

# **Fairmilehead Community Council**

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 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; Andrew Cross; Richard Hinton, Buckstone Association; Sheena Robertson; Daphne Sleight; Eric Barry; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Ian Elfick; Dot Logan; Norman McKenzie; Fiona Simon; Lindsay Walls; Charles Whytock

**Apologies:** Councillor Jason Rust

## **1. Pentland Hills Regional Park**

The Chairman introduced Susan Falconer, Senior Ranger, Pentland Hills Regional Park who gave a very informative talk on the Park. It is one of 3 in Scotland and was designated in September 1986. The headquarters are at Boghall Farm and the park is funded by Midlothian, Edinburgh City and West Lothian Councils. There are 6 staff and 36 voluntary rangers. There is a visitor centre at Flotterstone. There are various commercial activities such as farming and the Snow Sports Centre. The MOD owns 1000 acres mainly at Castlelaw. Leisure activities include 3 golf courses, walking, angling and horse riding. There is a variety of wildlife including ospreys and an observation hide at Bavelaw Marsh. Several local farmers have joined together to sell their organic produce. Their website is [www.pentland-hills-produce.co.uk](http://www.pentland-hills-produce.co.uk).

Further information on the Park can be found on their website: [www.pentlandhills.org](http://www.pentlandhills.org)

## **2. Police Report**

In the absence of PC Harvey, the Secretary read out his report for December. There had been 16 vandalisms. Seven of them were house windows (5 in Buckstone), seven related to damage to vehicles, one which had been the FCC noticeboard at the Buckstone shops. There was a positive line of enquiry for some of the vandalisms. There had been 6 thefts from motor vehicles and one housebreaking.

Solved crimes had included 2 breach of the peace, a serious assault, a minor assault, possession of offensive weapon and a housebreaking (in relation to 17 Buckstone Crescent).

The Secretary also drew the meetings attention to an e-mail he had received from PC Harvey saying that he had been moved the previous day to a new position at St Leonard's Police Station. Subsequently a new Community Officer would be appointed for the area. The Secretary read out an e-mail he had sent to PC Harvey wishing him well in his new post and thanking him for his contribution in the area of the years. This action was endorsed by the meeting.

Councillor Aitken gave a brief update on the position but confirmed that a new Community Officer had not yet been appointed.

### **3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 5 December 2006 And Matters Arising.**

Under section 5 Councillors reports, 2<sup>nd</sup> last para it should read 18 bus not 8 bus. There was also some discussion regarding the amount of detail in an item which had had been raised by the Secretary on behalf of a resident in Buckstone and which had been reported under the Police Report. The comments raised were noted.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2006 were approved on the motion of Ian Elfick and seconded by Andrew Cross.

### **4. Matters Arising**

Richard Hinton asked about the graffiti on the grey postal boxes. Secretary to contact Royal Mail. The Secretary reported that over the festive season the glass in the noticeboard had been attacked by use of an air weapon and he had reported it to the police. There had been further attempts to break the glass but it was still holding together. The glaziers had just returned after the holiday and the glass would be replaced this week.

Sheena Robertson asked if there was any update regarding a loop system. The Secretary reported he was still investigating this. Mr Whytock asked if there was any regarding the parking in Buckstone Gardens, Road and Avenue at Buckstone Terrace. There was no information. Councillor Aitken said that the pedestrian crossing in Buckstone Terrace near to the Gardens was due to be installed in march and the work would take 4 weeks.

### **5. Correspondence**

- 1) Eileen Hewitt - CEC Liaison Officer  
Progress report on Neighbourhood Partnerships  
Electoral Commission leaflets on postal voting and voter registration
- 2) Leaflet on Scottish Community Action Research Fund
- 3) Scottish Water – Winter Warmer Campaign – Information and poster for noticeboard
- 4) CEC City Development – Draft Edinburgh City Plan – Update on Environmental Assessment
- 5) Lumison – Invoice for annual charge for domain hosting (passed to Treasurer)
- 6) Letwise – Landlords Guide to AntiSocial Behaviour
- 7) CEC Chief Executive – Annual Performance Report
- 8) Eileen Hewitt - Details of LDC meetings and exhibitions regarding forthcoming elections (circulated by e-mail)
- 9) NHS Lothian – Outcome of public consultation – Children’s Health Strategy
- 10) NHS Lothian – Reprovison project for new Sick Children’s – Newsletter Issue 1
- 11) NHS Lothian – Primary Care Modernisation – Notice of public meetings and poster
- 12) Scottish Executive – Analysis of responses to discussion paper on Role of Community Councils (FCC was respondent)
- 13) CEC – List of Liquor Licences applications and renewals for January Board Meeting

- 14) Eileen Hewitt – Community Council Training Opportunities (circulated by e-mail)  
Community Council news – December edition  
HMOs – December
- 15) Colin Fox MSP – Bring Back Our Buses Campaign – details of debate in Scottish Parliament
- 16) Christmas cards from Lord Provost, Nigel Griffiths MP and David McLetchie MSP

## **6. Councillor's Report**

Councillor Aitken gave an update on 17 Buckstone Crescent including the fact that there had been 2 arrests for housebreaking. Regarding the speeding in Swanston Avenue one of the coaches mentioned was on a school run but the situation is being monitored. South Morningside Nursery was losing their premises at the end of the school year and alternative premises are being looked for. Scottish water is meeting with Buckstone school board re the "water board" field and the Scottish Water Board meeting is at the end of January when a decision should be made about the future of the filter beds.

In her next newsletter she would include a paragraph about the graffiti on the Buckstone estate and in the area. There was a proposal to reduce the speed limits in Frogston Road so that they were uniform over the whole stretch. In response to a question she started the report on road humps in the city was due in the spring.

## **7. Financial Report**

The Treasurer reported that at present the available funds stood at £1256.81

## **8. Planning and Environment**

Louise Maguire said The Fairmilehead Association which had been in existence since 1995 was to become the Friends of Fairmilehead Park.

The Secretary reported that the Fairmile Inn was now empty and boarded up obviously as a precursor to the site being turned into flats as per the previously granted planning permission. He also reported that it appears that the car park at Lothianburn Golf Course has been completed but it did not appear that the entrance from Biggar Road had been altered as required by the planning conditions. Councillor Aitken was going to contact the Council department to get this clarified.

He also reported that due to new legislation the conservation area at Morton Mains was being redesignated with a slight amendment/addition.

## **9. Transport Sub-Committee**

Norman Tinlin reported that there nothing further on the 18 Bus. At a recent Council meeting all councillors, apart from one, had voted for the Draft Business Case for the trams and that it would now go forward for possible parliamentary approval.

## **10. NHS Primary Care Strategy**

It was decided that a meeting on this would be held at the Chairman's house on Monday 22 January 2006 at 5pm.

## **11. AOCB**

Louise Maguire and Lindsay Walls made mention of a Safety Day. It was decided that this would be a good idea and would be discussed further at the NHS consultation meeting.

Suggestions for future meetings were raised - green energy, Pentland Produce, Services for Communities and Children & Families. Councillor Aitken would make enquiries about a representative from Children & Families. Scottish Water was also suggested but it was felt that if the Fairmilehead site was decided on then they would want further consultation with FCC.

## **12. Date Of Next Meeting**

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

### **Contacts:**

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