

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 6 March 2007 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); 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; Daphne Sleight; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Mike Brunson; Ian Elfick; Dot Logan; Norman McKenzie; Ken MacAskill (Part); Matthew McKerrow (Part); Margaret Walker; Lindsay Walls; P Wight

Apologies: Sheila Bulmer; Audrey Ryan; T/PS Lorna Cottier

Louise Maguire took the chair until the arrival of Dennis Williams during the first item.

1. The New Voting System

Councillor Mark McInnes, in a purely non political role, explained the new voting system which would be used during the forthcoming council elections. The new system was called Single Transferable Vote (STV). The existing ward of Fairmilehead would be amalgamated with Firrhill and Colinton to form a 3 member ward. There is a quota, or a magic number, of 20% +1 of votes casts in a 4 member ward for a person to get elected whilst in a 3 member ward this is 25% + 1of votes cast. As Fairmilehead is part of a 3 member ward it is expected that a candidate would require about 2250 votes to be elected.

Voters put a number, 1, 2, 3 etc, against the candidates in their order of preference, rather than an X against a single candidate as previously. A voter can vote for one, all or several of the candidates as they desire.

When the votes are counted on the first round the candidate who reaches the quota on the 1st preference is elected and all the additional votes for that person are redistributed to the other candidates in the order of preference. Each time the bottom candidate is eliminated. This continues till the appropriate number of candidates have been elected.

The count is being undertaken electronically and those papers rejected by the machine for any reason will be examined manually.

As a result of the new format it means that the Councillors in the enlarged ward will require to work together.

Councillor McInnes answered questions from the floor and then the Chairman thanked him on behalf of the Community Council for his presentation.

2. Councillors' Reports (Part 1)

As Councillor Rust had to attend a further meeting he gave his report at this point.

The planning application for the expansion of Swanston Golf Course had been granted on 28 February. There had been 15 objections. It was a condition of the permission that there was a path created on the east side of Swanston Road. It was pointed out that there was also a need for a path between the bridge over the bypass and the start of the farmer's land. Councillor Rust was going to find out the position regarding this.

He also reported that a request had been made for a roundabout at Redford Road/ Oxgangs road but that the Council had said no. One of the reasons given was that there had been no fatalities. He was trying to see if Morrisons would sponsor a mini roundabout.

Dennis Williams asked if there had been any developments with the 18 bus service. He was informed that the matter had been raised in the Scottish Parliament but there was nothing further to report.

3. Police Report

The Secretary read over the police report for February he had received by e-mail.

There were 3 vandalisms reported one of which was the FCC noticeboard in Buckstone Terrace (again). There were 3 cars broken into, 1 in Buckstone Drive, 1 in East Caiystane Place and the other in Braid Hills Approach. 2 large stone planters had been stolen from a front garden in Biggar Road. Due to their size it was obvious a vehicle and at least 2 persons had been involved. An attempt by 2 described person had been made to break into a lockup in Buckstone Avenue. A pedal cycle had been stolen from Buckstone Road.

A male youth had been arrested in Buckstone Court for breach of the police and another youth the same night for disorderly conduct in Buckstone Terrace. There had been 2 serious and 2 minor assaults involving youths. Two youths had appeared in court in relation to one of the assaults. There was a positive line of enquiry regarding the other incidents.

4. Youth Project

Margaret Walker gave an update on the Youth Project. They were doing some fundraising for a residential break during the summer and were having a Fun Night on 29 March in St Fillans. There was to be live music and other entertainment. Tickets were £2.50.

She was also seeking opinion on facilities in the Buckstone area. The PTA were fundraising for an all weather surface for the school. She had consulted with other organisations in the area and thought a similar surface on the water board field would be useful. It would be multi-purpose for all ages. At a recent drugs and alcohol evening at the project in conjunction with Edinburgh Youth Council attended by 23 youths it had been raised that there were not suitable facilities on the estate for youths.

The meeting thought that this would be a good idea as something for youths was needed in the area. Various suggestions were made such as Lottery and Friends of the Field. The field belongs to Children & Families Department although Scottish Water may have to lay a pipeline through it in connection with the drinking water project. Depending on scheme and estimate of cost would be £30,000. Richard Hinton suggested that any grants could be channelled through the Buckstone Association if required.

5. Minute Of Meeting Held On 6 February 2007 And Matters Arising.

In para 3 under item 10 the second sentence should start – She had not been able - instead of - She had been able.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2006 were approved on the motion of Andrew Cross and seconded by Elaine Aitken.

6. Matters Arising

The Secretary reported that he had submitted comments to NHS Lothian regarding the recent Primary Care Modernisation Strategy. A copy was attached to the main minute and the response had also been placed on the website.

7. Correspondence

- 1) Brian Torrance, Traffic Control Manager, CEC – Speed Limit review Braid Hills Road and Frogston Road
- 2) Scottish Parliament – Information Sheet on Working for You
- 3) Capacity Building Project – Report on Youth – *passed to Margaret Walker*
- 4) CEC Planning – Edinburgh Skyline Exhibition
- 5) Edinburgh Tenants Federation – Public Meeting 21 March 2007
- 6) CEC – HMOs for January/February
- 7) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – Community Council Training (*circulated by e-mail*)
- 8) CEC Performance Summary 2005/06
- 9) Scottish Executive Planning Division – National Planning Framework – *Leaflets circulated*
- 10) Edinburgh Association of Community Councils – Local Government Election Question Time
- 11) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – Public Information Meetings on new voting system
- 12) CEC Licensing Board – Notification of licence renewals and applications for March Board
- 13) Morningside Community Council – Photographic Exhibition Poster and Talk on new voting system
- 14) Buckstone Youth Project – Family Fun Night Poster
- 15) Susan Dalgleish, Development Worker, Oxgangs & Firrhill Community Forum – proposed Festival of Democracy.
- 16) CEC – Culture & Sports department – Sighthill Sports Complex – Information days

8. Councillor's Reports – Part 2

Councillor Aitken reported that a 20mph zone around Pentland primary school was being looked at along with routes through Caiystane. A traffic audit was also being undertaken. A school crossing guide was required for Oxgangs Road.

Regarding a previous report of a speeding bus through Swanston, the bus and driver had now been identified and the resident would report if it happened again.

Dennis Williams and herself had attended a meeting at the Pentland Centre regarding Neighbourhood Partnerships. The last Pentlands LDC was on 28 March.

She had had a meeting with Inspector Sue Wilson who although based at Balerno was at present covering Oxgangs. The new Community Officer would be in place at the beginning of April. She had also had a meeting with the new Chief Inspector, Paul Bullen, who was based at Wester Hailes. Regarding the vandalism the Youth Action Team would spend more time in the area. One of the culprits was from outwith the area.

Scottish Water had still not made a decision as there were further technical and environmental aspects being looked at. The water board field would not be released for their use during the project.

Another lead was being investigated by Council officials regarding the abandoned property at 17 Buckstone Crescent. Gordon Greenhill had been contacted again.

Norman Tinlin, Andrew Cross and Mike Brunson had accompanied her when she had gone round and examined all the speed cushions on the Buckstone estate a previous Sunday morning and she was submitting a report to the Council officials highlighting all the problems.

9. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire said that there had been nothing of interest in the planning weekly lists. Regarding Fairmilehead Park 2 specimen oak trees were to be planted and 2 benches installed. Drinking parties had started again at the weekends.

10. Transport Sub-Committee

Nothing to report.

11. Community Safety Event

Sheena Robertson gave a brief report. The Buckstone Room in the church halls and the garden had been booked for Saturday 16 June from 1pm to 4pm at a cost of £20 per hour. The sub committee was Dennis Williams, Elaine Aitken, Andrew Cross, Sheena Robertson and Louise Maguire. Further report at next meeting.

12. Noticeboard

The Secretary reported that glass in the noticeboard had been broken again, the 3rd time as in many months and it costs over £90 to replace. He suggested that once the glass is replaced either a Perspex cover or a wire grille be placed over it to protect the glass. It was felt that the grille was the better option. He would obtain a quotation. The danger of the glass breaking further and causing injury was raised. Norman Tinlin said he would keep his eye on it and if it become dangerous would take appropriate action.

13. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 3 April 2007 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

This was subsequently rearranged to Tuesday 10 April 2007.

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