

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 2 December 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillors Eric Barry and Jason Rust, Johanna Carrie; Bryan Fisher; James Gow; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; Daphne Sleigh; PS Steven Riddell (Part); PC Kenny Welsh; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Stewart Campbell; Ian Elfick; Jan and Douglas Grossart; Colin Manson; Norman McKenzie; Monica Patterson; Fiona and Fraser Simon; Tom Strathdee; Margaret Walker, Sharon Weir;

Apologies: Councillor Elaine Aitken; Matthew McKerrow

In Attendance: David McLetchie MSP

1. Police Report

PC Kenny Welsh gave his report for November. There had been 27 crimes, 2 of which had been the solved. There were 12 vandalisms to property and 13 dishonesty, including 5 garages broken into in one evening. Amongst the 12 vandalisms were 7 vehicles in Buckstone Avenue. 3 culprits had possibly had possibly been identified and enquiries were continuing. There were concerns about the break-ins to garages and anybody requiring crime prevention advice should contact him and it would be arranged.

Questions were raised about possible of problems and damage to vehicles caused by alleged patrons of the Pavilion public house. Sergeant Steve Riddell gave an explanation of the background it was suggested that people could keep a diary of any events and this could be used as evidence in the future. The Community Council was not objecting to the licence because it did not have any evidence to do so. Councillor Rust said that he and Councillor Aitken had contacted Inspector Sue Wilson regarding the complaints. Councillor Barry, who was on the Licensing Board, gave a brief outline of the situation from a licensing aspect but said a fair body of evidence was required before a licence could be suspended or withdrawn.

In response to another question the fireworks and bonfire at Oxgangs had passed successfully and there had been no major problems.

2. David McLetchie MSP

The Chair introduced Mr McLetchie and welcomed him to the meeting. Mr McLetchie gave a brief introduction to his work and that he was the constituency MSP for Edinburgh Pentlands. There were a total of eight covered the area, the other seven being regional or list MSPs.

He would be sitting in for the remainder of the meeting so could pick up any points raised. However he raised the following three points:

The level of policing - welcome number of police which is at an all time high;

He had spoken at the very well attended public meeting regarding the proposed closure of Oxgangs Post Office. An excellent campaign was being run and a decision was expected in the middle of January.

Boroughmuir School - Concerns regarding the Scottish Water site. The Council have no funds either to purchase the site, build a new school or even refurbish on the present site. Any money from the Scottish government would be under the Scottish Futures Trust.

3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 4 November 2008 And Matters Arising.

The minutes were approved on the motion of Ian Elfick seconded by Dennis Williams after a minor correction to the Police Report was made.

Matters Arising:

a) Play Equipment in Buckstone;

The Secretary read an e-mail that Mrs Chung had received from the Buckstone Association informing her "that due to circumstances beyond our control, the balance beams will not be re-installed in the foreseeable future." Mr Campbell asked for clarification regarding "the foreseeable future". Richard Hinton said that the beams were no longer usable and the matter of play equipment on the estate would be on the agenda for the Buckstone association AGM on 10 March 2009.

b) Patients Rights Bill Consultation:

The Secretary had circulated the consultation questions at the previous meeting and he would draft responses and circulate them prior to the next meeting for agreement prior to submission.

c) Climate Change:

The Secretary reported that he had received an e-mail response that afternoon which he had forwarded to Johanna Carrie. He suggested that if any clarification was required she contact the department directly.

d) Boroughmuir School

A report on the various options for the Wave 3 schools including Boroughmuir was going to the Council on 18 December and the outcome would be known after that meeting.

e) Oxfangs Post Office

The Chair said that at least 250 letters to date had been submitted regarding the proposed closure and a very well attended public meeting had been held. Councillor Rust said that the motion he put forward at the November Council meeting had been approved. The Secretary stated that there was an online petition available for signing through the FCC website and urged all those who signed it to also send in a submission. He was working on the joint submission from Firrhill and Fairmilehead CCs.

4. Correspondence

- a) Capital Review – Autumn 2008 edition
- b) Planning Aid – Forum Event 5 December 2008-12-29
- c) Licensing Department – Applications for December 2008 (*2 in area*)
- d) Rekk.co.uk – Youth shelters (*Passed to Margaret Walker*)
- e) CEC – Online survey for Morningside Library refurbishment (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- f) Scottish Water newsletter – edition 16 (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- g) Morningside Community Council – Christmas tree lights event – 8 December 2008
- h) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – review of CC Scheme , Key findings
- i) Corporate Services, CEC – Intergenerational Seminar, 8 December 2008
- j) City Development, CEC – Food and drink establishments guidelines consultation
- k) Planning Aid – Workshop arranged by David McLetchie, 7 February 2009 (*4 persons nominated*)
- l) BAA, Edinburgh Airport – Completion of runway resurfacing (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- m) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – Community Council news, Autumn 2008
- n) Edinburgh Civic Trust – Update newsletter November 2008
- o) Scottish Natural Heritage – Corporate Strategy and annual report

5. Councillors Report

Councillor Barry said that he had written to Euan Kennedy, Roads Manager, regarding changes in schedules and priorities for the gritting lorries. There was graffiti on the walls of the civil defence building in Buckstone Grove and he had contacted the appropriate department to arrange for its removal. The fire at Firrhill, which had been deliberate, resulted in 20 houses being demolished. This had caused a knock-on effect because people were due to enter their new homes and some had terminated leases etc in their temporary accommodation. Due to the fire people were not able to occupy their new homes and alternative arrangements would require to be found. There was also the question of how safe the existing properties that had been completed were. The fire had also affected other householders in the area.

Councillor Rust read over a report he had received from Councillor Aitken:

Field at Buckstone Howe - The damaged fence has been reported again and repair requested. Lindsay Glasgow has agreed to consider what could be done to upgrade the facility. A litter bin has also been requested.

Buckstone Howe - Request for a cul de sac sign to be installed here.

Buckstone Grove – Neighbourhood Team contacted about the graffiti on the old quarry building.

Fairmile Inn –The owner has assured her that he is working on a proposal which should be submitted to CEC Planning officials for consideration and discussion at the start of the new year.

Schools - Braidburn Leavers Group were highly commended at The Standard Life Achievement Awards 2008 for their work creating a garden at Milestone House. She has written to them to offer congratulations.

Initial reports indicate that parents at Boroughmuir, Bruntsfield and Buckstone appear to be in favour of the refurbishment option rather than a new build on the Scottish Water site. This would be dependant on a partial decant as a minimum requirement.

17 Buckstone Crescent - There is renewed concern about the state of the garden and property. An inspection has been arranged and she has written to the owner, asking about his plans for any refurbishment.

TRO for Buckstone Road - A request has been made for an an update on the status and timescale for the double yellow lines.

6. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire introduced Christine Ireland from Damhead Community Council who informed the meeting regarding a planning application for Calderstones, Biggar Road, which is the site with the long wooden fence adjoining the Biggar Road and next to the entrance to the ski centre. It was right on the boundary between the 2 community councils. It was proposed to demolish the existing house and build a 250 roomed hotel with conference facilities and a leisure club. There would also be 14 apartments as well as 22 timeshare lodges and a country club. It was proposed that there would be 400 parking spaces.

Although at this stage it was only outline planning permission that was being sought artists impressions had been submitted with the plans and these showed the building to be prominent against the hills. She provided a handout with the relevant information from the Midlothian Local Plan. The development would be in both the green belt and the Pentlands Regional Park. It was though that Midlothian Council was keen on the development as it would then get developer contributions towards refurbishment of the ski centre. Plans were available at Loanhead library.

Various suggestions were made from the floor regarding agencies that could be contacted such as the Scottish Wildlife Trust as there were bats, badgers and other wildlife in the area. It was also mentioned that no environmental impact assessment had been submitted with the application. The meeting agreed that the Community Council should oppose the development and that Louise Maguire and the Secretary draw up a suitable submission.

7. Transport Sub-Committee

Louise Maguire mentioned that the latest addition of the Spokes newsletter was available.

8. Youth

Margaret Walker introduced James Gow, the youth representative, who gave a brief update to the meeting on both the youth club and youth project. There were 90 members between them and they undertook activities such as crafts, sports and baking. They were having a fun day in March with a duck race which last year raised £500. It was also hoped to have stalls and a bouncy castle.

9. AOCB

The problems with vehicles parked in Swanston Avenue between Biggar Road and the top of the hill were highlighted. Drivers turning into the Avenue were confronted by cars parking right up to the junction and the road was only 25 feet wide and with the average car being 7 feet wide there was a lot of room for vehicles passing. It was suggested that yellow lines may be beneficial in the interest of road safety. The Secretary stated he would follow this up.

Vehicles sometimes parking on the pavement and on the road at the Knoll in Buckstone Road at the Loan were making it difficult for passing vehicles. The Secretary stated that we would not be able to get yellow lines there but other solutions may be possible. It was also reported that the kerbstones in Winton Loan need righted.

Johanna Carrie reported that the transition meeting recently held in the Pentland Centre had been a success. The next meeting was being held there on the 12th of January at 7:30 p.m.

Alison Elphick said the renewal of the subscription of the Friends of Pentlands was due. It was agreed that this be renewed.

The Chair was thanked the members and office bearers of the community council, the Councillors and Mr McLetchie for their help and assistance throughout the year and also those that attended the meetings. He wished everybody the compliments of the season. He invited those that wished to remain to join us for cheese and wine in the foyer at which there would be entertainment provided by some of the youth project members.

10. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 6 January 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 3 February 2009

Tuesday 3 March 2009

Tuesday 7 April 2009

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