

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 8 March 2011 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice Chair), Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer), Johanna Carrie; Barbara Dick (Buckstone Association); Bryan Fisher; Richard Hinton (part); Sandy Macpherson; Tom Strathdee; Pam Wight (St Fillans); Councillors Elaine Aitken and Eric Barry; PC Kenny Welsh; Ian Elfick; Ann McCutcheon; Matthew McKerrow; Catherine Macpherson; Fiona Simon; Margaret Walker; Alan Wight; Charles Whytock and 21 other members of the public

Apologies: Councillor Jason Rust; Ian Murray MP; Bruce and Joyce Beveridge; John Dunn; Audrey Ryan

In Attendance: Carol Marr, Team Leader, Oxfangs Library

1. Library Service

The Chair introduced Carol Marr from Oxfangs Library. She said that this was the 20th birthday year of Oxfangs Library however the celebrations had had to be postponed due to the weather but were held recently when local school children were presented with awards for their poetry.

A recent survey showed that the favourite book was the Lion and the Witch and the Wardrobe.

From April to December 2010 there had been 117,000 issues and 9000 computer bookings in your lying. In February there had been 9600 visitors. The library is more than just a place for books and a variety of events take place there apart from the usual ones of book readings and clubs. The police and councillors hold surgeries there; information events such as electric blanket exchange in conjunction with Trading Standards; arts and crafts workshops; singing groups; displays of Oxfangs Past and other exhibitions as well as a recent broadcast of the Big Debate with Brian Taylor from BBC Scotland.

The libraries run many services one of which is the library link and housebound service. The housebound service is where WRVS volunteers operate a home delivery service for people who are housebound or unable to travel to their local library. A selection of their favourite books, audio books and cds can be delivered to their door.

Library Link is a bus service for anyone who has difficulty getting to the library because of age, disability or ill health. The free minibus will pick up persons from their home and take them to their local library. The bus has wheelchair access and trained staff and WRVS volunteers are on hand to give assistance on and off the bus. A member can choose their books, and then sit down to enjoy a coffee and a chat before being taken home again.

Other things going on at the library are creative writing classes; reading groups; learn IT ; smoking cessation classes; breast feeding café and bereavement counselling; summer reading challenge..

The library service also maintains the Your Edinburgh website which is a directory of local organisations and services. The library is a resource for local communities and there are many online resources such as dictionaries, Encyclopaedia Britannica and driving theory exercises. Some these on line resources can also be accessed from home by using you library number. A local library can support many things and is more than just books.

2. Police Report

PC Kenny Welsh reported that for the month of February there were only three crimes and 1 was a road traffic offence on the bypass; one was a theft in Pentland View and the other was a vandalism in Buckstone Avenue where a wing mirror had been damaged.

This type of weather brings the start of the bogus workmen activity although none have been reported so far. Some people are going around offering to do surveys on household security and trying to sell alarm systems. The systems are reasonably priced but the maintenance packages are very expensive. It is also recommended that if you have a garden shed you make sure it is secure especially if storing items such as cycles and power tools in it as these are targets for thieves.

3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 1 February 2011 And Matters Arising.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 February 2011 were challenged by Mr Symonds who said that section 3(b) (Water Treatment Works) did not accurately reflect what had been said at the meeting.

The Chair invited Cllr Aitken to clarify the position. She stated that the plans were only indicative at this stage and the subgroup that had been mentioned was only in relation to community gain. It had since been confirmed from the Planning Department that under the new legislation that has come into force the community gain aspect is now in the hands of the developer. Children and Families Department have already put in a bid regarding expansion at the primary school.

The developer will require to go through the statutory consultation with local residents and community when any application for full planning permission is subsequently lodged. The Community Council is a statutory consultee. Under the new system an application does not necessarily have to go to full council. Scottish Water have said that at present there is no preferred developer.

There was discussion and questions on the issue and it was eventually decided that in view of the circumstances regarding community gain it was not advisable to form the subgroup and it was decided not to proceed with this. Cllr Aitken explained that due to the new funding arrangements which had been announced for Boroughmuir High school replacement, Children and Families had to look at all options again including the Water Treatment site although there was no guarantee it would be at this location.

There was then discussion on the letter which the Secretary had submitted to the Planning Department regarding the pre-planning application. He apologised if any one was upset by the wording used as this had not been the intention and he explained the rationale for the submission of the letter. It was decided that the members would meet later to discuss the issues.

Note: The minutes of the meeting of 1 February 2011 were subsequently approved by the Community Councillors. The Community Councillors also approved the letter which had been submitted to the Planning Department with a minor amendment.

Matters Arising:

a) Water Treatment Works

This was discussed as above.

b) Severe Weather Conditions

The Secretary informed the meeting that he had submitted the letter of suggestions/comments discussed at the last meeting and included the additional comments made. He had received a reply from the Council acknowledging receipt and that a review has been set up and communities would be invited to contribute.

4. Correspondence

- a) Invest Edinburgh magazine Winter 2011 edition
- b) Tenants Voice newsletter January 2011 edition
- c) ASCC (Association of Scottish Community Councils) – Elections for area representative and Community Councillor magazine
- d) CEC City Development – Winter 2011 edition of Flood Protection Newsletter
- e) Marie Curie – request for volunteers for Daffodil Appeal (*Put on notice board*)
- f) CEC Licensing – March Board applications (*None in area*)
- g) CEC Transport – details of waiting restrictions at Pentland Primary school
- h) Oxfangs Local health Group – health event on 11 March 2011
- i) Cllr Rust – Information re hearing for Dreghorn Polo Fields planning application – 24 March within church
- j) Spokes Spring 2011 Magazine and public meeting details – 23 March 2011
- k) Friends of Braidburn Park Spring Clean – 3 April
- l) Eden Project – The Big Lunch project details
- m) Department of Communities and Local Government – Guide to organising a street party
- n) Lothian and Borders Police Board – January 2011 newsletter

5. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Aitken had had a meeting with Chief Superintendent Gill Imery who was commander for the City of Edinburgh regarding the police and neighbourhood watch newsletter pointing out the lack of information available since the publication stopped. It had been stressed that the newsletter was useful to the local community

There was a possibility that the Fairmile Inn may be being sold. The planning permission which was originally in force for flats had expired so any new development would require to be started from the beginning. It would not be for retail use.

From 3 April the number 11 bus would no longer go to Fairmilehead and all services would turn right at the crossroads to go up to Hyvot. This was due to a commercial decision and she had spoken to Bill Campbell, Operations Director, but the decision stood.

The RSG Edinburgh City Control in Buckstone Grove was being advertised for sale. The site is 2.07 acre site but only one acre was actually available due to restrictions. The possibility for the site was 1 or 2 low rise quality houses.

Cllr Aitken had opened the bank for Primary 6 at Buckstone School which was a Royal Bank of Scotland initiative. Letters had been sent to householders regarding overhanging branches informing them of the problem and asking them to cut them back. If they failed to do so the Council were authorised to do it and charge the householders accordingly.

Cllr Barry had attended Fairmilehead Park where Chinese lanterns had been released to mark the start of the work on upgrading the play area. He had received e-mails from several parties regarding the water treatment works re the path network. They had been from both sides of the argument.

The Council budget had been decided on casting vote of the Lord Provost. Regarding buses the number 5 would now be going to Hunters Tryst whilst as enough people were not using the 4 to justify a more frequent service. He also stated that consultations were ongoing for the fire and police service in Scotland.

6. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

Tom Strathdee gave a brief report on the recent community safety subgroup meeting. He gave a description of the function of the group and it had recently discussed the newsletter and the youth tracking system in the area which seemed to be beneficial and was helping to reduce crime. A no cold calling zone had been set up in Swanston and it was hoped to set one up in Winton.

The Secretary reported that the next meeting of the neighbourhood partnership was on 22 March in Fairmilehead Church and there would be a community planning event to involve members of the community council at the City Chambers on a Saturday afternoon in April. Full details would be available in due course.

7. Planning and Environment

There was nothing further to report.

Johanna Carrie gave details of the next Transition Edinburgh Pentlands meeting on 15 March 2011 when the subject would be energy alternatives and a film.

8. Transport

There was nothing further to report.

9. Youth Report

Margaret Walker informed the meeting regarding the family community fun day that coming Saturday, 12th March. All the organisation had been undertaken by the youth and there was also to be a sponsored duck race at Braidburn Valley. The youth were also interacting with other groups in the area.

10. AOCB

The item regarding the newsletter would be carried forward to the next meeting.

The Secretary mentioned the two Scottish Government consultations on the police and fire service and that he would put them on the agenda for the next meeting.

He also raised the issue that the Government had recently awarded the green giro system to the Paypoint organisation. This meant that once it came into effect it would not be possible to cash the giros, which were used to pay pensions and other benefits, at post offices. This was another service that was being taken away from the post office network.

Sandy Macpherson mentioned that the church was holding a hustings in connection with the Scottish Parliament elections on 27 April.

11. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 5 April 2011 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 3 May 2011 (AGM) Tuesday 7 June 2011 Tuesday 6 September 2011

Contacts:

e-mail: Secretary@fairmileheadcc.org.uk Website: www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk