

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

Present: Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Johanna Carrie; Barbara Dick (Buckstone Association); Bryan Fisher; Richard Hinton; Tom Strathdee; Bruce and Joyce Beveridge; Norman McKenzie; Audrey Ryan; Margaret Walker; Alan and Pam Wight;

Apologies: Dennis Williams (Chair); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); James Gow; Sandy Macpherson; Councillors Elaine Aitken; Eric Barry and Jason Rust; PC Kenny Welsh; Ian Elfick;; Matthew McKerrow

Due to the absence of Dennis Williams, Louise Maguire assumed the Chair.

1. Police Report

In the absence of PC Welsh, the Secretary read over his report.

During October there were 14 crimes recorded in the area. Criminal damage to property - In Pentland View, Caiystane Avenue, Frogston Road West and Queen Margaret Close vehicles had damaged caused, 2 had windows smashed and a bus shelter was damaged. All the windows within a greenhouse were smashed by person/s unknown throwing a for sale sign into the garden.

In Comiston Spring Avenue and Buckstone Loan, there were 3 vehicles damaged by smashing a window, denting the bodywork and a corrosive substance was poured over the bodywork of the third.

There were 3 crimes of dishonesty committed in Caiystane View, Margaret Rose Drive and Buckstone Loan. Property was stolen from a secure container, a sat nav was stolen from a parked vehicle and money was stolen from a house.

In Swanston Avenue a vehicle was stopped for road traffic offences which resulted in a person being reported to the Procurator Fiscal for 3 offences. Finally there was a miscellaneous offence in Frogston Terrace.

As Councillor Aitken had another engagement her report was taken at this juncture.

2. Minute Of Meeting Held On 6 October 2009 And Matters Arising.

After 2 minor amendments the minutes were approved on the motion of Tom Strathdee seconded by Audrey Ryan.

Matters Arising:

a) Planning Application – 16 Buckstone Terrace

The Secretary reported that the application to turn this shop into a beauty salon had been withdrawn. The reason was unknown. He also mentioned to the meeting that as a result of Thresher's parent company going into administration the off licence may close.

He had received information that the 2 pharmacists at Boots had resigned. It was not known what impact this would have on the community but he had requested information from NHS Lothian regarding the pharmacy contract and what minimum service they were required to provide.

b) Hunter's Tryst Site Proposals

The Secretary stated that after the last meeting he had contacted Dunedin Canmore and suggested that we work in conjunction with them to try and allay any fears that have arisen by their proposals. Dunedin Canmore responded by saying that as at present they had not purchased the site the project was still in its infancy.

The FCC Chair along with the Chair of Firrhill CC and Councillor Aitken had attended a meeting on Monday 26 October 2009 convened by Councillor Barry with Dunedin Canmore to discuss the proposals. The Secretary read over a brief report on the meeting from Councillor Barry.

“Dunedin Canmore have not yet signed to purchase the site. The price depends on the number of houses to be built. The Council, we were told, would like as much for the site as possible therefore maximum number of houses. I do not want too many there. The original plan by Dundass Estates was for about 78 houses all for sale.

Dunedin Canmore are looking at 106 but one of their plans did show 130. It looked to be too much when I saw it at the open day. 30% of the houses are likely to be shared equity. Buy part rent part. 0 to 30% could be mid market rents. Higher than Council House rent but lower than private rents. Ability to pay rather than EDINDEX being the criteria.

30% minimum up to 70% social rented houses. EDINDEX applies. It is the use of "70% social rented" which seems to have upset the folk that came to all the meetings, they have jumped to the conclusion that 70% of the houses would be going to people on social security.

Dunedin Canmore have figures of demand for 2 bed houses. I pointed out that there is big demand for 3 and 4 beds along with one beds for those wishing to down size. If Dunedin Canmore are only offering 2 bed houses then they will get most demand from people wanting 2 bed houses so their figures did not truly reflect overall need for housing.

Suitable numbers of parking spaces, garden area and association area were discussed. The meeting lasted an hour and there will be a consultation group set up in the next 2 weeks.”

c) Newsletter

The Secretary gave a brief report on the sub group meeting. The proposed format was double sided A3 folded. It was also proposed to produce a postcard size calendar which would have contact details on the reverse. Very reasonable estimates for printing 3000 copies had been obtained from the CEC print unit. It was hoped that the youth project would help with distribution for a donation to their funds.

He had been down at the Youth Project the previous week and had started a competition to get them to design a logo for the Community Council which could be used on the newsletter, web site and other publicity material. A prize of mobile top up or similar would be given to the winner.

The Secretary said that to make production easier it would be beneficial to purchase some “industry standard” software. The package called Quark retailed at £800 but he was able to obtain it for just under £180 through his membership of the British Computer Society and as the Community Council was a “charity”. The meeting granted permission for the purchase.

He also sought approval of the meeting to apply to the Neighbourhood Partnership for a grant from the Community Engagement Fund to assist with the production of the calendars. This fund was only for Community Councils and the maximum grant was £500. This was agreed by the meeting.

3. Correspondence

- a) ASCC (Association of Scottish Community Councils) – The Community Councillor Newsletter, Autumn 2009 and Postal Ballot re AGM resolutions
- b) Licensing Section, CEC – Notification of House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licence application in respect of 76A Pentland Terrace (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- c) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Office – Letter re CC Election results, CC Scheme approval, Model constitution and standing orders and Induction training for new members. (*Details of training circulated by e-mail*)

- d) Working Capital magazine, October 2009 edition
- e) Scout Post – Notice of withdrawal of service (*Poster put on notice board*)
- f) Parks service, CEC – recruiting for tree Warden Scheme (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- g) CEC Licensing – List of liquor applications for November Board (*None in area*)
- h) Planning Aid for Scotland – parliamentary reception on 10 December (*Passed to Louise Maguire and Alison Elfick*)
- i) Scottish Water – E-Newsletter 21 (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- j) CEC Neighbourhood Survey Team – Acknowledgement of suggestion of Buckstone Shops and Oxfangs Broadway as survey locations
- k) CEC Libraries – Request to submit information for Your Edinburgh:Your Information web pages – *Agreed*

4. Councillors Reports

All Councillors had submitted apologies as they had other meetings to attend.

Councillor Aitken had e-mailed a report to the Secretary which he read to the meeting:
 “Refuse collections at Buckstone Primary School - a lorry was working in the area at High Buckstone when the children were going in to school last week. This is extremely bad considering the assurances given when I reported this previously. An investigation is taking place to see the steps needed to stop this happening again.

I visited Swanston Avenue, Caiystane Terrace and Camus Avenue to look at a number of problems but mainly the state of the roads and pavements. I attended the meeting with Dunedin Canmore last week to discuss the possible development ant Hunter’s Tryst. (Report from Councillor Barry above)

I’ve reported a number of overhanging trees and foliage and a number of gullies for cleaning including the problem at the bus stop at Buckstone Terrace.

I’ve exchanged a number of emails with Ian Craig, Lothian Buses, re the problems experienced by Boroughmuir pupils trying to catch the bus to and from school. The buses are often full, leaving pupils and other passengers waiting for the next bus. Ian has arranged for audits of passenger numbers to be carried out.

The leaflet regarding the suggested change from cushions to humps in Buckstone Road, Crescent/Drive and Loan should be delivered this month. I am encouraging residents to respond and send a copy to me.”

5. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

The Secretary announced that a business meeting was being held that evening to which he had submitted his apologies. He had asked that the next one was moved to another date as it also clashed with a FCC meeting.

The next public meeting was on Tuesday 8 December in Colinton Mains Primary School. The theme was Environment and Transport and there would be a presentation on winter maintenance of roads and footways.

6. Planning and Environment

There was nothing additional to report. In response a question it was mentioned that the application in respect of Calderstones was still outstanding and an environmental assessment had still not been submitted.

7. Transport Sub-Committee

There was nothing additional to report.

8. Youth Report

Margaret Walker reported that she had just come from a Funding Information Event at Leith which had been useful in identifying possible funding streams. The problem was that there was not a standard form and every organisation had their own format. This took up valuable time. Members of the youth club had been involved in the bulb planting on the estate.

James Gow and some members of the Youth Project were attending the Standard Life Achievement Awards at the Hub the following week. James was also trying to organise a family fun day in the "water board" field for March.

The challenge to design the logo given to the project was going to count towards their achievements awards.

9. Other Matters

a) Consideration of New Model Constitution

The Secretary introduced this by saying that a new model constitution had been produced by the City of Edinburgh Council which was to go to Community Councils so that they could adopt it. It was based on a national model. He had circulated it to members and issued copies to the meeting. He had looked at it and there some wording that he thought could be improved. It was decided that he would circulate comments prior to the next meeting.

10. AOCB

The Secretary, on behalf of the Chair, reminded members of the bonfire and fireworks display outside the Pentland Centre on the coming Thursday, bonfire night.

11. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 1 December 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 5 January 2010

Tuesday 2 February 2010

Tuesday 2 March 2010

Contacts:

e-mail: Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk

Website: www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk