

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 1 September 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillors Elaine Aitken and Eric Barry; Johanna Carrie; Barbara Dick (Buckstone Association); Bryan Fisher; Richard Hinton; PC Kenny Welsh (Part); Bruce and Joyce Beveridge; Ian Elfick; Dot Logan; Matthew McKerrow; Fiona Simon; Christine Spence; Tom and Jean Strathdee; Charles Whytock; Alan and Pam Wight

Apologies: Councillor Jason Rust; Norman McKenzie; Colin Manson; Audrey Ryan; Margaret Walker

1. Police Report

PC Kenny Welsh gave a combined report for July and August. During the months of July and August there were a total of 52 crimes reported of which 27 were solved.

Crimes of Dishonesty - There were 26 crimes reported, the vast majority were attempts to and break-ins to houses, cars, sheds and garages. There were 15 in total of which 6 were solved and person(s) reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The rest were a variety of crimes of dishonesty and the locations were Pentlands, Buckstone, Caiystane, Swanston, Winton and Mounthooly.

Criminal Damage - There were only 3 crimes of damage recorded at Buckstone Court, Pentland View Close support Unit and Pentland Drive, the latter being more likely to be an attempt to steal from within the vehicle.

Road Traffic Offences - There were 10 road traffic offences some of which were related to the tragic events on Frogston Road West. All of these offences were solved.

Crimes of Violence - There were 6 crimes of violence committed in the area 3 of which were solved.

Miscellaneous Offences - There were a further 10 crimes and offences carried out in the area.

A question was raised about street begging. It is not an offence unless it is aggressive when it can be dealt with by means of an ASBO or charging the culprit with breach of the peace. A further question was asked about any special arrangements on the Braids in connection with the fireworks for the closing of the Festival.

2. Transition Edinburgh Pentlands

Johanna Carrie informed the meeting regarding Transition Edinburgh Pentlands. It had recently changed its name from Transition Edinburgh Deep South and covered Fairmilehead, Oxbgangs, Colinton Mains, Firrhill and Colinton.

There are several other groups in Edinburgh; the one in Portobello has been going more than three years. See <http://transitionedinburgh.wordpress.com/> for information about all Edinburgh groups.

Transition initiatives result from groups of people coming together with a shared concern. How can we make the transition from the way we live now to the way we will need to live in a future when our fossil fuel economy is no longer viable?

Our aims are to; Reduce energy use, so moving towards a low-carbon lifestyle and helping to combat climate change; Imagine and plan for local resilience and sustainability in the long term; At the same time build on community strengths and enjoy supporting each other.

Some projects and actions that had been undertaken and proposed are:

Door to door Home Energy Survey from the Energy Savings Trust in June/July. This has resulted in some increase in uptake of insulation grants – loft and cavity wall. In future may work with community space providers e.g. churches and community centres and promote renewable energy rather than more efficiency .

Discussions regarding growing food by planting fruit bushes and trees in Colinton Mains Park. There is also interest in Eat Local and this may be a future project. The Local food web site is: <http://www.yourlocalweb.co.uk/city-of-edinburgh/local-food-produce>

There is an introductory talk on September 23 in Pentland Community Centre on reducing food waste and the Changeworks new pilot project, Kitchen Canny. If this project is taken on it is planned to have the month of action in January or February and hope to attract as many local partners as possible.

There are events over the weekend of 2 to 4 October to promote Painting Edinburgh Green. There is a film on Friday at the Filmhouse; Stalls on Saturday and Workshops on Sunday at the Drill Hall, Dalmeny Street.

Meetings are open to all and are usually between 7.30 and 9.30pm in the Pentland Community Centre. They are usually talks, discussions and report back on any action that we have taken. There are often films to give information and provide inspiration. The programme for 2009-2010 has not yet been decided.

If anybody wishes further details or information on on-line resources or relevant books then this can be supplied by Johanna Carrie.

3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 2 June 2009 And Matters Arising.

The minutes were approved on the motion of Bryan Fisher and seconded by Charles Whytock.

Matters Arising:

Other items under this heading were covered under Councillor's reports.

a) Community Council Scheme

The Secretary reported that after all the amendments had been considered the final Scheme had been approved by the City of Edinburgh Council on 20 August 2009. The main implication was that political groups were not able to stand as nominated groups.

b) Planning Application – 16 Buckstone Terrace

The Secretary reported that the application to change the premises into a hot food take away had been refused. He reported that he had been informed the previous afternoon that an application was going to be submitted to change the premises into a health and beauty salon with two treatment rooms at ground level and 2 in the basement. After discussion it was decided that this was a suitable use for the premises and that no objection should be lodged.

c) Buckstone Avenue Water Pipe

Councillor Aitken reported that she had contacted Scottish Water but was still waiting for information. Mr Whytock handed her a photograph taken in 2008 showing a connection on the pipe and it appeared that the pipe was not lead.

4. Correspondence

- a) Thank You card from Sheena Robertson
- b) CEC Planning Department – Notification of changes regarding new planning system (*Copy passed to Louise Maguire*)
- c) CEC Planning – Consultation on Planning Guidance for gardens and designed landscapes – Closing date 25 October 2009 (*Copy passed to Louise Maguire*)
- d) CEC Planning – Community Engagement on Planning - Proposed Concordat.
- e) CEC Planning – Consultation on Public Realm Strategy - Closing date 19 October 2009
- f) Planning Aid for Scotland – AGM 17 September 2009 (*Louise Maguire and Alison Elfick attending*)

- g) Dunedin Canmore – Proposal of Application Notice re former Hunters Trysts Primary School site – Public consultation on 24 September 2009.
- h) CEC Transport – proposed 20mph zone around Pentlands Primary School.
- i) City Libraries – Booklet on facilities and services.
- j) Parks department – details of photographic exhibition – Closing date 2 October 2009 (*On Noticeboard*)
- k) Pentlands Hills Regional Park – Annual Report and Summer issue of The Beacon newsletter.
- l) Scottish Natural Heritage – Summer edition of magazine
- m) Edinburgh and Greenspace Trust – 2008 Annual Review
- n) Cockburn Association – Details of next meeting of Edinburgh Civic Forum – 15 September 2009 (*Louise Maguire attending*)
- o) Cockburn association – Notification of annual fee renewal – *Agreed to renew.*
- p) CEC Licensing - Applications (*None in area*)
- q) Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) – Summer newsletter
- r) Scottish Association of Community Councils (ASCC) – Newsletter
- s) Queensferry & District Community Council – Annual Report 2009
- t) Sighthill, Parkhead and Broomhouse Community Council newsletter
- u) Edinburgh tenants Federation – July newsletter and Annual Report
- v) Working Capital newsletter
- w) Invest in Edinburgh newsletter
- x) Braidburn Valley Park Friends – Notification re Tea in the park, 5 September (*On noticeboard*)

5. Councillors Reports

Councillor Aitken started by saying that as Returning Officer for the Community Council elections she had a supply of nomination forms with her. The nominations had opened the previous day (31 August 2009) and closed at 4pm on Monday 14 September. FCC were allowed a maximum of 10 elected and 5 nominated members. She then went on to explain the procedures.

Regarding road repairs Councillor Aitken said that a meeting had been held with the community representatives for Ward 8 regarding the devolved budget of £100,000 through the neighbourhood partnership for roads and pavements. Amicable agreements had been made on the relevant projects and as far as this area was concerned it meant the provision of two refuge islands one in Biggar Road and the other in Pentland Terrace near to Comiston Rise. If pedestrian crossings had been requested it would have been several years before they would have been installed and at a far greater cost. The refuge islands were a more cost effective and immediate solution.

Regarding traffic calming in the Buckstone Area a report that she had requested about 2 years ago had been submitted to the Transport Committee. The question of the cushions was being progressed and it gone back to the ambulance service who were re-considering the position. The report also stated that consultation would be undertaken the the local community.

The traffic regulation order had been published regarding the 20 mph in the Pentland School area although there were issues in Pentland Drive and View and the View was not in the scheme. The funding/budget for similar schemes around schools was finished.

The recent walkabout which had been in the Buckstone area had highlighted a few concerns which were being pursued by the appropriate officials. The fence around the “water board” field on the houses side was in a very poor state of repair and a safety issue. Councillor Aitken had brought this to the attention of the Children’s and Families officials.

The local plan enquiry had reported that the Polo Fields could be used for the building of up to 75 houses. Although the Reporter had stated that the Scottish Water site be excluded the Council in their considerations of the report had decided that it be zoned for housing.

A meeting had been held with the three residents in Buckstone Avenue regarding their objection to the proposed double yellow lines there. Present at the meeting as well as herself had been Councillor Barry, The FCC Secretary and Gordon Drysdale, the CEC Area Road Manager. As a result a slight adjustment had been suggested which satisfied the concerns of the residents.

The Pentland Community Safety panel were arranging a visit to the City Chambers to see the CCTV control. If anybody was interested they should contact her direct.

On behalf of Margaret Walker the Secretary thanked Councillor Aitken for her support in successfully asking the Council to reconsider the increase of the school fee for the youth club from £3.20 per night to £27.

Councillor Barry said that he had a meeting arranged with the Head of Transport, Marshall Poulton regarding the 20mph zone around Pentland Primary. The trams were still going ahead although at a recent Labour Group meeting the Chief executive of TIE and the Director of Finance, CEC had refused to give any figures regarding any overspend, actual or projected.

6. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

The Secretary reported on the Partnership's recent business meeting. He said that the public meeting would be themed based whilst a lot of the mundane reports and other matters would now be presented at the business meetings. The next meeting was on Tuesday 15 September in the Caiystane hall within the church when the theme would be health. There would be speakers from NHS Lothian regarding the new Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre and the new Firrhill Health Centre.

7. Planning and Environment

The Secretary stated that he had confirmed with the Planning Department that the permission for the Fairmile Inn had expired.

8. Transport Sub-Committee

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had made enquiries about the lack of weed killing in the area and had been assured that it was being undertaken the following week. He also informed the meeting of the temporary parking restriction in the area on the coming Sunday morning in connection with the Common Riding.

9. AOCB

Louise Maguire gave details of the Open Doors Days on Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 September. The Comiston Well House was open again this year having 600 to 700 visitors last year. She made a request for volunteers.

10. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 6 October 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 3 November 2009 Tuesday 1 December 2009 Tuesday 5 January 2010

Contacts:

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