

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 5 February 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; Johanna Carrie; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; Daphne Sleight; PC Kenny Welsh; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Warren Crombie; Ian Elfick; Bryan Fisher; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Fiona Simon; Tom Strathdee; Helen Young; Margaret Walker

Apologies: Councillor Jason Rust; Dr Ian McKee MSP; Julie Davies; Dot Logan; Ken McAskill; Jennifer Munro

Louise Maguire took the chair for the first item.

1. Police Report

PC Welsh reported as follows:

There were 24 crimes/offences of which 15 were vandalism. There were 11 vehicles damaged, 5 of which had their rear windscreens smashed (2 in Fairmile Avenue, 2 in Swanston Green and 1 in Swanston Park). 4 had the bodywork of the vehicles damaged, (2 in Pentland Crescent, and 1 in each of Oxfangs Road & Caiystane Crescent. 1 vehicle in Buckstone Howe had all 4 tyres slashed. A vehicle was damaged on Braid Road whilst being driven passed the entrance to Mortonhall Golf Club.

There were 4 properties damaged by smashing windows (Buckstone Gardens, Buckstone Loan and 2 in Buckstone Road.)

6 crimes of dishonesty committed during the month. There was a theft by housebreaking at Caiyside where entry was gained by forcing open ground floor kitchen window with unknown instrument and jewellery, electrical goods and clothing stolen. In Buckstone Avenue there were 2 attempted housebreakings where person(s) attempted to force open the patio doors with garden tools. Buckstone Primary had a window smashed where computer equipment had been stolen previously.

A vehicle had property stolen (sat nav & remote controlled car) whilst it was parked near to The Steading. It would appear the vehicle was insecure at the time. There were thefts in Fairmile Avenue where number plates were stolen and Buckstone Way where a pedal cycle was stolen whilst left unattended in the garden.

There were 2 crimes of violence committed during the month: 2 assaults occurred in Oxfangs Road where both complainers were punched to the face resulting in minor injuries. Finally, there was 1 crime of disorder in Biggar Road where a complainer was subjected to snowballing and verbal abuse, a positive line of enquiry is being followed.

As can be seen there was a significant increase in vandalism and malicious Mischief. In response a plain clothes initiative was carried out over the first weekend in February. No crimes occurred.

Sheena Robertson said she had been pleased with the response from the Force Control Centre when she had contacted them regarding an incident in Buckstone Grove. Councillor Barry said he had received complaints regarding youths on Buckstone Knoll. PC Welsh said that none had been recorded.

2. The Licensing Board

Councillor Barry who was a member of the Licensing Board gave a talk on the working of the Board and the new Licensing Act which received Royal Assent in 2005 and would become effective from April 2008. This introduced a different way of liquor licensing. All Board members were required to sit and pass an exam before they were eligible to sit on the Board.

There is also a Licensing Forum, which our Chairman sits on, that gives the community a say.

There were 5 stated aims in the Act –

- Preventing crime and disorder
- Securing public safety
- Preventing public nuisance
- Protecting and improving public health
- Protecting children from harm

In future there would be two types of licence – a personal licence and a premises licence. The premises licence is issued in perpetuity. Initially an operating plan and floor plans will require to be submitted but will be self certification in future. A personal licence will be required by bar managers and similar persons and will last for 10 years. Proof of training and qualification will be required. Staff will also be required to undertake training.

There are 3300 liquor licences issued in Edinburgh. There are 730 public houses; 188 clubs; 101 entertainment; 175 restaurant and 629 off sales. At present a licence lasts for 3 years and all licences are renewed on a rolling basis so that every year about one third of them are renewed. There are also 2300 licence extensions which require to be renewed annually.

Recently a few premises have had their licences taken back to 11pm. Under EU law licences can be suspended but not taken away and police can only object under the new act if the person is connected to organized crime. Some off sale premises had had their licences withdrawn.

There would be Licensing Officers who would provide supervision, enforcement and advice. However, there had been 2 in post but both had resigned although it was intended to have 8 eventually.

3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 8 January 2008 And Matters Arising.

There were two minor amendments – page 2 1st para 2 line insert 'looked' after 'still being' an in 1st line of 2nd last para delete 'and had' after councillors.

The minutes of the meeting on 8 January 2008 were approved on the motion of Sheena Robertson and seconded by Ian Elphick.

Matters Arising:

- a) Parking – Buckstone. The Secretary said that the situation had not improved. PC Welsh reported that he and Inspector Lyle had looked at the problem and were intending submitting a report to Traffic Management. Councillor Barry reported that he had received a letter from Stewart Farquhar, CEC, in response to his request for single yellow lines stating that following observations there was no problems with parking. Councillor Aitken had received conflicting information from the Council. The Secretary said that he would bring a draft letter to the next meeting detailing the problems and emphasising the road safety aspects. He also asked anybody with similar problems in their area to advise him accordingly.
- b) Hunters Tryst Primary School – The Chair reported that there had been a fire on the premises the previous Sunday although no major damage had been done. The

councillors said that it was due to be demolished ASAP but there were financial and legal implications.

- c) Gritting – The Secretary reported that he had submitted a question for a written response to the last Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership highlighting the problem that had been experienced and asking for a list of the categories for roads in the area and how the categories were decided. The Councillors were trying to arrange a meeting with those officials who planned the gritting to see if the priorities could be reviewed.
- d) Edinburgh Airport runway resurfacing – The Secretary reported on a meeting he attend at the airport where information on this project was given. The main runway is being resurfaced at nights from 30 March for 8 months between 11pm and 5.45am, Sunday to Friday. During these hours all air traffic will require to use the secondary runway. This mean that night flights, about 18 per night, will pass over the Fairmilehead area. A leaflet drop is being arranged to inform the public along with media information and a website: www.edinburghairport.com. Information would be put on the FCC noticeboard and website.

4. Correspondence

- 1) Head of Planning, CEC – Community Councils and the Planning Service (Circulated by e-mail)
- 2) Scottish Water – E-letter 7 (Circulated by e-mail)
- 3) Planning Department – Draft Trees and Development Consultation (Circulated by e-mail)
- 4) Lothian & Borders Police Board – Custody Visiting Scheme - (Circulated by e-mail and on noticeboard)
- 5) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Parks and Gardens capital programme (Circulated by e-mail)
- 6) Dare to Care Campaign – Stand against child poverty in Scotland
- 7) Environmental Resources Management – Information on new pipe line re Glencorse treatment plant and Fairmilehead works.
- 8) Working Capital – January 2008 edition

5. Councillors Reports

Councillor Aitken reported that she had raised the smashed windows in Buckstone Road with Inspector Lyle. She had been involved with the officials and contractors regarding the snagging list for Pentland PS and it was hoped that the list of repairs at Buckstone PS would be undertaken if not this financial year, at the beginning of the next.

There had been a review of Community Centres where there was going to be £850,000 of cuts against the Community learning budget although no centres were due for closure. There were concerns that some of the staff would be cut but as Management Committees were volunteers there could be problems in some of the centres. The Pentland Community Centre has approximately 1000 people through its doors every week.

The redundant road sign in Buckstone Crescent near to Buckstone Way had eventually been removed.

Councillor Barry also highlighted possible budget cuts in relation to the care worker from the 'Choose Life' campaign. The worker covered both Firrhill and Boroughmuir schools. Firrhill had agreed to fund the £29,000 cost for the coming year. This post was particularly important as the situation in Bridgend and elsewhere highlighted.

He had also had a meeting with Willie Gallacher, Executive Chairman of tie Ltd. with concerns about the tram works. He also reported that there was some movement in the

south suburban railway campaign although there was stumbling block with the tunnel between Haymarket and Waverley.

The Chair thanked the Councillors for their assistance and support.

6. Planning and Environment

The Secretary handed out copies of a draft Planning Protocol and explained the reasons for it. It was decided that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Transport Sub-Committee

The Secretary stated that he had asked for a report to be provided to the next Neighbourhood Partnership regarding the prioritisation and funding for road maintenance and how local priorities can be influenced.

8. Funding for Youth Project

Margaret Walker gave a brief report and said Councillor Aitken had given her a 14 page application for funding through the Community Grants funds. Hilary Brown had offered to assist her with funding applications. There was to be a funding raising event in the Merlin on 11 April 2008.

9. Neighbourhood Partnership

The Secretary reported on the recent meeting. He also circulated a copy of the questionnaire that had been drawn up to allow Community Council's to discuss and decide on the priorities for the Partnership. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

10. AOCB

Margaret Walker informed the meeting that the suspension on her motor vehicle had recently been broken by the speed bumps. Warren Crombie confirmed this and being a mechanic he had repaired many vehicles which had suffered similar damage due to speed bumps. Councillor Aitken said that a report on the bumps was due to go to the February meeting of the Transport Committee.

11. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 4 March 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 1 April 2008

Tuesday 6 May 2008

Tuesday 3 June 2008

Contacts:

e-mail: Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk
445 5160

Website: www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk