

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 4 March 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillors Elaine Aitken (part), Eric Barry & Jason Rust; Sheena Robertson; PC Kenny Welsh (part); James Bell; Hilary Brown; Tom Coyle; Bryan Fisher; Dot Logan; Ann McCutcheon; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Colin Manson; Jennifer Munro; Audrey Ryan; Fiona Simon; Tom Strathdee; Charles Whytock

Apologies: Johanna Carrie; Richard Hinton; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Julie Davies; Ken McAskill; Margaret Walker

Louise Maguire took the chair for the first three items.

1. Police Report

There were a total of 17 crimes/offences committed in the area during February. A pedal cycle was stolen from outside the newsagent in Buckstone Terrace, after it was left by the owner. A van was forcibly entered overnight whilst it was parked and secured in Comiston Spring Avenue and power tools stolen. Another van parked in Buckstone Road overnight was also broken into and an attempt was made to steal the stereo radio from within. A car in Buckstone Crescent was broken into overnight by smashing the front offside window and opening door although nothing was apparently stolen.

An attempt was made to force entry to the Fairmilehead Home Guard Club, Camus Avenue by removing the outside skin of bricks from above the main door although no entry was gained. A bungalow in Pentland Crescent was broken into during the day by smashing 2 panes of glass in the rear kitchen door, unlocking, entering, searching and stealing from within. Property stolen was a laptop, iPod and 2 passports. A neighbour returning home saw 2 males leaving the driveway about 16:45 hrs.

There were 3 vandalisms to vehicles overnight in Pentland Drive and about 0410 a witness saw a male kicking the wing mirror of one of the vehicles. It is strongly suspected he is responsible for the other damage.

A vandalism occurred overnight in Buckstone Terrace where a 'Tag' was sprayed on a common stair door, the Community Council notice board and other parts of the Terrace.

Finally, 7 of these crimes were solved and reports submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. Recorded crime to date is 156 compared to 235 for the same period last year, a reduction of 34%.

2. Councillors Reports (Part 1)

As Councillor Aitken had another meeting to attend she gave her report at this stage. She had written to the current owners of the Fairmile Inn to ask what their intentions towards the building were (*Planning application 03/01379/FUL was granted on 8 June 2004.*). There had been a further meeting with officials regarding 17 Buckstone Crescent to ascertain what the owner's intention in relation to the property there.

She had requested that residents in Buckstone who had had damage caused by the speed bumps there to let her know. The report that was supposed to go to the February Council meeting was not going to be presented now until the May meeting.

Councillor Aitken had attended a briefing earlier that day on proposals submitted by Malcolm Fraser for refurbishment and expansion of Boroughmuir School on the existing site. As well as being a renowned architect he was a parent of a child at the school. There was the possibility of a new build on the Scottish water site but there was uncertainty over when the area, and how much of it, would be released. It would be 2010 at the earliest. A feasibility study should be going forward to the March meeting of the appropriate committee.

As the demolition of the old Hunters Tryst school had been delayed due to asbestos in the building steel shutters were being erected for safety and security reasons. The building had been sold to Dundas Estates. Fairmilehead association was applying for funding for the repair/replacement of the handrails around Cockmylane and the school.

Scottish Water had submitted planning applications to Midlothian and Edinburgh Councils for the pipeline required to connect the Glencorse works to Fairmilehead and Alnwickhill. It was hoped that the new pipe would run inside the existing one where possible. This would not be until next year.

Following complaints of parking at the shops the parking attendants had been asked to give the area attention. There had been requests for a seat at the bus shelter in Buckstone Terrace and litter was a problem at the stop as it was being thrown into adjoining gardens.

At the recent Council budget meeting the bus subsidies were reduced. This would effect the Sunday services for the 18 service as well as the normal services for the 13 and 38 services. Another campaign may be required.

3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 5 February 2008 And Matters Arising.

There were two minor amendments – page 3 first word of second line of item d should read “attended” instead of “attend”. Under item 3 of correspondence on same page add “Louise Maguire responding”.

With these adjustments the minutes were approved on the motion of Sheena Robertson seconded by Louise Maguire.

Matters Arising:

- a) Parking – Buckstone: The Secretary handed out copies of a draft letter he had drawn up highlighting some of the problems with parking in the area and suggested solutions. The suggested tact was to concentrate on the road safety aspects. After discussion it was also agreed that Buckstone Avenue and Gardens be added as areas also causing concerns. There was also a concern raised regarding the large delivery vehicles that serviced Majestic Wine parking on the pavement there.
- b) Planning Protocol: A copy of this protocol drawn up by the Secretary and the Planning Officer had been circulated with the meeting papers. A copy is attached to the main minute and relates to planning issues regarding applications for extensions to existing private dwelling houses. The background to the issue was explained and after discussion it was decided that Option 3 be followed.

This option is: The Community Council will offer advice or assistance to neighbours and applicants if requested but will not lodge any objections.

- c) Neighbourhood Partnership Questionnaire: Copies of this questionnaire had been circulated with the meeting papers. The Secretary explained the reason behind the form and the meeting discussed it and decided on the responses which the Secretary would submit. A copy is attached to the main minute.

4. Correspondence

- a) Scottish Water – Notification regarding flood alleviation work in Frogston Road West.
- b) Association of Scottish Communities Council – Regional meeting, City Chambers, 15 March.
- c) Councillor Rust – Information re tram works effecting Shandwick Place area.
- d) Friends of Braidburn Valley Park – Notice re cleanup 9 March. (*Put on noticeboard*)
- e) Friends of Braidburn Valley Park – Invite to raising of Green Flag, 29 February (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- f) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Comic relief Grants deadlines (*Passed to Margaret Walker*)
- g) The Lord Provost – Nominations for the Edinburgh Award
- h) CEC – Capital Review, Winter 2008 edition
- i) SEPA – Information Seminar on Thermal Treatment, Perth, 1 April
- j) Polly Purvis, Chair, Boroughmuir School Parent Council – Invite to presentation on 21st Century Boroughmuir (*Secretary attending*)
- k) Scottish Water – E-letter 9 and information on pipeline works (*Circulated by e-mail*)

5. Councillors Reports (Part 2)

Councillor Rust expanded on the potential loss of the number 18 Sunday service and the decrease in frequency of the service 38. It was only less than a year since the 18 service was re-instated on a Sunday. The demolition of Hunters Tryst school would not be for at least 6 to 8 weeks. He had just heard that the water tank in Swanston may be up for sale by auction again also this was still to be confirmed.

Councillor Barry drew attention to the Care and Repair handyman service which could provide a service for small jobs such as changing light bulbs for the elderly and disabled. He had also been in correspondence with the Director of Services for Communities, Mark Turley, regarding gritting, or rather lack of it, in the area at the beginning of the year. He had also suggested a meeting between the three Councillors and the officials to examine the priorities for roads in the light of changed circumstances over the years so that a better service was provided. He had also suggested that there should be negotiations between Bear and CEC regarding the area roundabout the bypass and the slip roads. The Secretary said he would write to the Director confirming the Community Council's concerns regarding the lack of gritting.

6. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire informed the meeting that she was in the process of responding to 2 Scottish Government planning consultations. One was on Development Management which had 49 questions and was being co-ordinated with Morningside Community Council. The other one was on Modernising Planning Appeals and consisted of 15 questions.

7. Transport Sub-Committee

There was nothing further to report.

8. AOCB

Boundaries Commission Review

A brief paper on this had been circulated with the meeting papers. Councillor Rust gave a brief overview and explained that the proposal related only to the Scottish Parliament elections and was basically to move that part east of Buckstone Terrace, Pentland Terrace and Biggar Road that at present lay in the Pentlands constituency into the South Edinburgh constituency. It was also proposed that the Pentlands constituency be renamed South West Edinburgh.

After discussion it was agreed that the Secretary should submit objections to the proposals on behalf of the Community Council.

Norman McKenzie drew attention to the fact that this was Marie Curie month and asked those present to support the cause if possible.

The Secretary handed round leaflets explaining the new Neighbourhood Action Units.

9. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 1 April 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 6 May 2008

Tuesday 3 June 2008

Contacts:

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