

# Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 2 February 2010 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls

**Present:** Dennis Williams (Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Johanna Carrie; Barbara Dick (Buckstone Association); Richard Hinton; Sandy Macpherson; Tom Strathdee; Councillors Elaine Aitken and Eric Barry (Part); PC Kenny Welsh; Bruce and Joyce Beveridge; Neil Black; Ian Elfick; Colin Manson; ; Charles Whytock; James Wilson; Alan and Pam Wight;

**Apologies:** Councillor Jason Rust; Bryan Fisher; Louise Maguire; Audrey Ryan; Margaret Walker

**In Attendance:** Caroline Burwell, Road Safety Manager, City of Edinburgh Council

## 1. Buckstone Traffic Calming

The Chair welcomed Caroline Burwell, Road Safety Manager, City of Edinburgh Council who explained the position regarding the proposal to change the speed cushions in Buckstone to full width speed humps and the present consultation being undertaken.

Since the bumps and cushions were originally installed the legislation has changed and consultation must be undertaken, whereas before it was only advisory. All households had been issued with a leaflet outlining the proposed changes although at present it was only proposed that Buckstone Road and Loan would be undertaken. It was hoped to undertake a similar exercise regarding Buckstone Drive and Crescent later in the year.

Traffic calming measures were numerous but in this area speed cushions and humps were used. When they were first installed in the City they were 100mm high but through time and various changes in legislation they have evolved to 75mm high and 70-80 metres apart. Cushions were preferred by the emergency services particularly the ambulance service. Due to acceptable tolerances they could be between 69 and 81mm high.

Mrs Burwell answered various questions relating to the proposals and comments relating to the existing installations. The members were of the opinion that the proposals to change from cushions to full width bumps were a positive step to all the problems that were encountered with the existing cushions.

Mrs Burwell concluded by stating that 977 houses had been issued with leaflets of which there had been 201 responses. 179 had been in favour of the proposals and 22 against. The report seeking approval for the changes was going in front of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee the following week.

The Chair thanked Mrs Burwell for her attendance.

## 2. Police Report

PC Kenny Welsh reported that during January there were 9 reported crimes. There were three malicious damage reports – The Steadings, Swanston Avenue and Margaret Rose Drive. There were 2 road traffic offences. An attempt had been made to break into a house in Buckstone Crescent and a car had been broken into at Lothianburn Golf Course. An assault had occurred on an 18 bus.

Due to the severe weather conditions there had been fewer patrols than normal operating. Comments were raised about driver not clearing snow from their vehicles before setting off and drivers either not using lights when necessary or using fog lights when it was illegal.

## 3. Planning Application – Proposed Hotel, Biggar Road

The Secretary had previously circulated details of an application to Midlothian Council for outline planning permission for a hotel, bar and restaurant on Biggar Road (09/00614/PPP).

This would be next to the proposed park and ride at Lothianburn. After discussion it was decided to note the application and not to lodge any objections.

Richard Hinton also said that an application for another hotel opposite the entrance to Calderstones had also been submitted to Midlothian Council.

#### **4. Minute Of Meeting Held On 1 December 2009 And Matters Arising.**

The minutes were approved on the motion of Richard Hinton seconded by Barbara Dick

##### **Matters Arising:**

##### **a) Boots at Buckstone Terrace**

The Secretary read over the contents of a letter which David McLetchie had received from NHS Lothian. The wording was very similar to one the Secretary had received when he raised the matter with NHS Lothian. Mr McLetchie said that if there were still problems with dispensing prescriptions then he would follow up any further complaints..

##### **b) Newsletter**

The Secretary circulated a copy of the final version of the newsletter and the calendar which were with the printer. He also circulated a copy of the new logo which had been developed from the original drawing. The winner of the competition to create the new logo had been won by Bethany Braidwood and he had presented her with a gift token and a framed copy of the original design and the final version. He was arranging a meeting with Margaret Walker to see about delivery using the Youth Project members. Approval was given to pay the invoice to the graphic designer regarding the design of the logo and final layout of the newsletter.

#### **5. Councillors Reports**

Councillor Barry, who had to leave early to attend another meeting, reported on all the calls and e-mails he had received regarding the severe weather conditions and lack of gritting.

He stated that it was anticipated there would be 2.5% cuts to school budgets at the Council Budget setting meeting the following week. His group maintained that 1.9% is all that is necessary.

Councillor Aitken also reported on the weather conditions and because there had been no thaw the underlying snow had been compacted and turned to ice. A paper had gone to the Policy and Strategy Committee and then to the Council on the subject. She had proposed a motion, which had been accepted, asking that the special conditions in the area be taken into account and that re-prioritisation should be looked at. There would be a review after the winter.

Councillor Aitken said that 100 grit bins had been ordered and the Secretary read over a list of suggested locations that required them. At this point discussion ensued on the severe weather conditions and the problems that had arisen. Too long before remedial action was taken; lack of gritting; empty grit bins; Colinton Village had been cut off; the Oxgangs/Oxgangs Farm area had been untreated; the wrong type of equipment had been used, snowploughs to clear ice rather than diggers; concentration given to roads in housing areas rather than pavements; bus stops and crossing points not cleared; lack of information and no central point to obtain it from.

Councillor Aitken said that a multi agency team had met on a daily basis during the crisis. The Secretary wished to record his thanks to the Councillor for all the help he had received from her during the severe weather when he had contacted her with problems for neighbours and residents.

Councillor Aitken said that a new head teacher had been appointed to Buckstone Primary and Dunedin Canmore were still in discussion with the Council regarding the Hunter Tryst site. Work had started on the traffic island at Pentland Terrace/Comiston Rise that was a result of a bid for funding from the Neighbourhood Partnership road maintenance budget. The other island on Biggar Road near to Swanston Drive would be commenced soon. The funding was in place for the installation of double yellow lines at the foot of Buckstone Road, Gardens and Avenue but the weather had delayed this.

There had been complaints of dog fouling and flooding in the area around Pentland primary and graffiti in Pentland Drive. As a result of the previous area walkabout the roads in the Camus Avenue area were going to be re-assessed.

Due to budget cuts it was likely that four crèches run by Edinburgh Leisure in their facilities would close.

Councillor Aitken said that she had had a meeting with the new Inspector at Oxfangs Police Station, Inspector Murray Dykes.

## **6. Correspondence**

- a) Christmas Cards from Sheena and Bill Robertson; David Mclethie; Edinburgh South Lib Dem team; Staff at Neighbourhood Office.
- b) Planning Aid for Scotland – Copies of new leaflets
- c) CEC Planning – Notice of Intention to Adopt Edinburgh City Local Plan
- d) Scottish Water – Warm Pipes Campaign – *Notice and poster place on board*
- e) Edinburgh & Lothian Greenspace Trust Autumn newsletter
- f) CEC Licensing Department – January and February 2010 list (None in area)
- g) Planning Aid – Training Session, Dalkeith, 13 February 2010
- h) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Draft CC Partnership Agreement
- i) EACC (Edinburgh Association of CCs)– Question Time on Enforcement, 9 January 2010
- j) ASCC (Association of Scottish CCs) – Nomination for Area Representative (*Secretary proposed if he wishes to stand*)
- k) NHS Lothian – Consultation – Draft Palliative Care Strategy (*Copies distributed*)
- l) Fairmilehead Parish Church – Notification of increase in hall let fees from August 2010
- m) CEC – Launch of appeal for Haiti Earthquake victims
- n) Lothian and Borders Police Board – Custody Visiting Scheme (*Notice put on Board*)
- o) Edinburgh Civic Forum – Agenda for next meeting and minutes of previous meeting (*Louise Maguire attending*)
- p) Cockburn Association – Appeal for members
- q) City development, Transport – Notification of Traffic order for double yellow lines at Biggar Road/ Swanston Avenue and Drive
- r) Lothian and Borders Police – Notice of event re cannabis cultivation
- s) Scottish Natural Heritage – Winter 2009 magazine

## **7. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership**

The Secretary reported that the next meeting of the Partnership was on 30 March with a business meeting on 3 March. He had just been elected as Chair of the Health and Employment Sub Group.

At the recent Funding Panel applications from the Buckstone Youth Club and Project had been approved. The application from Transition Edinburgh Pentlands had been carried forward to the next meeting on 24 February.

## **8. Planning and Environment**

Due to the absence of Louise Maguire there was no report. The Secretary informed the meeting that the coffee/sandwich shop at 16 Buckstone Terrace had opened for business. Their trade waste bin was being stored at the front of the shop instead of the side or rear of the premises. He would keep an eye on the situation.

### **a) Transition Edinburgh Pentlands**

Johanna Carrie informed the meeting that the next two meetings were on 15 and 21 February. An application had been made to the Neighbourhood Partnership for funding for an Energy Fair. This was being held on Saturday 15 May from 2p[m to 4.30pm and there would be stalls, displays, advice and speakers.

Any assistance the Community Council and the members could give in volunteers for planning and ideas would be welcome.

## **9. Transport Sub-Committee**

Nothing further to report

## **10. AOCB**

Already covered under other agenda items

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

This was arranged for Tuesday 2 March 2010 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

### **Forthcoming Meetings:**

Tuesday 6 April 2010

Tuesday 4 May 2010

Tuesday 1 June 2010

### **Contacts:**

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