

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 1 April 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Present: Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillors Elaine Aitken; Sheena Robertson; PC Kenny Welsh; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Mike Brunsdon; Ian Elfick; Bryan Fisher; Wendy Kenyon; Sheila McConnell; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Colin Manson; Anne Paterson; Margaret Walker

Apologies: Dennis Williams (Chair); Councillor Jason Rust, Johanna Carrie; Richard Hinton; Daphne Sleigh; Hilary Brown; Ken McAskill; Dot Logan; Jennifer Munro

Louise Maguire was in the chair in the absence of the Chair on business

1. Police Report

There had been 15 crimes and offences in total during March of which 8 had been solved. 1 had been a crime of violence, 3 thefts, 6 road traffic offences, 4 damage to property and 1 miscellaneous.

In Buckstone Lea a van had had its 4 tyres slashed; a car in Buckstone Road had its paintwork scratched; a house in Buckstone Road near to the Knoll had a window broken and a house window in Pentland Drive had been broken.

Property had been stolen from a doorstep in Margaret Rose Avenue and a light cluster had been stolen from a car in Swanston Grove. A house in Caiystane Avenue had been broken into.

In response to a question he said that the Neighbourhood Action Team had attended several incidents in the Oxfangs Broadway area and had been given names of culprits.

2. Minute Of Meeting Held On 4 March 2008 And Matters Arising.

There was one minor amendment – page 2 last sentence replace “the repair/replacement of the handrails” with “new handrails”.

With these adjustments the minutes were approved on the motion of Ian Elphick seconded by Louise Maguire.

Matters Arising:

- a) Parking – Buckstone: The Secretary reported that following on from the last meeting he had submitted the letter which had been approved to the Director of City Development. He had included the suggestions/concerns raised regarding Buckstone Avenue and Gardens. Copies had been sent to the three Councillors. Councillor Aitken informed the meeting that the new Director, Dave Anderson, was now in post having taken over from Andrew Holmes on his retiral. There was also a new head of transport. She was arranging a site meeting with the new area roads manager, Gordon Drysdale. PC Welsh reported that a traffic report had been submitted to the appropriate department.
- b) Boundaries Commission Review – The Secretary reported that he had submitted a response to the review, a copy of which was available on the website. Louise Maguire raised the question of where the proposed boundary line actually as she thought it differed from the description given in the previous minute which was down Buckstone and Pentland Terrace. Councillor Aitken agreed to check this out.

- c) Boroughmuir High School – The Secretary reported that along with Councillor Aitken and Gavin Brown MSP, he had attended a recent meeting at the school where Malcolm Fraser had presented his proposals for a renewed school on the existing site. This would involve refurbishment of the existing listed building and the addition of building such as sports and dining halls within the boundaries. The CEC preferred option was a new build on the Scottish Water site at Fairmilehead but they did not have the money to purchase the site. The original proposal for a new build at Fountainbridge now appeared out of the running due to the interest in the whole site by HBOS as a new headquarters. There had been 148 persons present at the meeting and on a vote there were only 2 votes against moving from the existing site. A feasibility study by the CEC on the Wave 3 schools, including Boroughmuir, was shortly to be submitted to the Scottish Government for a decision on funding.

3. Correspondence

- a) Forestry Commission – Consultation on Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2008 – 2010. *(Circulated by e-mail)*
- b) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Scottish Government survey on Association of Scottish Community Councils *(Circulated by e-mail)*
- c) Association of Scottish Community Councils – February 2008 Newsletter
- d) Scottish Government – Planning Modernisation, Consultations and Electronic Publication Strategy *(Concern expressed at documents only going to be available in electronic format)*
- e) Friends of the Earth – Discussion Event on new planning framework – 14 April. *(Circulated by e-mail)*
- f) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Joint CC Meeting 24 April and Training programmes. *(Circulated by e-mail)*
- g) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Information re RSPB biodiversity projects *(Circulated by e-mail)*
- h) Tennants Voice Magazine – March 2008-04-28
- i) Postwatch Scotland – Newsletter 18
- j) Care and Repair – Information posters and leaflets *(Distributed at meeting)*
- k) Boundary Commission for Scotland – Acknowledgement of FCC submission

4. Councillor's Report

Councillor Aitken said that the reports on the speed bumps which had been due to be presented to Council in February then May had been delayed yet again. It was not now known when it would be ready as it was covering the whole of Edinburgh. She requested that anybody who had any damage caused to their vehicle or other problems associated with the speed bumps let her know.

She congratulated Margaret Walker and the Youth Project for raising £570 with the duck race.

There had been calls about the Fairmile Inn and it may have been sold but this had not been ascertained. A enquiry to the Council regarding a request to turn it into an office block had been refused. PC Welsh confirmed that the premises were being stripped out. The BT exchange at Buckstone Avenue had suffered graffiti and its windows vandalised. The windows were going to be replaced with perspex.

There had been a burst pipe at the Comiston cistern which had resulted in flooding in Braidburn Valley Park. As well as new handrails in Cockmylane it was proposed that power for street lighting was also installed as it was part of a safer route to school.

She also said that she had been contacted by several people regarding the Scottish Government consultation on water and sewerage rates in connection with premises used by charities and churches. If charging went ahead this could cause considerable problems for these organisations. She had lodged objections.

She also congratulated Dennis Williams on the 25th anniversary of his shop which had had its anniversary on Good Friday. The meeting also extended its congratulations.

Colin Manson raised the question of the current situation with the pavilions at Colinton Mains Park in response to a recent newspaper article. The present position was unknown but she would enquire with Councillor Rust.

5. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire reported that planning consultations from the Scottish Government would go direct to her. A joint response with Morningside CC had been submitted in respect of Development Management. A local consultation on trees and development in Edinburgh was being looked at.

6. Transport Sub-Committee

Councillor Aitken stated that objections to the withdrawal of the 18 bus on Sundays had been submitted by the Councillors.

7. AOCB

The Secretary gave a brief report on the regional meeting of the Association of Scottish Community Councils (ASCC) which had recently been held in the City Chambers when he had attended along with Louise Maguire. There was review ongoing by the Scottish Government and this would shortly be put out to consultation. The ASCC were clarifying the position regarding registration on the Data Protection Act for Community Councils at a cost of £35 per annum.

The Secretary drew the meetings attention to an application by Midlothian Council for a park and ride scheme at Lothianburn. This would be for 500 spaces with an expansion option for a further 500. The entrance/exit would be by means of a roundabout opposite the entrance to Lothianburn Golf Club. After discussion it was decided to lodge an objection.

The Secretary drew the meetings attention to a consultation document on decoupling the Scottish parliamentary and local government elections. There were 3 questions requiring answering and it was agreed that this would be put on the agenda for the next meeting. (The document is available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/03/18080302/0>)

Louise Maguire raised the subject of engaging with the community. This would be dealt with a later meeting.

Margaret Walker said that the duck race had been organised by 2 members of the Youth Project, as part of their Youth Achievement Awards. There was a fund raising evening in the Merlin on 11 April and a welcome was extended to all. There was a grant into the Neighbourhood Partnership for a grant for the summer residential course. At the last meeting of the Buckstone Association some of the youths gave a presentation on what they do at the Project. Margaret gave details of the Utility Warehouse scheme where the Youth Project have a charity code and receive 5% of monthly accounts from members of the scheme. She can supply further details.

The project had been invited to assist with the Spring Fayre in St Fillans on 26 April and the PTA event on 13 June in the primary school. Margaret was thanked for her report.

It was agreed that the FCC should invite the youth project to our next meeting to give the presentation they had given to the Buckstone Association.

Wendy Kenyon raised the question of equipment for Fairmilehead Park. The children that used the park were outgrowing the existing equipment and she wondered if there were any avenues for getting some more. Louise Maguire explained the background and said she would put her in touch with Karen Hay, Parks Dept, regarding funding and also Craig Dunlop from services for Communities. She would contact her after the meeting with further information.

The Secretary said that he had made the bookings for the next session. Unfortunately a lot of bookings had already been made which meant that our meetings would have to be held in the church. However, if at anytime a hall was vacant we would get the use of that.

8. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 6 May 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls and would incorporate the AGM.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 3 June 2008

Tuesday 2 September 2008

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