

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2012 in Fairmilehead Parish Church

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Johanna Carrie; Barbara Dick (Buckstone Association); Richard Hinton; Sandy Macpherson; Tom Strathdee;

Ex Officio: Councillors Elaine Aitken and Eric Barry;

In Attendance: Phil Pritchett; David Lawson and Gordon Lee for Item 1;

32 members of the public

Apologies: Louise Maguire; Pam Wight (St Fillans); Ian Murray MP; Councillor Jason Rust; PC Kenny Welsh; Margaret Walker; George Symons

1. Fairmile Inn Proposals

Phil Pritchett from Pritchett Planning Consultancy introduced himself, David Lawson from Oberlanders Architects and the owner, Gordon Lee of Craigdon Mountain Sports, Inverurie.

Mr Pritchett said it was hoped to be able to lodge a planning application in the not too distant future. David Lawson then gave a presentation on the proposals for the site. The existing building, which is not listed, would be demolished and would be replaced with a multi use facility on the north part of the site. Next to it would be 3 flats for the use of family members and staff.

The proposal was for an iconic building based on the church/manse concept which would hopefully be a gateway building for the Pentlands. It would be wedged shaped with solar panels on the roof. There would be a couple of balconies looking over to the Pentlands. It would have offices, sales area and workshop. There would be 44 car park spaces and 4 at the staff accommodation.

Comments were made and questions raised on issues such as height in relation to surrounding buildings; it would operate 7 days a week; situate nearer bypass; material for exterior walls; preventing park and ride parking; dangerous exit onto existing road; discussions were still to be held with planners and transport engineers.

2. Police Report

In the absence of PC Welsh the Secretary read over his report for December:

There were a total of 21 crimes recorded for the area of which 5 were solved: 4 relating to 2 incidents at Pentland View close support unit and a drunk driver from Biggar Road.

There were 9 Crimes of dishonesty; 7 crimes/offences of damage to property; 3 other crimes/offences and 2 crimes of violence

11 of the crimes relate to break-ins to sheds and damage to fencing. The preferred method is to remove or break through the wooden fence, and thereafter, remove the padlock from the shed. The property stolen is usually bikes.

This is a continuation of the thefts from November, which he had mentioned at the December meeting. The loci are also the same areas, Swan Spring and Pentland in our area and surrounding areas i.e. Riselaw and Greenbank.

The good news is that possible culprits have been identified but enquiries are ongoing to try and obtain sufficient evidence to charge.

3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 6 December 2011

These were approved by the meeting.

Matters Arising:

a) Winton Gardens Planning Application

Councillor Aitken gave a brief background to this application. The Secretary circulated a copy of the draft letter containing the objections that the Community Council was proposing to submit against the application. As the Community Council was a statutory consultee he had negotiated additional time (until 18 January) to allow a submission to be made.

He highlighted the main areas of objections:

- Against the provisions of the Edinburgh City Local Plan
- Within the Green Belt
- Within a Conservation Area
- Agricultural land
- Affordable housing provision
- Traffic

The planning application number was 11/03948/FUL and the documents, including the Community Council response, can be found on the planning portal at:

<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk/idoxpa-web/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=LVXM2PEW0GY00>

b) Edinburgh Local Plan – Main Issues Report

The Secretary stated that the previous day the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Environmental sub group had held a special meeting to discuss the implications for the green belt. He and Johanna Carrie had been in attendance. It was intended that the Partnership would submit a letter to the Council stating that, as a first option, development should not be carried out on the green belt. If it was required it should be in a large contiguous area, such as the business gateway at the airport, as opposed to small piecemeal areas such as excluding Swanston from the green belt.

c) Libraries and Information Services Strategy Consultation

The Secretary informed the meeting of this consultation document. The closing date was 30 January 2012. Comments could be made on line and details could be found at:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/427/libraries/1597/shaping_our_future

4. Correspondence

- a) Christmas cards from: Ian Murray MP; Gordon MacDonald MSP and staff; David McLetchie; Councillors Aitken and Rust. Councillor Barry had sent an electronic card.
- b) CEC Licensing Section – Lists for January Board (*None in area*)
- c) Edinburgh Tenants Federation – Tenants Voice magazine December 2011 issue
- d) Gordon MacDonald MSP – Copy of letter from MOD re Dreghorn and Redford barracks (*No new information in letter*)
- e) Bill Elliot, Scottish Water – Visiting at March meeting. Proposal to fund a community project or asset. (*After discussion decided to investigate proposal and bring forward suggestions*)
- f) Lothian Health Board – Winter 2011 edition of Health Link newspaper
- g) Ian Murray MSP – letter enclosing Cheque for £50 from a survey which was to be passed onto Youth Project. (*Treasurer and Secretary arranging*)

5. Councillors' Reports

Councillor Barry reported on several issues:

- Concerns re violent crime in the Oxfgangs area. A meeting had been held with the police, MSP, local councillors and others.
- Gritting – although no snow, salting was still being undertaken.
- Traffic problems concerning Fairmilehead road works.

- Voted against parking charges in some car parks in Pentland Hills but was agreed by the Council.
- Congestion in city centre due to tram works and proposals to pedestrianise Princes Street.
- 36,000 houses needed to be built in south east area of Scotland over next few years.

Councillor Aitken reported:

- Site visit with police to Fairmilehead road works and look at rat running through Frogston.
- Gritting – problem with pavement parkers in Buckstone preventing machines getting access.
- Trees damage by severe winds put trees at risk but some have preservation orders and other are on private land.
- 107 comments had been submitted regarding the application for change of use to a nursery for 28 Frogston Road West. The decision would be made by the Committee.
- The roll out of super broadband had not included Fairmilehead exchange. She had submitted a motion to Council which was remitted to the Finance and Strategy Committee asking for Fairmilehead exchange to be considered for upgrading.
- Volunteer snow warden scheme. Further training places were available.
- Perceived problem with commuter parking at Comiston Rise/ Pentland Terrace.
- Gave oral evidence to Boundary Commission Review.
- DYLS for area around Buckstone Primary.
- Garrison FM carol singing competition – won by Pentland Primary.
- Damage to playing field in Buckstone Howe.

In the absence of Councillor Rust the Secretary read over his report:

- Made written submission to Boundary Commission review.
- Attended meeting about the Green Triangle, Firrhill Drive organised by the owners of the ground (Dunedin Canmore) who will work together with other agencies to monitor the situation regarding youths and take action where required.
- Voted against the introduction of parking charges at Bonaly and other Pentland Hills Regional Park car parks.
- Library and Information Services Consultation.
- A draft Natural Heritage Strategy for Planning in Edinburgh has been prepared and a draft is out for consultation.
- Roadworks at Fairmilehead.
- Potholes: Following the number of residents who have been in touch due to poor road conditions, he submitted a written question to Full Council requesting details of the number of claims made to the Council, their success and costs paid out. The answer provided is here:-

Year	Pothole Claims	Successful Claims	Amount Paid
2007/8	266	114	£19,152.97
2008/9	178	60	£15,649.54
2009/10	221	70	£19,389.50
2010/11	379	66	£14,565.56

6. Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership

The Secretary reported that there was still about £30,000 remaining in the Community Grants Fund and he urged those involved with organisations to submit applications as soon as possible.

Tom Strathdee reported that the next meeting of the Community Safety Sub Group was at the beginning of the following month.

7. Planning and Environment

The Secretary drew the meeting attention to the draft natural heritage strategy Consultation which had been circulated to members. The closing date was 30 January 2012 and details could be found at:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/187/planning-consultations/1574/draft_natural_heritage_strategy/1

8. Transport

Nothing further to report.

9. Youth Report

In the absence of Margaret Walker the Secretary read over her report which is attached as an Appendix.

10. AOCB

A member of the public raised the issue of Fairmilehead Pond which had recently dried up. The Council have agreed to carry out some work to restore the flow of water to the area.

They also raised the issue of the springhead of the Swan Spring by Cock-my-Lane/Oxgangs Loan. Councillor Aitken would raise this with Scottish Water and also pass to Louise Maguire.

Sandy Macpherson raised the difficulty those sitting further back in the seats had in hearing those at the front. It was suggested that a further trial of using microphones be held to see if this overcame the problem..

Audrey Ryan sought information on the 18 bus service. Councillor Aitken provided an update.

Paul Fullerton mentioned that as the assistant leader of the 114th Morningside Scouts, who met in the halls, he was always looking for small projects, such as clean ups, for the scouts to undertake. Further information could be obtained from him.

Johanna Carrie gave details of Transition Edinburgh Pentlands and the scheme for solar panels.

11. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 7 February 2012 in Fairmilehead Parish Church.

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 6 March 2012

Tuesday 10 April 2012

Tuesday 1 May 2012

Contacts:

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

Appendix

Buckstone Youth Project

Happy New Year to you and all at F.C.C. Unfortunately I am unable to make the meeting tonight due to work commitments however here is our report for the forthcoming year.

Our junior club is going strong and all the kids appear to be enjoying themselves. Normally our club ends at the end of March however this year we have changed the format and we are hoping to extend the club to offer the kids the opportunity to take part in various activities all of this depends on fundraising and applying for grants from various sources. Our main costs are the transport which can range from £50 to £225 for each outing we plan. We are hoping to offer at least 6 to 8 trips.

Our senior club are advertising to bring in new members and we intend to advertise through Boroughmuir High School. To encourage new members and keep the teenagers active we hope to offer various indoor and outdoor activities and our annual residential. We also hope to encourage healthy eating within the group and offer cooking opportunities. We hope to encourage the young people to be active in deciding again which activities they would like to take part in and give them the voice to make the choices.

Once again to be able to offer the above projects will cost in the region of £4000 to 5000 and we are at present looking at doing another Horse Race night and possible bag packing.

If you are able to advise of any other funding in our local region I would be most grateful.

Margaret Walker

PT Youth Work Co Coordinator