

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 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 Jason Rust (Part); Johanna Carrie; Barbara Dick (Buckstone Association); Bryan Fisher; James Gow; Richard Hinton; PC Kenny Welsh (Part); Jan Brown; Ian Elfick; Ken Macaskill; Norman McKenzie; Matthew McKerrow; Tom Strathdee; Charles Whytock; Alan and Pam Wight

Apologies: Councillor Eric Barry; Sheena Robertson; Margaret Walker

1. Police Report

PC Kenny Welsh gave his report for April. There had been 19 crimes of which 10 had been solved.

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. Sat navs had been stolen from cars in Buckstone Loan East and in Galachlawside a household had both its cars stolen. Finally, a palm plant was stolen from a garden in Caiystane.

Some of the break-ins to houses had happened during the day and the others during the night. The latter ones had been solved and the culprit was suspected of another 58 in the city. In some of the cases entry to the houses had been gained through adjoining garages.

There were 2 assaults which had 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 house window was smashed in Buckstone Way. In Buckstone Gardens a male returning home from a night out was subjected to abuse whilst walking home.

There were cases in the suburbs of bogus workmen going round doors offering to do roofing, plumbing and electrical work. The advice was to report any suspicions and not let them in the house. Use only recommended or genuine tradesmen.

PC Welsh also mentioned that there had been a week of action in the Oxgangs area the previous week where all the agencies had worked together. Dennis Williams also gave a brief report on the action week and the My Shop, Your Shop initiative.

As PC Welsh had to attend another meeting he raised the question of the proposed chip shop at 16 Buckstone which was on the agenda for later in the meeting (See under Planning). The police were against this as it would cause anti-social problems in the area. There had not been a large number of incidents in the vicinity this year but such a premises could cause an increase of such incidents and youths hanging about.

2. Bethany Christian Trust

Christine Johnston from the Trust showed a short DVD about their work and then gave a brief resume of the initiatives in which the Trust was involved. This was the 25th anniversary and the Trust was based Leith where it had started. There were able to help 3000 last year through their street work and homelessness services as well as helping people with addictions to alcohol and drugs. They also had facilities in Dumfries, Fife, East Lothian, Aberdeen and Inverness

Bethany had recently won a Council contract to deliver a new homelessness service in Edinburgh, in partnership with the Rock Trust and Fresh Start. This new "Gateway" service would help support homeless individuals and families moving into new tenancies. It provides step-by-step support to guide customers through the maze of setting up their home, ensuring they get the best possible start to life in their new tenancy.

They also have 8 shops, 6 of which are in Edinburgh. There is a workshop which undertakes repairs of white goods and the facility is used to train apprentices there being 4 employed at the present time.

Mrs Johnston answered questions then the Chair thanked her for attending and giving us an insight into the work of the Trust.

3. Councillors Reports (Part 1)

As Councillor Rust had another meeting to attend he gave his report at this juncture. A school review was underway with new rounds of closures but nothing in our area. Applecross should have provided £200,000 as planning gain towards a new pavilion in Colinton Mains Park. However, as they had gone into administration, these funds were now not forthcoming as the Council had failed to obtain them from the developer. The Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership had unanimously endorsed a motion to be put in front of the Council condemning the failure of the Council to secure the funds.

As Chair of the Neighbourhood Partnership he had launched the Oxfams Week of Action the previous week. He also congratulated Dennis and Linda Williams for another successful My Shop, Your Shop week.

He had also been involved in the recent Youth Forum meeting for the Partnership.

A complaint had made regarding the lack of signage for Margaret Rose Way but somebody in the Crescent had objected to its position and negotiations with the Council were underway. By regulation a sign was supposed to be 3 metres from a junction and if this was not possible then the maximum was 6 metres. It cost £15.60 to erect one at the kerb and a further £4.80 if it was at the rear kerb edge.

4. Minute Of Meeting Held On 5 May 2009 And Matters Arising.

The minutes were approved on the motion of Ian Elfick and seconded by Richard Hinton.

Matters Arising:

a) Bus and Tram Integration

The Secretary reported that he had drafted an appropriate letter and passed copies round for comments. He asked that if anybody had any comments or suggestions to let him know.

b) Consultation on General Practice

The Secretary reported that on examining this document he did not think it was worthwhile submitting a response.

c) Road Repairs Programme

The Secretary reported that as a result of a decision taken at a recent Partnership meeting to retain a separate budget for local roads and footway capital programme Councillor Aitken had convened a meeting of officials and representatives from Fairmilehead and Firrhill Community Councils and Colinton Amenity Association. At the meeting the various projects selected to go forward would be discussed. If anybody had any other suggestions for consideration they were to let him know.

d) Community Council Scheme

The Secretary reported that he had submitted the comments made at our last meeting regarding political parties being allowed as nominated members. A report would go to the Council later in the month.

5. Correspondence

- a) Edinburgh Civic Forum – Agenda for next meeting and minutes of previous meeting
- b) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Community Council Newsletter
- c) CEC, Planning Department – Open Space Strategy (*See under item 10(b)*)
- d) Fairmilehead Parish Church – Invoice for hall let 2009/10 (*Passed to Treasurer*)
- e) Enquire – Information on their services (Helping families with additional support needs)
- f) Licensing Boards – Notice of applications (*Only 2 in area – Golf Clubs*)
- g) Marie Curie – letter of thanks for recent donation
- h) Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust – Greenspace Matters Spring 2009 newsletter
- i) CEC – Capital Review, Spring 2009 edition
- j) Edinburgh Association of Community Councils – Summer 2009 newsletter
- k) Marie Curie – Poster for Volunteer Visitor Service (*On noticeboard*)
- l) CEC Community Safety – Offer of visit to future meeting (*Arranged for October*)

6. Councillors Reports (Part 2)

Councillor Aitken reported that she had just come from the Buckstone School Parent Council. Regarding the car wash within the Fairmile Inn the owner had apparently granted a year's lease for this. She was waiting to hear from Licensing and Planning but Scottish Water had confirmed that they had no concerns. The planning permission that had been granted to demolish the premises and build flats expired during the coming week. It was thought that new plans would be lodged sometime in the future.

She had submitted comments regarding the application for change of use for 16 Buckstone Terrace. Transport had expressed concerns about the traffic at peak times and the Police also had concerns. Environmental Services had no concerns stating that the existing ventilation was satisfactory. To date no amended plans had been submitted for 226 Braid Road.

The recent area walkabout had concentrated on the Winton and Biggar Road area and observations were made of the car wash at the Fairmile Inn.

The report that she had requested a couple of years ago on the speed cushions in Buckstone would go to the Transport Committee at the end of July. Discussions were taking place with the ambulance service to see if some of the cushions could be changed to humps.

Councillor Aitken had been inundated with requests for traffic calming in Pentland View and the Drive near to the routes children took to Pentland Primary. She had requested that the appropriate department investigate.

She had recently attended several school fairs. 650 people had attended the one at Buckstone Primary where £2634 had been raised and over £2000 had been raised at Pentland Primary. She also congratulated the Buckstone Youth Project on gaining a grant from the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership towards their week away at Nethy Bridge and the purchase of portable goal posts.

Oxgangs Police were holding a safety day at the police station on 17 June for primary 1 children at the local schools. The previous two years the event had been cancelled due to weather.

7. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

The Secretary reported on the Partnership meeting that had taken place the previous week. Some of the topics raised had been reported under the Councillors' reports. The only other item of note was the approval of final draft of the Local Community Plan. Most of the suggestions that FCC had made had been incorporated.

8. Planning and Environment

a) Application for hot food establishment at 16 Buckstone Terrace

The Secretary went over the draft letter he was proposing to submit to the Planning Department asking that the application be refused. He mentioned the various heads that objections came under such as noise, smells emanating from within, contrary to the hot food shop guidelines and traffic. He also mentioned conversations he had had with local residents and shopkeepers on the issue. After discussion the meeting agreed to oppose the application and endorsed the submission from the Secretary.

b) Calderstones

The Secretary reported that an environmental assessment had still been lodged but the premises were being advertised for sale by Savills.

c) Transition Deep South

Johanna Carrie gave a brief update on this project. There was a very small pilot of a home energy survey being undertaken and people were being encouraged to eat more local food.

9. Transport Sub-Committee

Nothing further to report

10. AOCB

a) Boundary Commission Report

The Secretary reported that the Commission had published the report of the Commissioner's enquiry into the proposals to change the boundaries for the Scottish Parliamentary constituencies. He had accepted the arguments put forward by the Community Council and others to retain the existing boundaries.

b) Open Space Strategy

This strategy was at present out for consultation and the Secretary had given the relevant information to Louise Maguire, Barbara Dick and Richard Hinton and asked them to check the accuracy of the information. A copy of the strategy and the maps were available for perusal if required.

c) Sheena Robertson

The Chair reported that Sheena Robertson had tendered her resignation from the Community Council as she and her husband Bill were moving up to Inverness where her daughter stayed. The Chair put on record all the hard work that Sheena had undertaken for FCC. She was a founding member and had been the first Secretary. It was agreed that as she was not at the meeting as she was in Inverness, the Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Councillor Aitken would visit Sheena at home and make a small presentation on behalf of FCC and deliver a card which had previously been circulated for signatures.

d) Community Council Elections

The Secretary reminded the meeting that nominations opened on 31 August and that nomination forms would be available from the Returning Officer, Councillor Aitken.

e) Youth

James Gow reported. He thanked FCC for progressing the funding to enable the youth project to go for the residential week at Nethy Bridge the following week. Some of the funding was also for mobile football goals for use in the Buckstone area. Margaret Walker

asked him to mention that P7 football team at Buckstone Primary had won and P5 had come runner up in the Inspectors Cup.

f) Water Pipe Query

Bryan Fisher raised a query about the water pipes in Buckstone Avenue due to some discoloration. Scottish Water had attended to test the water. The main pipe had apparently been laid in 1926 just before the houses were built and there were conflicting view whether the supply pipes in the Avenue were made of iron or lead. If they were of lead then the residents were concerned. Councillor Aitken undertook to ascertain the situation.

11. Date Of Next Meeting

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

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 6 October 2009 Tuesday 3 November 2009 Tuesday 1 December 2009

Contacts:

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