

NORTHFIELD AND WILLOWBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 19 March 2015: 19:00 Northfield Community Centre

Present:

| | | |
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| John | Fayrer | Chairman |
| Margaret | Alexander | |
| George | Callaghan | Treasurer |
| Caroline | Kaye | |
| Stewart | Kerr | |
| Dave | King | |
| Gordon | Macdonald | |
| Nick | Marshall | |
| Ian | Murray | Vice-Chairman |
| Geoff | Pearson | Secretary |

Ex Officio:

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| Cameron | Buchanan | MSP |
| Sheila | Gilmore | MP |
| Joan | Griffiths | Councillor, CEC |
| Stefan | Tymkewycz | Councillor, CEC |

Ten members of the public were present.

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Christine Kerr.

Minutes of Meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting of 22 January were approved.

Matters arising

3. Matters arising were dealt with under relevant agenda items.

Member

Financial Report

4. The Treasurer reported that £3260.44 was held in the Community Council's bank account and cheques were being issued to cover the cost of the website domain (£23.60) and the advertorial in Duddingston Direct (£140 - see below). Overtime payments were due to the Community Centre for the Baronscourt Park meeting and the present meeting.

Housing

5. Ian Murray took the Chair for this item.

6. John Fayrer, as Chairman of the Meadowfield, Lady Nairne and Paisley Residents Association, explained that residents of the Lady Nairne sheltered housing had been unable to discover when a long-promised refurbishment of kitchens and bathrooms would take place. Sheila Gilmore MP had made a number of enquiries to no avail. The Edinburgh Tenants Federation had also been unable to get even an approximate date. Two residents of the housing said that they thought a formal written commitment had been given to this refurbishment being completed by the end of 2015.

7. Councillor Stefan Tymkewycz reported that funds had been transferred from the capital budget for this purpose and the work would be completed by 2018. Councillor Joan Griffiths reported that, as a result of the requests for information by the Residents Association, the Vice-Convenor of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee, Councillor Cammy Day, accompanied by a council officer, would inspect properties within a week.

8. The Community Council agreed to write to the Vice-Convenor endorsing his plan to visit.

Planning and Licensing

9. The Community Council noted with approval that the Late Hours Catering Licence Application by Domino's Pizza had been refused by the Licensing Sub-Committee. Accepting a suggestion by a member of the public, the Community Council agreed to ask the Sub-Committee for its reasons for the decision, which might help manage future issues in this area.

10. The Community Council formally adopted the representations which it had agreed in correspondence and made to the City Council about the application for planning consent to erect a prefabricated building within the site of the Cosy Cottage Nursery at 59 Northfield Broadway. The representations were supportive of the application, in view of the employment it offered and the demand for the service locally. However, if the proposed building jeopardised the listed building status of the Janitor's house the Community Council objected.

Activity Report

School Streets

11. The Community Council adopted the report made to the City Council on 23 February about the "School Streets" pilot schemes for Duddingston Primary and St John's RC Primary Schools. The report drew on the views expressed orally and in writing from local people. The Community Council had distributed about 150 leaflets in the two areas intended to extend the scope of the consultation by the Council. Very few responses had been received but overall there was strong support for the pilots, with a clear request for information

about the precise way in which they would be operated – which would be available when the formal consultation on the Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders was carried out.

Duddingston Direct

12. The Community Council agreed to publish two paid articles in Duddingston Direct to improve knowledge of the Council and to seek new members. The cost was £140 and distribution would be at the end of March and April.

Environment Forum

13. The Forum had met on 20 January and 3 February. A draft minute of the meetings was on the agenda. Concern was expressed that the process of agreeing projects to be funded from the available budget was ponderous and lacked proper analysis. It was not clear how decisions would be made as those who had attended the meetings had not had financial information on which to base their recommendations and so expected to see costed proposals at the next meeting.

Community Safety Forum

14. Members of the Community Council had attended the Forum two days earlier. It was agreed to seek a discussion with Police Scotland at a future Community Council meeting. It was also agreed to seek from the Local Roads Manager information about the monitoring of traffic speeds in Paisley Crescent following removal of the chicanes.

Baronscourt Park Public Meeting

15. The Community Council adopted the report made to the City Council of the views expressed at a public meeting it had convened, noting that other informal consultations were likely to have reached other conclusions than those expressed. The Community Council did not form a view but looked forward to the revised proposals promised by the Council.

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

16. The Community Council noted that discussions on the future of the Association continued.

Any Other Competent Business

17. A member of the public drew attention to a campaign to stop underground coal gasification. Another asked about the consultation on the resurfacing of Brighton Place, Portobello, which had been carried out primarily for the Portobello Community Council, in informal association with Northfield and Willowbrae CC as the traffic effects would be felt at least as much in its area.

18. A member of the public complained about a matter relating to an earlier informal meeting and the conduct of a member of the community council. On a majority vote, the Community disposed of the matter by agreeing to offer an apology.

Date of Next Meeting

19. There was a brief and inconclusive discussion about moving meetings to a Tuesday when a larger room would be available. The next meeting would be on 23 April at 7pm in the Community Centre.

20. The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.00.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary