And Matters Arising.

Under correspondence item 4 Consolation should read Consultation.

The minutes of the meeting on 4 September 2007 were approved on the motion of Sheena Robertson seconded by Elaine Aitken.

3. Matters Arising

- a) Edinburgh Drinking Water Project – The Secretary reported for the record that Scottish Water had decided to site the new water treatment works at Glencorse, Midlothian. He read over the press release that had been issued as to why Fairmilehead was not chosen as the preferred site. He also stated that Bill Elliot from Scottish Water had agreed to attend at the next meeting. Regular e-mail newsletters were also being circulated. Councillor Aitken said that she and David McLetchie had had a meeting with the Communications Department, Scottish Water and that it would be 2010 or 2011 before the site at Fairmilehead would be available. The existing offices would remain. It was felt that it was important to ascertain from Scottish Water what plans they had for the site and what route the pipeline from Glencorse would take.
- b) Private Housing Strategy Consultation – The Secretary stated that a short meeting had been held at the Chairman's house as a result of which comments had been circulated amongst the members for agreement prior to submission. He briefly read some of the comments submitted.
- c) Finalised Edinburgh City Local Plan – This had also been discussed at the same meeting. Due to the procedures it was only possible to make comment on submissions that had been made to the draft plan. The Secretary informed the meeting of the comments that had been submitted.
- d) Safety Event – Sheena Robertson gave a brief update on the Safety Event held on 16 June. The help of everybody had been much appreciated and feedback was positive although the terrible weather had been against us. £130 had been raised for the Youth project through the tombola and teas. The Secretary stated that he had sent a letter of thanks on behalf of the Community Council to Sheena Robertson, Councillor Aitken and Margaret Walker.

4. Correspondence

- 1) CEC Licensing Board – Draft Gender Equality Scheme (Circulated by e-mail)
- 2) Fairmilehead Parish Church – Confirmation of bookings for session
- 3) Scottish Water, Edinburgh Drinking Water Project - Confirmation of selection of Glencorse site
- 4) Postwatch Newsletter – June issue
- 5) CEC – Licensing Forum – Nominations selection
- 6) Lothian & Borders police – letter of thanks from Inspector Wilson for donation to Child Safety Day
- 7) Eileen Hewitt, CC Liaison Officer – Minutes of joint CC meeting
- 8) SEPA – Consultation on Proposed Alteration to Lothian Waste Plan
- 9) Edinburgh Tenants Federation – Annual Report 2007
- 10) Planning Aid – Summer Newsletter
- 11) Queensferry and District Community Council – Annual Report
- 12) Secretary – E-mail of congratulations to office bearers of Friends of Braidburn Valley Park on being awarded Green Flag.
- 13) Working Capital – July 2007 Newsletter
- 14) Scottish Water – Letter of introduction from Bill Elliot, Regional Community Manager
- 15) CEC – HMO report for June
- 16) WREN – Annual Report
- 17) Scottish Water – letter re their involvement with TIE re diversion of utilities
- 18) Scottish Water – e-letter re Glencorse (Circulated by e-mail)
- 19) Planning Aid – Annual Report and Invitation to reception in Scottish Parliament, 26 September (Louise Maguire attending)
- 20) Capital review – Summer edition
- 21) Nigel Griffiths MP – South Edinburgh News, August edition
- 22) Inside Letting Newsletter – Summer edition
- 23) CEC Children and Families Service – Improvement Plan, Executive Summary
- 24) Friends of the Earth Scotland – Information on Planning FAQ sheets
- 25) E-mail received re over growing garden, Galachlawside – Forwarded to Councillor Aitken
- 26) ASCC – National Member Survey (Dealt as agenda item)
- 27) Edinburgh Tenants Association – Tenants Voice Newsletter, August edition
- 28) Friends of Braidburn Valley Park – Poster for Tea in the Park 1 September – Put on Noticeboard
- 29) Eileen Hewitt, CC Liaison Officer – Notice of Review of poling districts and places
- 30) Pentland Hills Regional Park – Annual Report and Pentland Beacon Newsletter
- 31) Margaret walker – Intimation of registration etc for Buckstone Youth Club and Project (Notices put on Board)

5. Councillor's Reports

Councillor Aitken informed the meeting that in relation to the 26 flats that were to be built on the site of the Fairmile Inn there had been problems with the missives and AMA had withdrawn. S&N still owned the site although it was AMA that had the planning permission. There is concern about the state of the building and the police had been in touch with the keyholders about the site.

Regarding 17 Buckstone Crescent she had had discussions with the Head of Revenues who was trying to pursue the owner. In the short term the Head of Community Safety was going to serve a notice on the property with a schedule of works requiring to be done within 14 days failing which the Council would undertake the work. They will recoup there costs when the property is sold.

The pupils were into Pentland Primary School although there was an amount of snagging still to be attended to. A meeting had been arranged with the Head teacher to progress matters. There were a number of problems particularly the height of fence as residents originally did not object as they were told this would be a separate planning application. The Planning Department have since stated it was included in the original application. The path adjoining the school was closed for 2 years for health and safety whilst the construction was ongoing but it is not going to re-open. This is causing problems for a number of local residents.

The Chairman sought clarification on several points particularly in relation to the fence and the blocking of the path which was understood to be a right of way as he had been given contradictory information from residents.

There had been a few complaints regarding the chimes emanating from an ice cream van on the Buckstone estate. An application for a licence was coming in front of the Regulatory Committee later in the month. There had been problems in the Swan Springs area with youths from the Pentland Support Unit although this was being addressed.

In Buckstone Grove the road had been inspected and declared a priority but there is no money in the budget this year for repairs.

Councillor Aitken also informed the meeting that she had arranged her surgeries for every 3rd Monday of the month at Buckstone Primary school (During term time).

6. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire reported that the grass cutting in Fairmilehead Park was abysmal. Craig Dunlop, the development officer, had said this was down to the grass cutting equipment they were having to use, which was not suitable for slopes and wet weather. The extra seats that had been promised were in place, giving a total of 4. The two damaged oak trees are being replaced in the autumn.

There had also been a suggestion that some play equipment was installed but it was thought to be quite expensive and might attract the vandals. It was suggested that funds might be available through the neighbourhood partnership.

7. Transport Sub-Committee

Nothing to Report

8. Licensing Forum Update

The Chairman reported that he had been accepted as a member of the Licensing Forum. He had been to a training event but had to give his apologies for the first meeting and the Chairman was a William Strachan. He would give regular updates.

9. Neighbourhood Partnerships Update

The Secretary reported that they were a replacement for the previous Local Development Committees. As the Chairman was now on the Licensing Forum he was the main representative for the Community Council. There had been 2 meetings, one initial business and one public. It was to be called the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership and the Chair was Councillor Jason Rust. It covers the area from Fairmilehead over to Ratho and Balerno, Currie, Firrhill, Longstone, and Ratho Community Councils were represented along with Fairmilehead. Colinton Amenity Association had also been accepted as a community representative. All the public meetings would be in the evening and would move around the

area. The Area manager was Graham Kitching. The problem with the code of Conduct which he had highlighted at previous meetings had not yet been resolved.

He had arranged for Christine Docherty, the Information Manager, to come along to the November meeting.

A question was raised regarding publicity for the public meetings. Previously LDCs had been advertised by poster and newspaper adverts. The Secretary said he would raise this at the next Partnership meeting.

10. Better Health: Better Care Consultation

The Secretary circulated copies of this document. He said the closing date was 12 November and highlighted some of the areas that were to be consulted on. It was decided that this be discussed at the next meeting once members had time to peruse the document.

11. Association of Scottish Community Councils

The Secretary said that this had been circulated to members by e-mails previously. It was agreed that the Secretary complete a draft and circulate for comments prior to submission at the beginning of October.

12. Speakers for Forthcoming Meetings

Speakers as detailed above had been arranged for the October and November meetings. Suggestions for speakers or subject were requested for some of the meetings next year. Some suggestions were given including New Forth crossing and new Inspector at Oxfords.

13. AOCB

Sheena Robertson asked if there was any update regarding the mobile library consultation. (It visits Camus Avenue – near to 22 - on a Thursday between 2pm and 2.30pm and 30-32 Buckstone Circle on a Friday between 2.15 and 2.45pm)

Johanna Carrie asked how we could engage better with the local community. It was agreed that this would go on a future agenda.

Charles Whytock raised the issue of parking in Buckstone Avenue, Road, Gardens and Drive at the junctions with Buckstone Terrace. It appears that an informal park and ride system was operating and vehicles parked were too near the junction. Others said there were also problems with all day parkers in Braid Road opposite the shops. This meant that customers had to park almost at the Nursery or Buckstone Drive. Councillor Aitken said the Network Manager was conducting a survey. She would report back at next meeting.

14. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 2 October 2007 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Contacts:

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