

# Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls incorporating the Annual General Meeting.

**Present:** Dennis Williams (Chair) (Part); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Richard Hinton; Councillors Elaine Aitken and Eric Barry (Part); Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; A Dih; Rosemary Cowper; Bryan Fisher; Douglas Jeffrey; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Jennifer Munro; Anne Paterson; Audrey Ryan; Tom Strathdee; Margaret Walker

**Apologies:** Alison Elfick (Treasurer) Councillor Jason Rust, Johanna Carrie; Sheena Robertson; Daphne Sleigh; PC Kenny Welsh; Hilary Brown; Ian Elfick; Colin Manson; Wendy Kenyon; Dot Logan;

**In attendance:** Lorna Goudie (Damhead & District Community Council); 4 members of Buckstone Youth Project

Louise Maguire was in the chair for the first two items.

## 1. Buckstone Youth Project

Margaret Walker gave a brief resume of the work of the project and said that they had raised £51 in the recent church fayre at St Fillans. The application for a grant from the Pentlands neighbourhood partnership had been successful. This grant was to pay for the residential course at the end of June when 12 members would be attending.

She then introduced 4 members of the Project who informed the meeting of some of their activities: Go karting, a visit to the climbing centre; raft building and kayaking on a previous residential trip; and some of the activities undertaken at the church. There was also a short video presentation of some of the activities.

The Chair thanked all participants and wished the project well.

## 2. Police Report

In the absence of PC Welsh due to illness the Secretary read a report that had been sent by the A/PS at Oxgangs.

During April 17 crimes were reported, 9 of which have been solved. This is a very low level of reported crime and a very high level of solved crime.

I am pleased to report that there were no houses broken into during April. The crimes of note are as follows.

There were six reports of damage to property - During the evening of Tuesday 29th a living room window of a house in Pentland View was smashed by a stone. Overnight between 28th and 29th the wing mirror of a Citroen motorcar in Oxgangs Road was broken. A male has been reported for throwing stones at a taxi in the early hours of Sunday 13th in Braid Road. in Camus Avenue overnight between the 20th and 21st the bonnets of a Peugeot and Jaguar motorcars were scratched. In early April the rear kitchen window of a house in Pentland Gardens was smashed with a stone.

Two vehicles were broken into: During the afternoon of Tuesday 8th two mini buses, parked in a layby on the Biggar Road near Hillend, were broken into. The culprit smashed a window and stole a variety of bags containing personal belongings from within the vehicles.

Between the 18th and 20th a canoe was stolen from a back garden in Buckstone Crescent.

The Secretary also informed the meeting of two recent incidents: an unprovoked stabbing on a female near to Morrison's superstore at the end of last month and a young women shot with a paintball pellet from a vehicle just after she had alighted from a bus in Buckstone Terrace near to the Scottish Water premises. He said that anybody with any information should contact either the police or himself.

### **3. Planning Application for The Steadings, 118 Biggar Road**

Lorna Goudie of Damhead and District Community Council addressed the meeting on the planning application for the Steadings. The proposal was to redevelop the site by demolishing the existing building and replacing it with a modern building. She explained that although it was on the boundary of their area it was actually in our area for planning purposes. The building was mentioned on a map of 1855 as being a Smiddy and was considered to be part of Old Pentland. In their opinion the proposed building did not fit in with the surrounding area, was of unsuitable materials and was in the greenbelt which restricted development.

Lorna was thanked for her presentation and then left the meeting.

Discussion ensued and it was decided on a majority vote that the Community Council would become statutory consultees and oppose the application. Louise Maguire would undertake the necessary administration.

### **4. Reports From Chair, Secretary and Treasurer**

The Chair gave a brief report on the activities during the previous year. He also thanked the officer-bearers and Councillors for their assistance and support during the previous year. He also thanked the Buckstone Youth project and the assistants. Thanks were also given to the members and those who attended the meetings.

The Secretary reported that, including the AGM last year there had been 10 meetings of the Community Council with an average attendance of 21 persons and 5 apologies at each meeting.

The highest attendance at one meeting was at the October meeting when Scottish Water gave a presentation on the Edinburgh Drinking Water Project when 30 persons were present, at least for part of the meeting.

We had guest speakers at 4 meetings when the subjects were –The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership; The workings of the Licensing Board; The Edinburgh Drinking Water Project; and the new area Police Inspector, Margaret Lyle.

There had been an average of 15 pieces of correspondence per meeting and we had discussed matters such as Boroughmuir School; Parking in Buckstone; 17 Buckstone Crescent; Fairmile Inn and decided on a Planning Protocol for private dwelling houses.

We had also discussed and responded to consultations on: Better Health; Better Care; Boundary Commission proposals for the Scottish Parliamentary Boundaries; and the development of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership.

He was the representative to the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership. The partnership is still in its infancy and had held 5 public meetings and 3 business meetings. It was at present developing a Community Plan for the area which it covers, from Ratho round to Fairmilehead. It would also be setting up sub groups to cover areas such as environment, health and transport.

The make up of the partnership is the 6 Councillors for the area, Colinton/Fairmilehead and Pentlands Ward, the Police, NHS Lothian and community representatives. Councillor Rust is the chair and as well as himself there are also representatives from Balerno, Currie, Firrhill, Ratho and Longstone Community Councils. There were also representatives from Colinton Amenity Association, Wester Hailes Representative Council and EVOC.

A new responsibility for the partnership is going to be the distribution of funds under the Fairer Scotland Fund through a funding panel.

In the absence of the Treasurer the Secretary distributed copies of the audited accounts and balance sheet a copy of which is attached to the main minute. The balance in the bank was £357.72 as at 1 April 2008. To this was to be added £772 being the annual grant from the Council.

## **5. Adoption of Accounts**

Elaine Aitken proposed the adoption of the Accounts, seconded by Audrey Ryan and carried unanimously.

## **6. Appointment of Auditor**

Mr Kenneth Miller was re-appointed as Auditor for the next financial year proposed by the Chair and seconded by the Secretary. Thanks were expressed to him for his services during the past year.

## **7. Election of Office Bearers; Chair, Vice Chair; Secretary and Treasurer**

Councillor Elaine Aitken assumed the chair during the elections of the Office Bearers and gave them and members thanks for their involvement in the community during the previous year. She also gave thanks to Margaret Walker and the Buckstone Youth Project.

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Chair	Dennis Williams	Norman Tinlin	Louise Maguire
Vice-Chair	Louise Maguire	Elaine Aitken	Dennis Williams
Secretary	Norman Tinlin	Dennis Williams	Louise Maguire
Treasurer	Alison Elfick	Norman Tinlin	Elaine Aitken

## **8. Proposal of New Nominated Member**

The Secretary stated that he had been approached by Bryan Fisher who was interested in becoming a member of the Council. He had checked with the CEC Liaison Officer and it was suggested the best way was for Mr Fisher to become a nominated member on behalf of St Fillans. St Fillans had agreed to this and the Secretary asked if the nomination of Bryan Fisher was acceptable to the meeting. This was agreed and Mr Fisher was welcomed to the Community Council as a nominated member.

## **9. Minute Of Meeting Held On 1 April 2008 And Matters Arising.**

The minutes were approved on the motion of Louise Maguire seconded by Elaine Aitken.

Matters Arising:

- a) Parking – Buckstone: The Secretary reported that that morning himself, Councillor Aitken, A/PS Riddell and Gordon Drysdale, the Area Roads Manager, CEC had held a site meeting regarding the parking problem. The majority of the suggestions had

been agreed, the mains ones being double yellow lines for Buckstone Road, Avenue and Gardens at Buckstone Terrace to prevent vehicles parking near to the junctions and at the speed cushions.

There would also be parking spaces marked at the south end of Braid Road on the west side. These spaces would be for a similar time as those in front of the Buckstone shops i.e. 30 minutes. It was hoped that these intended measures would deter all day parkers and contribute to road safety in the area.

Councillor Aitken stated that a school travel plan was being devised and this involved a "walking bus". A survey on the Buckstone estate would be undertaken and other safety aspects and parking restrictions may be recommended.

The question of the speed bumps reports was also raised. Councillor Aitken said that this was not now expected to be available till the autumn.

- b) Boundaries Commission Review – Councillor Aitken confirmed that in clarification to a question raised at the last meeting the proposed boundary was the old Ward boundary.
- c) Decoupling Local Elections – The Scottish Government Consultation on Decoupling the Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government Elections was discussed. The meeting agreed that it was thought this would be a good idea and that the proposals regarding the next set of elections mentioned in the document be accepted. It was also felt that by decoupling the elections there may be a problem with turnout being lower. The Secretary would respond to the document accordingly.
- d) Joint Community Council Meeting – The Secretary reported that it had been announced that due to the European elections next year the Community Councils elections were being delayed until October 2009. He had checked with Eileen Hewitt who confirmed that due to this next year AGM need not be held until after the CC elections.
- e) Scottish Government Consultation on Community Councils - The Secretary reported that this consultation had just been issued with a closing date of 1 August 2008. He had circulated a copy to members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that this be discussed at the next meeting with possibly a special meeting thereafter to discuss the document fully.

## 10. Correspondence

- a) Scottish Water – E-newsletter 10 (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- b) City Development – Development Management Handbook - Guidelines for parking in front gardens (*Passed to Louise Maguire*)
- c) Macmillan Cancer Support – Offer of speakers (*Request submitted*)
- d) Association of Scottish Community Councils – Constitution Consultation 2008 (*Secretary to circulate*) Also membership renewal request (*Agreed to renew*)
- e) Licensing Department – Licence renewals (*None in area*)
- f) Please note that in future lists of applications will no longer be published in the Edinburgh Evening News but will be available through the CEC website.
- g) Fairmilehead Parish Church – Amended invoice for hall let
- h) CEC Housing and Regeneration – Tenant Participation Strategy 2008-2011
- i) Working Capital magazine – April 2008 edition
- j) Colinton Amenity Association – Invite to AGM 28 May – (*Louise Maguire attending*)
- k) Edinburgh Association of Community Councils – Agenda for AGM 21 June
- l) CEC City Development – Notice of pre-enquiry procedure meeting 15 May
- m) Scottish Water – E-newsletter 11 (*Circulated by e-mail*)

- n) CEC – Community Events in Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Area – Requesting details of upcoming community events for possibility of a presence.
- o) Planning Aid Scotland – Subscription renewal reminder (*Agreed to renew*)
- p) West End Community Council – Trams Question Time event – 29 May in City Chambers

## **11. Councillors' Reports**

Councillor Aitken said that the Director of Services for Community, Mark Turley, had confirmed that there would shortly be a review of gritting following on from the recent complaints and concerns of the 3 ward councillors.

There were 5 schools that needed a lot of money spent on them and proposals for Wave 3 were with the Scottish Government. 20% of the funding would come from the council. The feasibility study in respect of Boroughmuir gave two options, a refurbishment on the present site or a new build on the Scottish water site. Until a final decision was made no progress could be made in respect of the water board field.

She had attended the recent official opening of Pentland Primary School although there was still nagging to be done. She gave details of fairs, fun days and car boot sales for Pentland, St Marks and Buckstone primary schools and Boroughmuir.

AMA no longer had any involvement in the Fairmile Inn and she was trying to contact the new owners to see what their proposals for the site were. Regarding Colinton Mains Park a meeting was being convened regarding the building of the pavilion but funding was still to come from the lottery.

She had previously been informed that Buckstone Grove was on the list for resurfacing. It appears that even although it was category 5 it is not on the list and she will be pursuing this.

Members raised concerns regarding vehicles parking in Oxfangs Road near to the Fairmilehead junction limiting traffic to one lane and no responses being received once they had submitted claims for damage to their vehicles caused by the speed bumps.

Councillor Barry gave information regarding the current position with the proposed re-opening of the South Suburban railway. He also endorsed the comments regarding speed bumps and the state of the roads.

## **12. Planning and Environment**

Louise Maguire reported that she was going to a Forestry Commission meeting in connection with a consultation.

## **13. Transport Sub-Committee**

The Secretary informed the meeting that there were proposals for some of the road maintenance to be prioritised by the Neighbourhood Partnerships. This would be a budget of £100,000 per year but considering the area covered by the Partnership this would not stretch very far.

He also said that he was going to take photographs of the dangerous manhole covers and drains in Buckstone Crescent and submit a request for their repair.

## **14. AOCB**

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Neighbourhood Partnership was intending to set up sub groups on a variety of topics such as environment, transport, education, health, and community safety. If anybody was interested could they please contact him.

Louise Maguire asked that engaging with the community be on the agenda for the next meeting.

A question was raised about the runway resurfacing at Edinburgh airport. A straw poll of those present revealed that delivery of an information leaflet to houses in Buckstone did not appear to have been undertaken. The Secretary said that he had raised this with BAA who said they were checking with the distribution company. He would relay to them that this appeared to affect a large area of the estate.

## **15. Date Of Next Meeting**

This was arranged for Tuesday 3 June 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

### **Forthcoming Meetings:**

Tuesday 2 September 2008

Tuesday 7 October 2008

### **Contacts:**

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