

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting incorporating Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillors Elaine Aitken (Part) and Eric Barry (Part); Barbara Dick (Buckstone Association); Bryan Fisher; Richard Hinton; Sheena Robertson; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Ian Elfick; Norman McKenzie; Tom Strathdee; Margaret Walker

Apologies: Councillor Rust; Johanna Carrie; James Gow; PC Kenny Welsh; Dot Logan; Colin Manson

1. Councillors Report

As Councillor Aitken had to leave early to attend Buckstone School Parent Council she gave her report at this point. She reported that there was still talks ongoing regarding the cancellation of school lets on Thursday evenings. In this area there were several groups affected including the Buckstone Dance Group. The charging structure was being examined by the School Lets Manager.

Margaret Walker raised the issue of two secondments being removed. There was nearly agreement regarding the Scouts Council but a further meeting was to be held regarding the Lothian Youth Clubs. It was hoped that a common sense approach would prevail.

It was hoped that the Pentland Primary playing field may be opened in the evenings and weekends. However due to lack of resources it has been decided that it would not be opened.

There was to be a week of action based round the Pentland Community Centre and Fairmilehead Park starting on 1 June. She had recently attended the spring concert at Firrhill High School where she had seen a superb variety of talents.

Local Authorities were given extra powers from the beginning of the month regarding abandoned or derelict buildings. She had brought this to the attention of the relevant departments in relation to 17 Buckstone Crescent.

2. 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, Councillors and police for their assistance and support during the previous year. He also thanked the Buckstone Youth project and Margaret Walker. Thanks were also given to the members and those who attended the meetings as well as the speakers who had come along.

The Secretary reported that including the AGM last year there have been 10 meetings of the Community Council with an average attendance of 22 persons and 6 apologies at each meeting.

The highest attendance at one meeting was the December meeting when 29 persons were present and we were entertained by some members of the Youth Project.

We had guest speakers at 7 of our meetings and amongst the subjects were Neighbourhood Watch; Marie Curie and the Patient Information Centre at the ERI. We also had our local MSP, David McLetchie, and our Councillors gave us an insight into some of the Committees they sit on.

There has been an average of 13 pieces of correspondence per meeting. We have dealt with planning matters such as the Calderstone Development, The Steadings and 226 Braid Road. We have also discussed matters such as Boroughmuir School and bus services. Local concerns have also been raised with our Councillors.

We have also discussed and responded to consultations on Patients Rights, Making Edinburgh Healthier and local and national Schemes for Community Councils.

There have been regular updates and reports from our Councillors, Community Beat Officer and the Youth Project.

One of our main successes was the successful campaign to retain Oxgangs Post Office which was a good example of the community working together for a common aim. Local people worked together with each other and politicians of all parties and showed what can be done with a co-ordinated effort.

The Community Council has also had a few positive mentions in the Edinburgh Evening News and a reporter attended one of our recent meetings.

Being the representative from Fairmilehead Community Council that sits on the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership he reported on the meetings of the Partnership and raised our concerns there. Recent examples have been the future funding of the Pentlands Hills Regional Park and the road and footway maintenance budget. As a Council we discussed and made suggestions relating to the draft Community Plan.

Members are also involved in other organisations such as Friends of the Pentlands, Pentland Hills Regional Park Consultative Forum, Edinburgh Association of Community Councils, Transition Deep South and the Civic Forum.

The Treasurer 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 £1,113.45 as at 1 April 2009. There had been an income of £1551.22 during the year but this included the CEC grant from the previous year. Expenditure had been £795.49

It was decided to donate £50 to Marie Curie and an item of equipment to the Youth Project. Margaret Walker was to inform what the requirement was.

3. Adoption of Accounts

Elaine Aitken proposed the adoption of the Accounts, seconded by Richard Hinton and carried unanimously.

4. Appointment of Auditor

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

5. 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.

Office	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair	Dennis Williams	Louise Maguire	Bryan Fisher
Vice-Chair	Louise Maguire	Elaine Aitken	Alison Elfick
Secretary	Norman Tinlin	Sheena Robertson	Joyce Beveridge
Treasurer	Alison Elfick	Norman Tinlin	Dennis Williams

Councillor Aitken then handed the Chair back to Dennis Williams and left the meeting.

6. Minute Of Meeting Held On 14 April 2009 And Matters Arising.

With a minor amendment the minutes were approved on the motion of Richard Hinton and seconded by Margaret Walker.

Matters Arising:

a) Bus and Tram Integration

The Secretary reported he still had to draft an appropriate letter and hoped to have it available for the next meeting.

b) Consultation on General Practice

If possible a meeting would be arranged for this.

7. Correspondence

- a) Information on Queensberry Shelters
- b) Pentland Beacon newsletter – Spring 2009 edition
- c) Tenants Voice – April edition
- d) Working Capital magazine – April edition
- e) Planning Aid for Scotland – Annual Subscription due – Agreed to renew £20
- f) Pentlands Regional Park – response to question at Pentlands NP re funding (*Copy passed to Johanna Carrie*)
- g) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Joint CC meeting 1 June (*Secretary and Louise Maguire attending*)
- h) CEC City Development – Consultation on Parking Standards (*Decided no response required*)

8. Councillors Report

Councillor Barry reported that was concerns regarding bought in community care. This would have an effect on the children that attended Garvald Centre.

At the last Council meeting trams had been discussed and it was decided that only one line would be going ahead at the present time. Regarding CPZs (Controlled parking zones) it had been decided that no more would be going ahead as there had been mixed responses to the public consultations.

A comprise had been reached with St Marks Primary School regarding the problems that the flood prevention work had caused them.

9. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire reported that the new scheme for pre-planning applications had commenced and would apply to larger proposals which would require community consultation prior to planning applications being submitted..

10. Transport Sub-Committee

The Secretary informed the meeting regarding roads in the area, mainly Buckstone and Camus, that were due to be resurfaced soon. Barbara Dick asked if it was possible to have Buckstone Circle attended to once the school broke up for the holiday. The Secretary would request this with the Area Roads Manager.

11. AOCB

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Community Council Scheme had been approved at a recent special Council meeting. They had requested that local political parties be allowed to be nominated groups. Discussion ensued and it was decided that this concept did not sit well with the members. The Secretary was to clarify what a political party was and express our concerns in the brief further period. Clarification was also sought whether the Code of Conduct applied to nominated members.

The Secretary intimated that there was to be a stakeholders meeting regarding Colinton Mains Park and Pavilion on 14 May at the Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre.

12. Police Report

As PC Welsh was unable to attend the meeting he provided the following report later.

There were 17 crimes recorded in the area during April. Regarding crimes of dishonesty there has been an increase in the number of break-ins and attempted break-ins. Properties in Buckstone Loan East, Galachlawside, High Buckstone, Fairmilehead Parish Church, Colmestone Gate, Comiston Spring Avenue and Pentland Crescent were all broken into.

In Buckstone Loan East sat navs were stolen from cars and in Galachlawside cars were stolen. A palm plant was stolen from a garden in Caiystane.

There were 2 assaults which occurred at the Pentland View Close support unit and a young person has been reported.

3 cars were damaged in Pentland View, Buckstone Avenue and Camus Avenue and a window was smashed in Buckstone Way while in Buckstone Gardens a male who was walking home from a night out was subjected to abuse.

13. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 9 June 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 1 September 2009 Tuesday 6 October 2009 Tuesday 3 November 2009

Contacts:

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