

# Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 14 October 2008 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

**Present:** Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Johanna Carrie; Bryan Fisher; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Councillor Elaine Aitken; PC Kenny Welsh; Stewart Campbell; James Gow; Colin Manson; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Fiona Simon; Tom Strathdee; Margaret Walker; Roger West; Charles Whytock

**Apologies:** Alison and Ian Elfick; Daphne Sleigh; Sheena Robertson; Councillor Jason Rust; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge

## 1. Police Report

PC Welsh reported that in September there had been 14 crimes, 3 had been for dishonesty, 1 for violence and 1 for disorder. Regarding the previous break in at the hairdressers, Buckstone shops, 4 persons had been arrested elsewhere and it was possible they were the culprits.

A car had been stopped on the slip road at the bypass and 2 persons arrested for a total of 12 drugs charges.

There was new initiative being undertaken on vandalism and letters had gone to shops regarding the selling of eggs and flours for Halloween and bonfire night. There was a policy on bonfires where any materials found would either be removed and destroyed or added to an official one in the area.

The Secretary mentioned that the 27 year female who had assaulted another female with a knife in the new Swanston area had recently been sentenced to 4½ years imprisonment.

Points raised were: children congregating down the gully in Fairmilehead Park; no official reports of youths in the Buckstone Estate; graffiti in the area, photographs had been taken and submitted to PC David Miller, school liaison officer.

Councillor Aitken said that not much could be done about the Fairmile Inn as at present it was not deemed to be in a dangerous state.

## 2. Minute Of Meeting Held On 2 September 2008 And Matters Arising.

The minutes were approved on the motion of Elaine Aitken seconded by Bryan Fisher.

### Matters Arising:

- a) **18 Bus Service:** Councillor Aitken reported that this service had been reprieved meantime but was now an hourly service with a restricted service on Saturdays and Sundays. There were now no night services serving the area, the nearest being the N16 which served Oxfords and Colinton.

The Secretary apologised to those who had attended the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership the previous week hoping to hear from Lothian buses. They had called off as allegedly they could not supply a representative due to other commitments. He explained that breakout groups had discussed the bus services and the comments were to be forwarded to Lothian buses who were supposed to be attending the next meeting. Disgust was also expressed by the Neighbourhood Partnership at the failure of Lothian Buses to provide a representative.

- b) **Area Walkabouts:** The Secretary and Councillor Aitken reported that as a result of the recent walkabout some of the defects identified had been undertaken. The holes around the manhole covers in Buckstone Crescent had been repaired as had the sunken drain. Patching had been undertaken in Buckstone Grove, Drive and Dell. The repairs had been done under the "Right First Time" scheme was being piloted in the area. This involved a proper, full repair being undertaken initially rather than a patch and eventually a full repair under the old system. It was hoped that this would lead to permanent repairs, a reduction in overall costs and better value for money.
- c) **Play Equipment in Buckstone:** The Secretary declared an interest being a resident in Buckstone and automatically a member of the Buckstone Association. Mr Campbell, a resident in Buckstone Row, addressed the meeting regarding problems he and a neighbour were having with the play equipment erected on the amenity area adjoining their properties. This was stepping stones and log benches which had attracted youths to the area whose behaviour had caused aggravation and annoyance to the neighbours. The benches had been removed in June/July but the Association, some of whose committee members resided in the Row, were threatening to re-install the benches. There had been ongoing correspondence between the parties but the situation was still unresolved.

Richard Hinton responded on behalf of the Association and stated that he had first heard about the problem in June/July and had contacted his committee and the benches had been removed as a temporary measure. He was stepping down as Chairman at the next AGM in March. The committee had decided to put back the benches and wait to discuss the matter at the AGM.

It was suggested by the Chair that a meeting be between held between the complainant residents and the Association committee to get an early resolution to the situation. Councillor Aitken and PC Welsh were to be invited to this meeting to act as mediators. This meeting could either be a normal committee meeting or a special one called for that particular topic. The item would remain on the agenda till resolution. This action was agreed by the meeting.

### 3. Correspondence

- a) Lothian Health Board – Annual Flu vaccination (*Notice on board*)
- b) Association of Scottish Community Council – Annual Conference, Saturday 22 November at Scottish Parliament
- c) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – Climate Challenge Fund (*Details circulated by e-mail*)
- d) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – parking Standards review Consultation, Closing date 28 November 2008. (*Secretary and Planning Officer to collate comments for submission*)
- e) Tenants Voice newsletter – October edition
- f) CEC Development Officer – On Line Play Strategy Consultation (*Details circulated by e-mail*)
- g) Planning Aid Scotland – 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration – 30 October
- h) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – Details of launch of Neighbourhood Partnership website
- i) Scottish Water – Glencorse e-newsletter numbers 14 7 15 (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- j) WREN – Grant Application deadlines
- k) Eileen Hewitt CEC Liaison Officer – Planning Training for CCs, 1 November (*Secretary and Planning Convener attending*)
- l) Working Capital magazine – September 2008 Issue
- m) Planning Aid Scotland – Invitation to tour of Royal Museum, 8 November.
- n) Oxfangs care AGM – 27 October

#### **4. Councillors Report**

Councillor Aitken reported as follows: There had been an increase in youth activity in the Colmestone Gate area. She had visited residents there at the start time for Pentland Primary to see the local parking problems associated with the school run. She had passed on complaints of dog fouling in the area to the Environmental Wardens.

She and Councillor Barry had had a meeting with Euan Kennedy regarding the proposed gritting route changes. It was hoped to get smaller machines so that the adjoining roads to the school could be treated before the school day started as the large gritter lorries had to deal with higher priority areas prior to moving lower category areas. They were also looking at sites for gritting bins.

Weed spraying had started in the area but regarding grass cuttings the Council did not pick them up as they had no equipment to do so or any way of disposing of them. Caiystane terrace had the footway on one side resurfaced but there were no funds to do the other side until next financial year.

The report on Wave 3 schools was coming up at the Council meeting that Thursday and although fairly lengthy it did not give much information. Regarding Boroughmuir the report mentioned two options, a new build at Fairmilehead and refurbishment on the present site. No option had been decided and a consultation was being undertaken at the school and its feeder schools including Buckstone Primary.

Points raised were: Branches covering the street light on the path between Buckstone Road and the Court; Update on Lothianburn Park and Ride – Councillor Aitken said that this was just a feasibility plan at present. She was in touch with the council officer at Midlothian regarding the siting of the exit/entrance roundabout although Edinburgh officials wanted traffic lights rather than a roundabout. The new site at Straiton would be monitored for usage for a year.

#### **5. Other Issues**

- 1 Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership – The Secretary gave a report on the meeting of the Partnership which had been held the previous week. He also mentioned the new website which can be found at [www.edinburghnp.org.uk](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk). A business meeting was due to be held on 27 October.
- 2 Youth Project – Margaret Walker gave an update on the youth project. 85 persons both the youth club and the project. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) had recently undertaken an inspection which was the first one for the project. This was a new initiative involving all Youth Strategy of the Education Department. The inspectors had sat through the AGM and comments received had been favourable.

Funding was a continual problem as it took £16,000 per annum. She thanked the Buckstone Association who through its members had donated £700 and £500 had been raised from the duck raise. Next year's race was being held on 28 March 2009. It would also be beneficial if any early resolution could be found regarding the use of the Water Board site as this would have an effect on how the playing field was developed.

At the Project AGM youth representation on the Community Council and been discussed and they had decided that James Gow would be the contact. It was agreed by the Council that James Gow, who was present, be co-opted as a Youth Member. The Chair officially welcomed him.

## **6. Planning and Environment**

Louise Maguire reported that Wendy Kenyon had informed her that Fairmilehead Park had been inspected regarding the current play equipment. A figure of £100,000 had been mentioned to upgrade the equipment. Ron Tulloch from the Council was drawing up a proposal.

## **7. Transport Sub-Committee**

The Secretary reported on correspondence he had received from Craigmillar Community Council regarding lack of low floor buses on the 21 bus service. This was the bus that ran from there to the ERI and because of this it made it difficult for wheelchair users. The response from Lothian buses had been unsatisfactory. He mentioned there was similar problem with the 18 service. He was going to inform Craigmillar CC that we supported them and that an appropriate avenue may be through the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.

## **8. AOCB**

The following items were raised:

The Secretary informed the meeting that there was a report going to the next CEC meeting recommending that Dennis Williams be appointed a member of the Licensing Forum.

He also drew the meeting's attention to two Scottish Government consultations that may be of interest:

1: Juries – proposals to raise age limit for serving, reviewing categories of exemption etc. Details can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/09/17121921/0> Closing date is 11 December.

2: Patients Rights Bill – Proposals regarding waiting times, rights and responsibilities of patients etc. Details can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/09/22091148/0> Closing date is 16 January 2009.

The Secretary was to look at the Patients Right paper and if necessary a special meeting would be called to discuss the content.

Louise Maguire requested that the item “Engaging with the Community” be kept on the agenda. She also distributed copies of the Pentland Community Centre Annual report.

Johanna Carrie thanked the meeting for the publicity given to the Transition meeting at the City Chambers the previous month. A sub group had been formed for the area and there was a meeting at her house on 27 October. There was also a meeting at the Pentlands Community Centre on 26 November from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. She also requested that the Council obtain an update from CEC on what happened to the target to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> by 30% by 2207; what were the new targets and how can the public help meet these targets. This was agreed.

Dennis Williams said that the annual fireworks display would be held on Wednesday 5 November outside the Pentland Community Centre. Everybody was invited and there would be entertainment including a jazz band from 6.30pm.

## **9. Date Of Next Meeting**

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

### **Forthcoming Meetings:**

Tuesday 2 December 2008

Tuesday 6 January 2008

### **Contacts:**

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