

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 10 April 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 (Part); Andrew Cross; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; Daphne Sleight; Mike Brunsdon; Ian Elfick; Colin Manson; A McCutcheon; Norman McKenzie; J Robertson; Fiona Simon; Jean & Ian Strathdee; Charles Whytock; Pam & Alan Wight

Apologies: Sheila Bulmer; Johanna Carrie; Councillor Andrew Scobbie; Margaret Walker; PC Kenny Welsh

1. Police Report

The new Community Officer, PC Kenny Welsh, was on leave and not able to attend but would be at the next meeting.

The Secretary said the police report for March he had received appeared to give the same figures that had been given at the previous meeting. He read the details of an e-mail he had received but this only related to the Buckstone Area. There had been 3 reports of vandalism, 1 house window, 1 car window and 1 vehicle light cluster. A person had been charged with a vandalism that had occurred in February.

Attendees raised concerns regarding youths going through the Park and causing damage at Pentland School. There had also been a very large gathering of youths at the Buckstone shops one weekend and they had made off in Pentland View and through the park.

The signs for Camus Avenue and Buckstone Avenue had been ripped off but although reported did not appear in the crime figures.

Councillor Aitken said she would contact Oxfangs PS and arrange for attention to be given to the park, particularly in the evenings at the weekend.

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

In para 4 under item 8 Inspector Sue Wilson was based at Oxfangs not Balerno.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2006 were approved on the motion of Louise Maguire and seconded by Elaine Aitken.

3. Matters Arising

The Secretary reported that he had arranged for the glass in the notice board to be replaced at a cost of £122. He had contacted a blacksmith regarding an estimate for a grille but had heard nothing further.

4. Correspondence

- 1) BAA Edinburgh Airport – Maintenance on main runway overnight 14 to 24 April. Flight path over Fairmilehead.
- 2) ASCC - Association of Scottish Community Councils – new website (www.ascc.org.uk)

- 3) Crag (Capital Rail Action Group) – Details of e-petition to Scottish parliament re South Suburban Rail Line Campaign (*Previously circulated*)
- 4) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – Copy of report – Community Councils in Edinburgh (*Previously circulated*)
- 5) CEC Planning Department – Draft Planning Policies on Microgeneration (*Copies given to Planning Sub Committee members*)
- 6) Scottish Executive Planning Division – Planning Reform and Community Engagement – Planning Advice Note 81, Brief guide to 2006 Scottish Planning Act (*Copies circulated*)
- 7) Amey – Proposed parking restrictions Biggar Road
- 8) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – Joint CC Meeting, Neighbourhood Partnerships – 25 April 2007 (*Previously circulated*)
- 9) Scottish Water – Edinburgh Drinking Water Project – Update letter
- 10) CEC - Pentlands Local Development Committee – last meeting 28 March
- 11) Scottish Executive Older People & Age Team – All Our Futures Document
- 12) EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) - Notice of meetings for May & June
- 13) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – Guidance on Nomination Procedure for Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- 14) Viewforth Glazing – Account for glass for noticeboard- £122.45 (*Passed to Treasurer*)
- 15) Planning Aid for Scotland – Annual subscription (325) due (*Passed to Treasurer*)
- 16) Friends of the Earth – Offer of free training on Planning Act
- 17) Pentlands Regional Park – Events Calendar

5. Councillor's Reports

Councillor Aitken reported that her meeting at Oxfangs police Station had been postponed to 17 April. She was working with George Lighthouse regarding lack of staffing at Pentland Community Centre. Although the Centre was not physically in our area it covered the children from the area.

She was going to do a “walk through” of the area round Pentland PS with some parents and children regarding the plans for the traffic calming as there was nothing proposed in the Caiystanes. The new building was on target and the children who at present were taught in the church hall would move back to the new school. South Morningside Nursery would then be moving to the church hall.

The Council had been persuaded to fund a partial re-instatement of the 18 bus service. There would now be an hourly service on Sundays and ½ during the day. The 38 was reverting back to 15 min service and the 15 would partially increase their frequency.

The Buckstone Terrace pedestrian crossing should be in place by the end of April. The contractor, Land Engineering, had the contract for 8 pelican crossings.

2 permanent repairs had been undertaken in Buckstone Drive. She had received an e-mail via the Secretary from a resident about the general poor condition of the roads in the estate. She would draw this to the attention of the Council officials. She would also be contacting them about Buckstone Grove now that the demolished house there had been rebuilt.

Councillor Aitken had attended the Buckstone Youth Group Fun evening when £270 had been raised. A donation of £750 had also been received from the John Walker Group. All proceeds were going to the groups' residential week in the summer.

There were problems with school lets due to janitorial cover and classes were being cancelled at short notice.

Mr Whytock raised the parking, possibly informal park and rides, near the junction with Buckstone Terrace, in Buckstone Avenue and Road. It was suggested that double yellow lines as far as the first speed cushions may be required.

Louise Maguire had been asked by parents of under 5s who used Fairmilehead Park if it was possible to have some play equipment such as stepping logs. Richard Hinton volunteered to forward details of the equipment he had been sourcing for the Buckstone Association.

Mr Manson asked for an update on the Scottish Water project. A decision will not be made till late spring/early summer but it has been narrowed down to 2 sites, Fairmilehead and 1 site in Midlothian which was in the green belt. Technical and environmental issues for the sites are being examined at present. Scottish water had just announced a large investment in the Alnwickhill filter beds.

Councillor Rust added that there was no feedback from Morrison's on the proposed roundabout. The land at Swanston Road belongs to the McClungs and the will be creating a pathway. He would check out about the trees being felled Oxgangs Avenue.

6. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire said that there had been nothing of interest in the planning weekly lists. Regarding Fairmilehead Park – 3, not 2 as previously mentioned, oak trees were to be planted and 2 benches are being made. The daffodils are expected to bloom in the next week and the bluebells should bloom in May

7. Transport Sub-Committee

Norman Tinlin reported that it had been confirmed by City development that the housings on the pedestrian lights at the crossing at the shops held automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras allegedly for use in conjunction with a new traffic monitoring system. This information had caused him some concern and he had sent an e-mail under FOI seeking answers and clarification on 13 points. To date nothing further had been heard.

8. Community Safety Event

Sheena Robertson explained the background and gave a brief report. The church halls and the garden had been booked for Saturday 16 June from 1pm to 4pm. The sub committee had met and were pursuing various ideas. The event would concentrate on Safety in the Home. Police and Fire had been contacted and were attending. St Andrews Ambulance were busy due to another event but confirmation was awaited from the Red Cross.

ROSPA will supply poster and leaflets but they suggested Jim Black who had the remit in the Council. Castle Security had also been asked and confirmed. A decision was awaited from Children & Families and water safety was being undertaken by Scottish Water. NHS24 and Age Concern may supply publicity information. Publicity for the event was also being looked along with a list contact details. Insurance was also being checked. It was hoped to do a leaflet drop on Saturday 9 June.

It was suggested that there should be something for children, perhaps to keep them occupied whilst their parents were looking at the stalls.

9. Neighbourhood Partnerships

Councillor Aitken gave a brief resume of the setting up of Neighbourhood Partnerships and that they were taking over from Local Development Committees. She said some meetings had already been between the Councillors for the area and Community Council Chairs.

The Secretary expanded on the information and said Community Councils would now have representation on the Partnerships along with elected Members, Police, NHS and the voluntary sector.

There would be 12 partnerships across the city. The partnership covering our area (Pentland Hills and Colinton/Fairmilehead) would include the area from Fairmilehead round the city outskirts to Ratho. However after lobbying it had been agreed that those areas which did not have Community Councils but other appropriate organisations such as Colinton Amenity Association would be treated as the equivalent of Community Councils.

He drew the meetings attention to the report dated 8 March 2007 entitled "Establishing Neighbourhood Partnerships" which had been approved by the Council. A lot of the details and mechanics still required to be sorted out and there were many unanswered questions.

For instance a Code of Conduct was referred to but from his enquiries this did not appear apply to Community Councillors and representation by Community Councils varied depending on who had answered the question at all the various meeting that had been held. He had submitted 15 questions for clarification on various matters raised in the report and at the meetings.

He also read over the letter from Eileen Hewitt regarding the guidance on the nomination process for electing community council representatives onto Neighbourhood Partnerships. There would also be designated substitutes.

Discussion ensued on the subject and it was decided that nominations be added as part of the elections at the next meeting which was the AGM.

10. AOCB

Mr Whytock asked for clarification regarding car washing, apparently a commercial enterprise, on the highway and when domestic premises became commercial.

The Secretary informed the meeting regarding information he had ascertained for possible grants for community projects. This made grants of up to £1000 available for things such as planters, seats and other items for open spaces. He had circulated it by e-mail and had asked for further information which he would circulate when received.

11. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 1 May 2007 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls and would incorporate the AGM.

Contacts:

e-mail: Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk

Website: www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk