

Fairmilehead Community Council

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

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Bryan Fisher; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; Daphne Sleigh; Councillors Elaine Aitken, Eric Barry and Jason Rust; Inspector Sue Wilson (Part); Ian Elfick; Dot Logan; Ken Macaskill; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Norman McLeod; Fiona Simon; Tom & Jean Strathdee

Apologies: Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Johanna Carrie; Julie Davies; Jennifer Munro; Audrey Ryan; PC Kenny Welsh; Charles Whytock

The Secretary reported to the meeting the death of Susan Wong, Chair of Morningside Community Council on 14 August 2008. The Chair and he had attended her funeral.

The Chair read over a letter of thanks from Jennifer Munro who was moving to Colinton.

1. Police Report

The Chair welcomed Inspector Sue Wilson back to Oxgangs Police Station. She said she was attending in the absence of PC Welsh on holiday. She had only started at Oxgangs the previous week and was still trying to catch up. She gave a brief report on the crime for the previous months. There had been 3 housebreakings, one at the hairdressers shop in Buckstone terrace, a house in Oxgangs Road and one in Buckstone Gate. There had been no violent crime and 3 motor vehicles had been broken into in the Frogston and Biggar Road areas. In the year to date there had been 78 crimes/offences against 69 for the same period last year.

Inspector Wilson responded to questions on a letter to retailers regarding the selling of eggs leading up to Halloween and youths in Buckstone. Councillor Rust raised the question of opening times of Oxgangs Police Station. Due to the retiral of a civilian member and the illness of another it was not easy to keep it open as previously. She was trying to arrange cover using persons that were on light duties but this was not always easy.

She also said that it was beneficial to report all incidents as it was these figures that were looked at when deciding resources.

2. Minute Of Meeting Held On 3 June 2008 And Matters Arising.

The minutes were approved on the motion of Elaine Aitken seconded by Alison Elfick with two small typographical errors amended.

Matters Arising:

- a) Parking – Buckstone: The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from CEC detailing the proposals for the double yellow lines at the entrance to the Buckstone estate. The majority of the requests made had been accepted and he received a copy of the preliminary drawings. He also reported that the manhole covers in Buckstone Crescent which had been reported had been patched.

He gave a brief report on the area walkabout that had been held with Eddie Hume of CEC Roads Department, Councillors Aitken and Barry and representatives from the community safety section and environmental wardens. As a result of a question Councillor Aitken said she would try and ascertain the status of the parking area at the rear of the Buckstone shops.

- b) 18 Bus Service: Councillor Rust reported that the matter was still in a state of flux and that Lothian Buses had stated that the service would be cut along with some night services for the area. The Council had referred the matter back to Lothian Buses for further consideration and it was due to come back to the next Council meeting.
- c) Community Council Consultations: The Secretary reported that a special meeting had been held to discuss the FCC response to both the Scottish Government and Edinburgh Council consultations on the scheme for community councils. Responses had been submitted to both consultations.
- d) Post Office Closures: The Secretary stated that there were none scheduled for this area but he read over a paper from the Council Secretary that had been discussed at the last Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership. It included a motion condemning the closure of post offices and it had been approved by both the Council and the Partnership. It was agreed that the Secretary write to the Council Secretary endorsing the motion.

3. Correspondence

- a) CEC Planning Department – Modification to Edinburgh City local Plan, minded to delete housing proposal at Zoo.
- b) Fairmilehead Parish Church – Letter re new website (www.fairmileheadparishchurch.org.uk)
- c) Tenants Voice Magazine – May 2008 edition and annual report for 2007/2008
- d) CEC – Have your say on parks and green spaces in Edinburgh (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- e) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – CC newsletter, Joint meeting report, bases in libraries
- f) Edinburgh Association of CCs – Letter to Lothian Buses re services at west End
- g) Queensferry and District CC – Annual report
- h) Pentland Beacon – Summer 2008 edition
- i) CEC – Invite to Making Edinburgh Healthier consultation (*Circulated by e-mail*) Secretary attended
- j) Fred Mackintosh, Lib Dems – letter re propose closure of post offices
- k) NHS – Information brief re Clinical Neuroscience Department at Western – Workshop re proposed move. (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- l) Association of Scottish Community Councils – National ballot on constitution consultation and Summer edition of newsletter
- m) CEC Licensing – List of license applications (*None in area*)
- n) Cockburn Association – Civic Forum meeting 9 September (*Louise Maguire attending*)
- o) Scottish Water – e-newsletter 13 (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- p) Buckstone Youth Project and Club – Poster re new sessions (*Put on Board*)
- q) CEC – Edinburgh partnership newsletter, August edition
- r) Scottish Government – Marches and parades consultation
- s) Friends of Braidburn Valley Park – Tea in the park information (*Circulated by e-mail and notice on board*)
- t) CEC Planning – Angus Millar lecture (*Circulated to Planning Sub Group*)
- u) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Regional meeting re Town centres, 24 September (*Circulated by e-mail*) Vice Chair and Secretary attending
- v) Johanna Carrie – Community Action Resource afternoon – (*Circulated by e-mail and notice on board*)
- w) BT – Adopt a kiosk scheme
- x) CEC – Edinburgh Partnership in conference – Access to sport and culture, 2 October (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- y) Cockburn Trust – Invitation to become affiliated member – Agreed
- z) Cockburn Trust – Information regarding Open Doors Day, 27 September
- aa) Capital Review summer edition

4. Councillors Report

Councillor Aitken reported as follows: The area walkabouts were a new initiative by the Neighbourhood Partnership although some areas had them previously. Demolition of Hunters Tryst School had been commenced the day after the fire but it was not known when, due to the current climate, building on the site would start. The paths and access round Pentland primary school were being looked at as the existing right of way/path had been blocked off. Attention was also being given to dog fouling in the area.

The runway re-surfacing was in target to end in November and an update leaflet would be delivered to households shortly.

There had been problems with litter and youths in Colmestone Gate which had quietened down but had flared up again. There were also problems with youths in Winton Park and this was receiving attention.

A decision on the wave 3 schools which included Boroughmuir was expected this month.

Negotiations were ongoing with Midlothian Council regarding the position entrance/exit to the proposed park and ride site at Lothianburn as at present it was right opposite houses and the entrance to Lothianburn Golf Course.

A meeting was being held with officials regarding the gritting schedule for the area.

Councillor Rust reported on the achievement of Green Flag status for the Pentlands Regional Park. There had been a lack of consultation by the NHS regarding the proposed Firrhill Medical Centre. Robert Aitken, Assistant General Manager of the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership (CHP) was coming to the next Firrhill Community Council meeting regarding the centre.

There had been problems with lets at Firrhill High school as slots had been removed to allow persons from Craiglockhart Centre to use them.

Councillor Barry reported that the 18 bus would be worse than before if the suggested cuts went ahead. There would also be no night buses covering the area and those that worked late up the town would have difficulty getting home.

5. Other Issues

- 1 Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership – The Secretary gave a report on the recent meeting of the Partnership. It was hoped to have somebody from Lothian Buses attending the next meeting which was due to be held on the same evening as our own meeting.
- 2 Area Walkabouts – This had been covered elsewhere but as they were only being held every 3 months the Secretary suggested that we may wish to have more frequent ones which we organised ourselves. He would draw up a schedule for the next meeting.
- 3 Boundaries Commission Inquiry – The meeting was reminded of the submission that the Community Council had made. A public inquiry was being held the following week at which the Secretary would attend to state our case.
- 4 Play Equipment in Buckstone – The Secretary reported that he had received a complaint from a resident in Buckstone Row regarding the play equipment nearby there being an attraction for youths. As result their peace and enjoyment was being disturbed. They had complained to the Buckstone Association who had removed the balance beams as a temporary measure but the sets of stepping stones remained in

situ. Richard Hinton spoke on behalf of the Association. They had had 3 letters of complaint.

It was felt by the meeting that the Association should meet with the residents and try to resolve the situation. They should also canvas the opinion in the area.

- 5 Engaging with the Community – This was to be carried forward and it was suggested that a sub-group may be appropriate.

6. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire reported that there was still no further progress regarding the Steading proposals.

7. Transport Sub-Committee

Nothing further to report.

8. AOCB

Norman McLeod asked about Local Plan and the suggestion that Taylor Woodrow had wanted Swanston Village included. As far as the Community Council as aware Swanston Village was not included but Councillor Rust said he would check out the position.

Alison Elfick asked about the Fairmile Inn. There had been no further progress. AMA had obtained planning permission which expired next year but the current owners were Caledonian Estates.

9. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 7 October 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.
(Due to the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership meeting being held that evening this was subsequently changed to 14 October 2008)

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 4 November 2008 Tuesday 2 December 2008 Tuesday 6 January 2008

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