

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 8 January 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Councillors Elaine Aitken; Eric Barry & Jason Rust; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; Inspector Margaret Lyle; PC Kenny Welsh; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Hilary Brown; Barbara Dick; Ian Elfick; Bryan Fisher; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Colin Manson; Jennifer Munro; Charles Whytock;

Apologies: Daphne Sleigh; Julie Davies; Ken McAskill

1. Police Report

PC Welsh reported as follows:

There were 10 crimes or offences which occurred in the area during the month of December. There were 4 vandalisms to vehicles; 2 in Pentland View, and 1 in Buckstone Crescent and Braid Road. One of the vehicles had all 4 tyres punctured while the rest had windows smashed. In Buckstone Road and Swanston Place two houses had their front living room windows smashed. There was a fraud at the Royal Bank of Scotland, Biggar Road. A dog not being kept under proper control in Colmestone Gate is being investigated. Finally a person has been reported for 2 road traffic offences at Lothianburn junction A720.

He then introduced Inspector Margaret Lyle, the Area Inspector, based at Oxfangs Police Station. She had 23 years service and covered both Oxfangs and Balerno. This area was low crime but there were other activities that affected the quality of life of the residents; e.g. anti-social behaviour; graffiti; youths hanging about. Additional funds had been obtained from the Council to support such initiatives as the YAT (Youth Action team) and the Neighbourhood Action Unit. A lot of policing at present was intelligence led and the new Chief Constables' priority was prevention. Other initiatives were also ongoing and one at Christmas had seen additional officers on the street.

In the year to date there had been 120 crimes of which 16% had been solved whilst there had been 211 the same period the previous year with 27% solved. There had been 1 violent crime since April which had been solved, dishonesty was down 36% and vandalism 45% down.

Inspector Lyle also answered questions on drugs; under age drinking and the overloading of buses at school dispersal times. She also asked for comments on the monthly news letter. The Chair thanked Inspector Lyle for her attendance.

2. Minute Of Meeting Held On 5 December 2007 And Matters Arising.

The minutes of the meeting on 5 December 2007 were approved on the motion of Sheena Robertson and seconded by Joyce Beveridge.

Matters Arising:

In relation to the Buckstone parking problem Councillor Aitken said that the photographs the Secretary had supplied had been submitted to the officials and she was awaiting a response. Concerns were also expressed by several members regarding the parking of vehicles at the foot of Buckstone Road, Gardens, Avenue and Drive. In particular the vehicles in the road were being parked almost at the junction and also over the speed bumps and restricting traffic to one lane at times. The situation would be monitored by the police.

In response to a question at the previous meeting Councillor Aitken stated that a new site was still being at for Boroughmuir School but that cost was a considerable factor. Options for the current site were also being looked at.

3. Correspondence

- 1) Dr Ian McKee MBE MSP – Letter re War Memorial Trust
- 2) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Lothian Joint Physical and Complex Disability Strategy Information
- 3) WREN Funding leaflet – (*Circulated by e-mail as appropriate*)
- 4) Kevin Lang, BAA, Edinburgh Airport – Briefing session on proposed airport operations.
- 5) Cockburn Association – Edinburgh Civic Forum meeting 12 February 2008.
- 6) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Community Council Training (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- 7) NHS Lothian – ReZoning Worksop, 5 February 2008 (*Secretary attending*)
- 8) Christine Doherty, Partnership and Information Manager – Community Directory (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- 9) CEC – Edinburgh Partnership e-news (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- 10) CEC Licensing – Lists of application for Board meeting on 14 January (*3 renewal applications in area*)
- 11) Pentland Hills Regional Park – Autumn edition of Pentland Beacon magazine
- 12) EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) – next meeting in City Chambers on 12 January 2008.
- 13) Tie Ltd – details of forthcoming work in city centre regarding trams and traffic disruption
- 14) Christmas cards received from Nigel Griffiths MP; David McLetchie MSP; The Lord Provost and Pentlands NP Manager

4. Councillors Reports

Councillor Rust reported that the next Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) meeting was on 29 January at Ratho Community Centre. A business meeting to discuss the priorities would be held in the next fortnight. Grants of £500 were available to Community Councils from the Community Engagement Fund.

The bus shelter in Frogston Road West that had been removed due to roadworks had been reinstated.

Councillor Aitken reported that she had had numerous e-mails regarding the state of the roads and pavements and the lack of gritting. The Buckstone estate was category B due to the school making it a higher priority. Members raised concerns regarding the lack of gritting even after having contacted the Council. The Secretary said he would write to the Council and also raise the issue at the NP meeting.

The frontages at the bus shelter in Buckstone Terrace were having problems with litter being dropped in their gardens. She had received a confirmatory e-mail informing her that all outstanding debt due to the council in respect of 17 Buckstone Crescent had been paid and a payment plan for future payments set up.

The three councillors and had had a meeting with the officials regarding Hunters Tryst primary school and the sale would be ratified in February. The building was at present the subject of extensive vandalism but was due to be demolished as a condition of the sale. Extra security patrols had been implemented although the building was still accessible.

Colin Manson suggested that a sensible course of action would be to have the building demolished now before further damage was caused or somebody injured. Inspector Lyle

said that the building was a real issue for the police and crime prevention had been along to the building and found 5 separate entrances available. The Councillors would pursue the matter.

The erratic rubbish uplift over the festive season was raised as was the problems with special uplifts experienced by residents. Buckstone Grove was on the list for resurfacing and there was a bid in for next financial year.

Councillor Barry reported that any dark streets found should be reported to Clarence. He had reported 17 recently. There were 5 out around Cockmylane but there was apparently a problem with the supply. He had also noticed gritters had been out but that they were gritting the wet roads not the snow covered ones in the area.

5. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire reported that the rubbish which had been dumped in Cockmylane had been uplifted.

6. Transport Sub-Committee

Nothing further to report

7. Funding for Youth Project

Councillor Aitken was going to liaise with Margaret Walker on this issue and report back.

8. AOCB

Alison Elfick mentioned that she had received the latest issue of the Friends of the Pentlands newsletter and that she had renewed FCCs membership. There was a new bird hide at Threipmuir. She had attended the Consultative Forum and there were proposals to replace the visitors centre at Flotterstone although funding might be a problem.

Mr Whytock mentioned the problems with low energy lightbulbs which were being phased in to replace incandescent ones. This was a particular problem for those persons with disability or sight problems as they took so long to "fire up" when switched on. There were also problems with disposal.

9. Health

The Secretary mentioned that the Local healthcare Bill was at present out for consultation and that proposals had been announced for the re-provisioning of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and its services. It was proposed they be split between the Western General and the Royal Infirmary sites.

10. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 5 February 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 4 March 2008
Tuesday 3 June 2008

Tuesday 1 April 2008

Tuesday 6 May 2008

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