

Fairmilehead Community Council

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

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; Daphne Sleight; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Hilary Brown; Ian Elfick; Bryan Fisher; Dot Logan; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Audrey Ryan; Margaret Walker; Helen Young

Apologies: Councillors Elaine Aitken and Jason Rust; Louise Maguire; Johanna Carrie; PC Kenny Welsh; Jennifer Munro; Ken McAskill

1. Police Report

In the absence of Pc Welsh on annual leave, the Secretary read over his report for November which had been compiled prior to the end of the month.

There were 3 assaults which occurred at Buckstone Primary, Buckstone Road and outside the Pavilion, Buckstone Terrace. Further enquiries are being made to trace a suspect from the last assault.

There were 3 thefts - Buckstone Circle where a wheelie bin was taken, Buckstone Gardens where a plant pot was stolen and a charity box (Poppy Fund) was taken from the Fairmilehead Church Halls.

4 motor vehicles had been damaged, a wing mirror broken off in Camus Avenue, a door kicked on a vehicle in Caiystane Gardens, a vehicle scratched by unknown means in Fox Spring Avenue and a rear windscreen smashed in Buckstone Drive.

There had been a vandalism in Swanston Crescent where the living room window was smashed by unknown means.

2. Minute Of Meeting Held On 6 November 2007 And Matters Arising.

The minutes of the meeting on 6 November 2007 were approved on the motion of Ian Elfick and seconded by Richard Hinton.

Matters Arising:

In relation to the Buckstone parking problem the Secretary gave a brief report. After the negative response received by Councillor Aitken from the Council officials he had taken photographs to highlight the parking problem and he had passed them onto her for submission to the officials. The same vehicles were parked everyday and it was being used as a park and ride. The vehicles were being parked too close to the junctions and on the speed cushions especially at the foot of Buckstone Road. Some days it was impossible to get parked in Braid Road any nearer the shops than the golf course.

Regarding the traffic and parking in Oxbanks Bank, the traffic wardens had been keeping an eye on the situation. Other items covered under Councillors' Reports.

3. Correspondence

- 1) Scottish Water – E-newsletter 5 (Circulated by e-mail and on website)
- 2) Complaint from residents re fireworks (Secretary had provided advice and circulated to Councillor's)
- 3) Postwatch Scotland – Survey of postal deliveries Christmas period. (Secretary taking part)
- 4) Planning Aid for Scotland – Forum Event – 3 December 2007
- 5) CEC - Consultation on Service Standards for Libraries (circulated by e-mail)
- 6) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Weblog Training (Secretary and Louise Maguire attending)

- 7) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Neighbourhood Partnerships Community Engagement Fund for Community Councils
 - 8) Capital Review – Autumn Edition
 - 9) Working Capital Magazine – October edition
 - 10) Postwatch Scotland Newsletter
 - 11) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Scottish Government Discussion Paper on Future of Housing in Scotland
 - 12) Services for Communities – Customer Services Strategy Focus Group 10 January 2008 (Secretary attending)
 - 13) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Community Council Newsletter
 - 14) CEC Licensing Department – Adoption of new Licensing Policy
 - 15) Tenants Voice magazine – November issue
- 16) The Treasurer had a renewal request for Friends of the Pentland at a cost of £12 per annum. Agreed.

In relation to the new Licensing Policy (Item 14 above) the Chairman informed the meeting regarding an incident in Granton where a underage girl had suffered serious injury after falling whilst drunk. The licensee who had sold the alcohol had had his licence suspended until the next renewal when he would have to re-apply. The new Licensing Board, on which Councillor Barry was a member, were starting to take away licences for licensing offences. A particular problem was now underage persons trying to get adults to buy drink on their behalf. If anybody had any complaints or information then this could be passed either to the police or the Licensing Standards Officers.

4. Councillor's Report

Councillor Aitken was on holiday and Councillor Rust was detained at another meeting. The following report was provided subsequent to the meeting.

“Two meetings have taken place to discuss possible new routes for a path round Pentland Primary School to restore access for local residents to shops, GP surgeries, bus stops etc.

The first was held in the school and attended by the Councillors, Head Teacher and Chair of the Parent Council, representatives of Fairmilehead and Firrhill Community Councils, Fairmilehead Association and officials from City Development Estates (Susan Brown) and Planning (Helen Martin). We discussed having a temporary path which would alleviate the situation until a new permanent path could be found and a route was identified round the side of the playing fields. Helen is looking into this at Planning and those present felt that this could also be a possible permanent solution. Funding to do this would be sought as part of the new development.

The second meeting was attended by the Councillors and Susan Brown and Peter Watton, Estates Dept. We looked at outline drawings submitted by the preferred bidder for the Hunter's Tryst site. This will be for about 72 residential units and we were encouraged to see that an access route through the development from Oxbgangs Green was included. We made a number of comments and offered suggestions which will be reported to the bidder.

The bid will go to the Finance and Resources Committee at the end of January for consideration. Once it has been accepted, we suggested holding a joint meeting of Fairmilehead and Firrhill Community Councils and inviting the developer to discuss plans and make them aware of the needs of the local community. This should lead to a good working relationship between us and ensure that we end up with the best option for the site and local residents. Both Community Councils will be statutory consultees.

Councillor Aitken received a tip that local youths were going to target Hunter's Tryst school again to set fire to it so she contacted Children and Families to increase security and make

the building secure. Extra boarding and patrols were added. The worry is that children could enter the building and get trapped.

Traffic Calming

A number of residents have contacted Councillor Aitken about the works around Pentland Primary School. There was concern that the preparation work had been done and the holes had been left open across the road for too long. She reported that the speed cushion installation started last Thursday. She has urged the officials to continue to monitor activity at Pentland Drive and View and through Caiystane to see what action is required.

17 Buckstone Crescent

Old sash and case window frames were dumped in the drive, we think by someone outwith Buckstone, causing a hazard with broken glass etc. Councillor Aitken has asked the local Environmental Task Force to clear this up as soon as possible and to watch for any future problems. There has also been some youth activity there which will be monitored by PC Kenny Welsh.

Parking

Councillor Aitken has spoken to the officials again and submitted photographs kindly supplied by Norman Tinlin, highlighting the ongoing problems, and have asked them to reconsider their stance that no action is required.

Happy Christmas and thanks for the Community Council's help and support this year."

5. Planning and Environment

Pupils from Pentland and South Morningside Primary Schools had recently been planting bulbs in Braidburn Valley Park.

6. Transport Sub-Committee

Mrs Ryan raised the problem of lack of buses from the area to the east side of the city particularly since the 11 now only went as far as Hyvots Bank and did not change to a 7. The only way to get there now was by going into town and out again usually requiring a change of bus. She had not had a satisfactory explanation from Lothian buses. It was decided to try and get someone from Lothian Buses along to a future meeting.

7. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

The Secretary gave a brief resume of items discussed at the recent meeting. This included the need for a further business meeting to setup the necessary sub-groups to undertake the day-to-day business. He also said that there were grants available in three categories: Community Participation and Support; Quality of Life and Social Inclusion and organizations were encouraged to make applications within the criteria.

8. Youth Project

Margaret Walker gave an update on the Youth Club and Project. This session there were 80 members between the 2 clubs. The junior one for 10-12 year olds cost £1 per night and the senior one was £30 for the year.

2 of the helpers had undertaken two youth credited training sessions using health based themes. An ongoing problem was always having to look for and apply for funding. The next fundraising event was a Christmas bash in St Fillans on the evening of 23 December.

There had been a residential weekend at Nethy Bridge when 10 including 2 from the Craggs at Gracemount had been attended. The youths did all their own planning, buying food etc as

part of the Youth Achievement Awards and 7 had been first aid trained. Some of the activities undertaken had been a night walk, environmental games and tribal fun.

On behalf of the Community Council the Chair gave a vote of thanks to Margaret and the members of the project. He also said that we should look at setting up a small sub-group to examine avenues for funding the youth project and that this would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. AOCB

Norman McKenzie asked if there was any progress in regard to 17 Buckstone Crescent. The secretary reported that the garden had been tidied, the property boarded up and no further graffiti had appeared. Alison Elfick reported that the new golf club house at Swanston was now open and non- members could purchase coffees, snacks and meals.

Ian Elfick asked if there was any further information on the new Boroughmuir High School. There was no further information available meantime but the item would be put on the next agenda for an update from the Councillors. Mr McKerrow mentioned the state of repair of the pavements in Buckstone Avenue where a woman had fallen that day near to 26 and had been taken to hospital.

Bryan Fisher mentioned the problem that people who had hearing problems had hearing some of the conversation during the meetings. He believed there was an induction loop in the church which may be able to be utilised. The Secretary explained the situation why meetings were being held in the church rather than one of the halls. He had made enquiries previously about hearing systems but they were expensive. He would make further enquiries and also investigate funding possibilities.

Suggestion for speakers for forthcoming meetings were: Services for Communities (repairs to pavements etc), Postwatch, Planning Department regarding operation of new Act and Lothian Buses.

Inspector Margaret Lyle from Oxfangs Police Station was attending the next meeting.

The Chair wished everybody a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and invited those present to stay for some cheese and wine.

10. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 8 January 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 5 February 2008

Tuesday 4 March 2008

Tuesday 1 April 2008

Tuesday 6 May 2008

Tuesday 3 June 2008

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