Fairmilehead Community Council

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

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillor Elaine Aitken; Bryan Fisher; James Gow; Richard Hinton (Buckstone Association); Sheena Robertson; PC Kenny Welsh; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Jim Bruce; Ian Elfick; Douglas Grossart; Catherine and Sandy Macpherson; Norman McKenzie; Fiona Simon; Tom Strathdee; Margaret Walker; Alan and Pam Wight.

Apologies: Councillors Barry and Rust; Dr Ian McKee MSP; Johanna Carrie; Daphne Sleigh; Charles Whytock

1. Police Report

Pc Kenny Welsh reported that in January there had been 16 crime/offences recorded, which is a slight increase on the previous month. There has been a dramatic increase in thefts with a slight decrease in damage to property.

There were 8 crimes involving theft from vehicles, which occurred in all parts of Fairmilehead area. Unfortunately some owners of the vehicles concerned are NOT removing for example, satellite navigation systems, thus allowing the vehicle to be an easy target. There were 2 houses broken into and some copper piping was stolen from one. A person has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for one of the break-ins.

There were 3 vandalisms to vehicles; scratching the bodywork, smashing a light cluster and smashing a window. There was 1 offence under the communications act.

On a positive note there are several crimes/offences which have been committed over the past few months which have a positive line of enquiry and it was recently reported by the Evening News, that Oxgangs Sector had the highest solvency rate in the City of Edinburgh for vehicle car crime. This is due to the hard work of the officers that work from the station.

He was willing to visit anybody who wanted crime prevention advice. It takes about 45 minutes to an hour.

The staffing of the public counter and hours of public opening of Oxgangs Station was raised by the meeting. There should be cover between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. but as it was reliant on civilians one of whom was off at the moment. There was also talk of cuts elsewhere.

The Secretary was to write and clarify the situation and suggest that even if the station cannot be kept open during the usual hours could it at least be open for a core time so that people know when to contact it. A lot of people prefer face to face contact rather than trying to get through to the Force Control Room which always seems to be a challenge.

Residents in Buckstone Avenue gave PC Welsh their thanks for the help in dealing with the problems of car vandal. PC Walsh reported that three persons had been apprehended and were due to go to trial In May. On behalf of other residents in the Avenue the Secretary also thanked PC Welsh for resolving the neighbourhood watch problems.

2. Marie Curie

The Chair introduced Raymond Weir from Marie Curie. He outlined the work of charities generally and that they were regulated by the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator.

Regarding Marie Curie it was a difficult subject area to try and convey but the aim was to give a feeling of comfort with two key segments. One was the 10 UK hospices, the first of which started in 1956 in Fife. The Edinburgh centre deals with 400 inpatients and 5000 outpatients per year and it costs £270.13 p per day per patient, £3 million per year to run. A third is funded by NHS Lothian. There are approximately 100 paid staff and 40 volunteers. Overall there were 10 hospitals with 43% funded by the NHS.

The other key function was the nursing service. In Scotland last year 27% of persons were suffering from cancer and 19% were heart attack victims. There are 410 persons dying daily from cancer and the large majority of them (76%) would rather die at home.

A new campaign had been launched called "Supporting The Choice To Die At Home". Details can be found at www.mariecurie.org.uk/campaignscotland. For every £1 spent on care for cancer patients at home could free up to £2 back in NHS hospitals.

1 million hours of homecare is provided in the UK and there are 40 nurses in the area. It costs £20 per hour to run nursing at home, £17 million in the UK and the NHS provides 41% of this.

There were some high profile supporters of Marie Curie such as Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Hugh Grant. The local centre has its annual open day in June.

The Chair thanked Mr Weir for his thought provoking talk.

3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 6 January 2009 And Matters Arising.

The minutes were approved on the motion of Norman MacKenzie seconded by Sheena Robertson.

Matters Arising:

a) Patients Rights Bill Consultation:
The Secretary reported that he had sent in the submission on behalf of FCC after it had been circulated to members for comment. Acknowledgement of receipt had been received.

b) Oxgangs Post Office
The Secretary reported the campaign to save the post office had been successful. The Chair extended thanks to the Secretary, the politicians and everybody else who had worked to save this vital community resource.

c) Planning Application – 226 Braid Road
The Secretary reported that a submission against this proposal had been submitted.

d) Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Local Community Plan
The Secretary reported on the recent meeting that had been held on this and that the comments made had been submitted to the Partnership

e) Review of Community Council Scheme
The Secretary said that he draw up a document for circulation to members for approval prior to submission.

f) Consultation On Developer Contributions In Relation To Planning
The closing date was 27 March. Louise Maguire stated that she did not think that there was anything in this that required the FCC's attention.

g) Calderstones Planning Application
An environmental assessment will not be undertaken till the spring. The application is on hold until then.

4. Correspondence

a) Tennants Voice newsletter for January 2009-02-23
b) Working Capital newsletter for January 2009-02-23
c) Pentland Beacon magazine for Winter 2008/2009

5. Councillors Report

Councillor Aitken reported that the buckets near to Buckstone school are being emptied around about 0845 when pupils are going in. That morning she had received a complaint from a resident that the lorry had reversed into the school whilst there were pupils about. She had immediately contacted the Director and it appears that the driver was new to the area. This is not a reasonable excuse and should not have happened. The situation will be monitored.

There were still gritting problems around Buckstone and Pentlands primary schools even although there had been a change in priorities. She was looking for sites for grit bins near to the schools and if anybody had any suggestions let her know.

She had had a site meeting with the area roads manager and residents in Swanston Avenue and Drive regarding rat running and the provisions of DYL (double yellow lines) at the junction with Biggar Road in the interest of road safety. There was also a bad carriageway in Swanston Terrace.

The potential pedestrian crossing in the Biggar Road at the paths from the Winton estate was 141st on the list. About 5 a year were installed, the average cost being about £50,000.

Boroughmuir School had received a good report from HMIE (Her Majesty's Inspector of Education) which had been undertaken under new criteria. Although the report was positive it was felt that it had not done justice to the school. One criticism was that urgent action was need in respect of the state of the building.

Councillor Aitken had just received a report due to go to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment the following week in response to her Council motion in 2006 regarding the speed bumps in Buckstone. The report did not address the issues raised or the questions asked She would be attending the TIE committee to express her concerns at the report..

She had had a meeting with Craig Dunlop regarding the railings for Cockmylane for which funding had been found.

6. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire reported that a meeting was planned for the following week with Craig Dunlop about Fairmilehead Park and that Wendy Kenyon had plans for a children's playground. There was a motion regarding play park strategy going in front the council originated by Councillor Buchan

7. Transport Sub-Committee

The Secretary read an e-mail from Councillor Rust regarding a meeting being held with the contractors undertaking the Braid Burn flood prevention scheme but this was in relation to the Greenbank area.

8. Other Matters

a) Youth

James Gow gave a brief update on the duck race to be held in March in Braidburn Valley Park. All the planning had been done.

b) Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

The Secretary gave a brief report on the agenda for the meeting that was being held that evening. He said that the grant of £3,400 for the Buckstone Youth Club had been recommended for approval.

9. AOCB

PC Welsh said that the Children's Safety Day was being held on 17 June.

10. Date Of Next Meeting

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

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 7 April 2009 Tuesday 5 May 2009 (AGM) Tuesday 9 June 2009

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