

# Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

**Present:** Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillor Elaine Aitken; Johanna Carrie; Barbara Dick (Buckstone Association); Bryan Fisher; James Gow; Richard Hinton; Sandy Macpherson; Tom Strathdee; Bruce and Joyce Beveridge; Ian Elfick; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Colin Manson, Audrey Ryan; Fiona Simon; Christine Spence; Margaret Walker; Alan and Pam Wight;

**Apologies:** Councillor Jason Rust; PC Kenny Welsh; Dot Logan; Charles Whytock

**In Attendance:** Gail Dickson, Services for Communities

## 1. Election Results

Councillor Elaine Aitken as Returning Officer took the Chair. She announced that as a result of the recent Community Council elections she had received 9 nominations for the 10 vacancies. As a result all those that had been nominated were duly elected to serve for the next 3 years and there was not a need to hold an election. There had been one nomination for a Nominated Member out of a possible five.

The Elected Members were Johanna Carrie; Alison Elfick; Bryan Fisher; Richard Hinton; Louise Maguire; Sandy Macpherson; Tom Strathdee; Norman Tinlin and Dennis Williams.

The Nominated Member was Barbara Dick representing the Buckstone Association.

## 2. Election of Officer Bearers

Councillor Aitken then stated that office bearers were now required but if the existing office bearers were prepared to stand then the appointments could be made en masse. All office bearers stated their agreement to stand again and the following were elected by acclamation of the meeting.

Chair - Dennis Williams  
Secretary - Norman Tinlin

Vice Chair - Louise Maguire  
Treasurer - Alison Elfick

Dennis Williams assumed the Chair and thanked Councillor Aitken for acting as Returning Officer and chairing the meeting.

The Secretary then proposed that James Gow be nominated as a Youth member. He accepted the nomination which was agreed by the meeting.

## 3. Police Report

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

During the month of September there were 19 crimes recorded in the area. There were 10 crimes of dishonesty committed of which the majority were insecure vehicles being entered and property stolen from within. These were located in Buckstone Terrace, Buckstone Circle, Winton Terrace, Winton Park and Frogston Road West.

There was a theft of property from an insecure shed in Buckstone Howe. Likewise there was a theft from the newsagents at Buckstone Terrace where newspapers and rolls were stolen. An attempt was made to enter a property in Colmestone Gate during the night but the culprit was disturbed by the occupant. A theft of golf equipment occurred from a vehicle at Mortonhall Golf Club and there was a bogus workman fraud occurred in Swanston Avenue.

There were 7 properties damaged during the month. They were in East Camus Road, Buckstone Road, Buckstone Circle, Buckstone Wynd, Buckstone Terrace, Swanston Gardens and Swan Spring Avenue. An assault occurred in Swanston Drive and a communication offence occurred in Buckstone Loan.

Barbara Dick reported that graffiti on the electricity substation at Buckstone Circle had been removed.

#### **4. Councillors Reports**

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

Councillor Aitken said that due to Inspector Sue Wilson being off sick Sgt Keith Seaton was acting Inspector. The police were aware of the graffiti in the area and were trying to trace the culprits from the tags.

She had attended the AGMs of the Parent Councils and there was a new chair for Pentland Primary. The Reporters for the Edinburgh City Plan had proposed that the Dreghorn polo fields be included for housing. However the Council had made a recommendation against this but which was still to be approved by the Council.

Councillors and Community Councils in the area had discussed projects under the devolved roads budget. It had been agreed that 2 traffic islands one in Biggar Road and one in Pentland terrace at Comiston Rise be approved. Caroline Burwell was awaiting a response from the Ambulance Service regarding the traffic calming in Buckstone.

She had attended the Tea in the Park event in Braidburn Valley Park as well as fundraising events for the Boroughmuir School Trust.

Regarding the water pipes in Buckstone Avenue it appears that water mains which were laid in 1939 to 1954 were cast iron although there may be lead pipes from the main to houses. Scottish Water were only responsible from the main to the boundary of the property. However if any person wanted their water tested Scottish water would undertake this. Bryan Fisher had had the water in his property tested and while it showed up as having lead it was within acceptable limits.

She had viewed the drawing relating to the Hunters Tryst site proposals and a meeting was being arranged with Dunedin Canmore to discuss the proposals. The main concerns were the re-instatement of the public footpath which went through the site but which at present was blocked off.

Sandy Macpherson commented that the contractors repairing the pavements in Swanston Avenue were very efficient. There were questions about the current position of the Fairmile Inn and proposed Calderstone development. It had been confirmed that the planning permission for the Fairmile Inn had expired and there was nothing further on Calderstones.

#### **5. Community Safety**

The Chair introduced Gail Dickson, Senior Team Leader, Community Safety, South West Neighbourhood Office.

She explained that the SW Neighbourhood covered both Pentlands and SW Neighbourhood Partnerships, a total of 100,000 residents with 13 Councillors, 16 Community Councils, 7 Neighbourhood Councils and 10 registered tenants associations. They dealt with issues from all tenures: council tenants, residents of private rented properties, owner occupiers and housing associations. Community Safety in its present form had started in May 2007.

Community safety covered Environmental Wardens, Community Safety Officers, Community Safety Concierge and the Neighbourhood Action Unit and they were part of Services for Communities Department. It was a new way of tackling clean, green and safe issues.

Tactical Co-ordination involved monthly meetings with partners: Council, Police, Social Work, Fire and Rescue Service, Community Learning and Development, Community Safety, Children and Families and others, to identify hot spots and prioritise local issues.

Regarding environmental issues areas were prioritised and days or weeks of action were held utilising the Task Force and Graffiti Team. There were also night-time wardens covering 5pm to 4am

There had been 3 Full ASBOs granted in 2009 and there were 4 Banning Orders (first in Edinburgh). All the offenders were female. There was a significant reduction in young people being reported causing antisocial behaviour.

Local issues to Fairmilehead were dog fouling and regular patrols were undertaken. There were also problems with young people in Buckstone but not necessarily local youths.

A Community Safety Forum was at present being developed providing communities with a say in what issues they want tackled. The Forum would be linked to the Neighbourhood Partnership and Community Councils.

The contact number for the Community Safety Team at Wester Hailes Plaza was 527 3817.

A copy of the presentation slides can be accessed at:

[http://www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk/Neighbourhood\\_Partnership.htm](http://www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk/Neighbourhood_Partnership.htm)

After question on the Halloween egg initiative, overhanging shrubbery, unpaid dog fouling FTPs (4%), reduction in youth disorder and care and repair and gardening service the Chair thanked Gail for her interesting presentation.

## **6. Minute Of Meeting Held On 1 September 2009 And Matters Arising.**

In Item 2 the occurrences of Pentland should be in the plural and under Item 3c on page 2 it should read "taken in 2008" rather than "in the 80's". With these minor amendments the minutes were approved on the motion of Ian Elfick and seconded by Joyce Beveridge.

### **Matters Arising:**

#### **a) Planning Application – 16 Buckstone Terrace**

The Secretary reported that the application to turn this shop into a beauty salon had been submitted and there appeared to be nothing controversial.

## **7. Correspondence**

- a) Licensing Department – premises applications (*None in area*)
- b) Lightways – Information of Christmas lights
- c) Tyco Electronics – Proposed re-location of telecoms base station in Oxgangs Road North.
- d) Napier University – Inspiring Futures courses, Pentland Centre 19 to 23 October
- e) Planning Directorate, Scottish Government – Changes in the Planning System (*Passed to Louise Maguire*)
- f) CEC Planning – proposed modifications to Edinburgh City Local Plan. Result of Council's decision (*Note that as a result of this decision the Scottish water site is being included for housing*)

## **8. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership**

The Secretary reported that at the recent Partnership meeting details and proposals for the proposed Healthy Living Centre at Wester Hailes and Firrhill Health Centre had been discussed. There was concern that the Firrhill proposal was growing bigger than originally intended due to NHS Lothian trying to release some of their building for sale and moving the services to Firrhill.

There was also concern that the small number of parking places proposed were woefully inadequate especially as there was no on street parking in the immediate vicinity due to bus stops and pedestrians crossing. It had been pointed out that the use of Tesco's car park as suggested by NHS Lothian was not a viable option due to planning restriction on that site.

The topic for the next meeting would be Winter Maintenance where concerns about the gritting and other matter could be raised.

He also gave a brief report on the Neighbourhood Partnership Conference which had been held at Easter Road Stadium. This had looked at new ways to try and get the message across and make partnerships more "user friendly".

The Secretary also mentioned that there were grants of up to £5000 available from the Partnership for local groups. The grant could be used for a variety of purposes but the application must meet certain criteria. Anybody wishing further information should contact him or look at the partnership website at:

[http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/page/Community\\_Grants\\_Fund\\_Info\\_pentlands.aspx](http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/page/Community_Grants_Fund_Info_pentlands.aspx)

## **9. Planning and Environment**

Louise Maguire mentioned that an application had been submitted to turn Comiston Stables into living accommodation. The plans appeared to be sympathetic to the surroundings.

The Secretary drew the meetings attention to two Scottish Government consultations for their information. One was a large document (over 300 pages) on Scotland's Zero Waste Plan and the other related to High hedges and other nuisance vegetation.

Discussion then ensued on the recent pre-application consultation exercise undertaken by Dunedin Canmore for the Hunters Tryst Primary school site. It was felt that the consultation exhibition did not show properly the proposals which ranged from 80 up to 120 homes depending on which option was eventually selected. It was also unclear what the type of mix of housing was going to be.

There appeared to be a lot of misinformation circulating. It had been stated that some would be shared equity and some would be "social". This terminology was not helpful as it meant different things to different people. To some people it meant DSS type housing and to others cheap rented. The correct term should be affordable housing which covers both rented and bought properties. There were also concerns about the public path which was blocked off at present and if it was going to be re-opened or replaced. It also appears that there would only be 25 parking spaces.

The Secretary stated that he had submitted initial comments to the Planning Department re the consultation exercise and to Dunedin Canmore regarding the proposals.

It was decided that the Secretary would contact Dunedin Canmore and inform them that we were willing to work with them, possibly through a small group, to try and solve the misinformation and give input on the proposals.

## **10. Transport Sub-Committee**

The Secretary informed the meeting regarding an application for a Street Traders (hot food) Licence for a lay-by on the west side of Biggar Road near to the entrance to Lothianburn Golf Club. The closing date for objections had been that day and in view of the short time scale he had submitted an objection to the application mainly on the grounds of road safety. The meeting agreed with this action.

## **11. Youth Report**

Margaret Walker gave a brief report on youth activities. Enquiries were in hand regarding using the "Water Board" field for a family fun day. The youth club AGM had been held recently and James Gow was the vice-chair. There were 81 children registered. The cost of

a session had been increased from £3 to £27 and as 30 sessions were used this was a considerable cost. However Councillor Aitken had been successful in getting this reduced to £7 per session.

Previously she had been paid for 3 hours administration work in connection with the project but due to the cut backs this facility had been withdrawn. A group from the project had been invited to the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs AGM the following night. The cut backs had also affected LAYC as funding for one seconded member of staff had been withdrawn and 1 staff member from the Scout Group had also been withdrawn. LAYC were used for training and child protection issues.

They had also had an invite by Youth Scotland in connection with the Achievement Awards. These awards offered a peer assessed approach to recognising and accrediting achievements and contributions of young people aged 14 plus.

The new goal posts for the playing field were being well used. The cost had formed part of the recent grant application to the neighbourhood partnership.

## **12. AOCB**

### **a) Production of Newsletter**

The Secretary said that he had successfully applied for a grant of £500 from the Community Engagement Fund for production of a news letter. His initial thoughts were to distribute one to every house in the area using the youth project members in return for a suitable donation.

After discussion it was decided to set up a small sub group to look at the production. Members were to be Tom Strathdee, Louise Maguire and the Secretary.

### **b) Transition Edinburgh Pentlands**

Johanna Carrie reminded the meeting of the next meeting of the Transition Group on Tuesday 27 October at the Pentland Centre at 7pm when the main topic would be Local Food. An organic farmer from West Linton was attending.

## **13. Date Of Next Meeting**

This was arranged for Tuesday 3 November 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

### **Forthcoming Meetings:**

Tuesday 1 December 2009      Tuesday 5 January 2010      Tuesday 2 February 2010

### **Contacts:**

e-mail: [Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk)      Website: [www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk](http://www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk)