

# Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

**Present:** Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Councillors Elaine Aitken and Eric Barry (Part); Barbara Dick (Buckstone Association); Johanna Carrie; Bryan Fisher; James Gow; Richard Hinton; Sheena Robertson; PC Kenny Welsh; Ian Elfick; Norman McKenzie; Fiona Simon; Tom Strathdee; Margaret Walker; Alan and Pam Wight.

**Apologies:** Councillor Rust; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Audrey Ryan;

**In Attendance:**

## 1. Police Report

PC Kenny Welsh gave his report for March. 12 crimes or offences had been reported of which 3 (Road Traffic Offences) had been solved. There were 5 crimes of dishonesty but not related to any particular area. There have been 3 vehicles damaged in Buckstone and Camus by pouring paint stripper over them.

A theft by slip-in had occurred in Caiystane Hill. The occupier had been working in the garden in mid afternoon. The intruder had entered through the unlocked door. There had been some graffiti in Buckstone which the police had deemed to be of a racial nature. A serious assault had occurred in Fairmilehead Park but a positive line of enquiry was being pursued.

The newsletter had not yet gone out as he had just received the draft on the day he went on holiday. When issued it would have both the February and March figures. It also had to have an equality impact assessment before it could be issued. It was stated by the meeting that the non issue of the newsletter was having an equality impact on them.

Louise Maguire raised a concern regarding underage drinking in Fairmilehead Park.

## 2. Minute Of Meeting Held On 3 March 2009 And Matters Arising.

With a minor amendment the minutes were approved on the motion of Bryan Fisher and seconded by Dennis Williams.

**Matters Arising:**

### a) Planning Application – 226 Braid Road

The Secretary reported that a decision was still awaited. It would be removed from the agenda until a decision was made.

### b) Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

The Secretary reported on the recent meeting of the Partnership. He had raised the concerns of the Community Council regarding the proposal for funds for roads and pavement maintenance being merged with those from the Neighbourhood Improvement programme which was looked after by South West Area Board. The Partnership had agreed that the roads and pavement maintenance funds of £100,000 be retained under the control of the partnership in a separate budget.

The annual neighbourhood survey had been presented (details can be found at [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Attachments/Internet/Council/Campaigns\\_and\\_projects/ANSFinalReport120209.pdf](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Attachments/Internet/Council/Campaigns_and_projects/ANSFinalReport120209.pdf) ) It had been pointed out that the sample size was very small and that comparisons with previous years were difficult as different persons had been questioned.

He also mentioned that he had lodged a question for written answer regarding the funding and maintenance of the Pentland Hills Regional Park now that Scottish Natural Heritage where no longer providing direct funding because of the Single Outcome Agreement.

### **c) Funding Event**

The Secretary reported that he and Louise Maguire had attended a well organised and attended event in the City Chambers where a dozen organisations had set up stalls to provide information on the grants that can be provided by them. He had passed information onto Margaret Walker and if anybody else in an organisation wished details they should contact him.

## **3. Correspondence**

- a) Acknowledgement from Lord Provost regarding nomination for Edinburgh Award
- b) Cockburn Association – Notification of public inquiry regarding the Haymarket hotel proposals. Also advanced notice of this years Open Doors event which is over two days - Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September.
- c) CEC City Development – Proposals for double yellow lines Biggar road at Swanston Avenue and Drive
- d) CEC Planning – Notification of consultation on draft Edinburgh Standards for Housing (*Copy passed to Louise Maguire*)
- e) CEC Planning – Copy of Local development Plan Scheme for 2009 (*Copy passed to Louise Maguire*)
- f) CEC Planning – Information re new procedures for pre-application consultation (*Copy passed to Louise Maguire*)
- g) Dogs Trust – Information about their services for looked after dogs (*Poster on notice board*)
- h) Scottish Water – Glencorse E-Newsletter 19 (*Circulated by e-mail*)
- i) Edinburgh Association of Community Councils – Notice of AGM on 20 June at City Chambers and proposed changes to constitution (*The Secretary was nominated to attend*)

## **4. Councillors Reports**

Councillor Aitken reported that an audit had found that the dropped kerbs at the Buckstone Shops were too high. They would be altered in due course. No through road signs were being erected at Buckstone Howe and Shaw. Both of these developments were as result of complaints from Jim Hill who had sadly died two weeks previously.

As the frontagers had now agreed a seat would be put in the northbound bus shelter near to Camus Avenue. A meeting had been arranged with Caroline Burwell and Euan Kennedy regarding the report on speed bumps. The ambulance service was going to be asked their opinion again as there were three routes through the estate with cushions rather than bumps. It was pointed out that the actual drivers should be consulted, not an opinion elicited from those in the office. She would hopefully have more information for the next meeting.

She had raised concerns with Councillor MacLaren regarding the cancellation of school lets on Thursdays from the start of the next school session in August. In this area was there was no alternative and it affected both the Buckstone dance group and the youth football.

The Council expressed their deep concern at this proposed action and agreed to give any assistance required to reverse the situation.

Councillor Aitken congratulated James Gow and Margaret Walker for the recent successful family fun day.

Councillor Barry confirmed that the Thursday school lets proposal had been slipped in as part of the budget proposals. Although not in our area there had been problems with St Marks RC Primary School not being notified regarding contractors moving into their area to work on the flood defences. As the school was under a different catchment area and as a result of a breakdown in communications nobody had informed them about this proposed work which affected their football pitches.

## **5. Youth Report**

James Gow gave a DVD presentation of the recent family fun day and duck race where over £1000 had been raised.

Margaret Walker gave a brief report on the Buckstone Youth Club and Project which required volunteers to function and would not exist without their assistance. At present child protection and health and safety training and assistance was undertaken by the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) in conjunction with the Council who funded two posts. However to save on the budget the funding for one of these posts was being withdrawn, the one with the Scout association was being retained. As there were only 2 persons working with training for the whole of the Lothians this withdrawal could have severe implications for the youth not just in this area but in Edinburgh.

She thanked the Buckstone Association who had passed on £600 which had been collected from their members.

The meeting agreed with Margaret regarding the withdrawal of the youth workers and gave her its support. She was free to come back at anytime if she needed further assistance.

The Chair thanked both James and Margaret for their reports.

## **6. Planning and Environment**

Louise Maguire reported permission had been given to demolish St Hildas Episcopal Church at Oxgangs. It would be replaced with flats some of which would be for the disabled.

She had copies of the latest Spokes magazine.

## **7. Transport Sub-Committee**

The Secretary referred to a report regarding the proposed integration of Bus and Tram ([http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc\\_ext.asp?DocId=123690](http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?DocId=123690)) which had come up for consideration at the Edinburgh Council meeting on 12 March 2009. The implications of the report were that Lothian Buses were expected to provide a subsidy of about £7 million per year to keep the trams viable. The fares on both bus and tram were to be the same and the bus fare would rise to about £3.50. Eventually it was feared that the bus services would be severely depleted or withdrawn and then Lothian Buses could be ripe for takeover.

At the Council meeting authority had been granted to the Chief Executive to proceed with an interim structure and report back to the Council after this had been done in late 2010.

The Community Council agreed that the Secretary should draft an appropriate letter highlighting their concerns and send it to our Councillors, City Development and the Chief Executive. MSPs should also be copied in.

The Secretary referred to the roads and pavement maintenance budget mentioned at 2b above. He asked for any suggestions or problem areas that could be submitted.

## **8. Consultations**

The Secretary brought the meetings attention to two consultations.

The first was on the NHS Lothian Maternity Strategy and was for information:

<http://www.nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk/news/documents/Maternity%20Services%20Strategy%20Public%20Consultation%20-%20A%20Summary%20Guide.pdf>

The second was on the Way Ahead for General Practice in Scotland:

[http://www.bma.org.uk/images/thewayahead\\_tcm26-183000.pdf](http://www.bma.org.uk/images/thewayahead_tcm26-183000.pdf)

It was decided that a special meeting would be held to discuss this.

## **9. Other Matters**

a) Memorial to Susan Wong - An e-mail had been received fro Morningside Community Council announcing that a fund had been opened to form a scented garden with bench for the blind in Morningside Park. This was in memory of their past Chair, Suzi Wong who had died last August. It was agreed that £50 be donated.

b) The Secretary reported that Richard Hinton who had been a nominated member for the Buckstone Association was no longer eligible as he had resigned as their Chair at their recent AGM. It was agreed that Richard be made a co-opted member until the elections later in the year when it was his intention to stand.

c) It was reported that the Buckstone Association had nominated their administrator, Barbara Dick, to replace Richard Hinton as their representative. This was endorsed by the meeting.

d) The Secretary read a letter from Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer, requesting that Community Councils nominate a person to act as their Returning Officer for the forthcoming elections. Councillor Aitken accepted nomination.

The timetable for the elections was also enclosed and this will be put on the FCC website in due course along with other information relating to the elections.

## **10. AOCB**

Johanna Carrie informed the meeting regarding the Transition meeting the following Tuesday at the Pentland Centre. She also said there was Edinburgh event at the City Chambers on 3 May between 1230 and 1730.

A comment was made regarding the lack of a filter for southbound traffic turning right into Oxfords Road. This had been noted but unfortunately until the lights were replaced at a future date no action would be taken.

## **11. Date Of Next Meeting**

This was arranged for Tuesday 5 May 2009 in Fairmilehead Parish Church and would incorporate the AGM.

### **Forthcoming Meetings:**

Tuesday 9 June 2009                      Tuesday 1 September 2009                      Tuesday 6 October 2009

### **Contacts:**

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