

Northfield and Willowbrae
Community Council



MINUTES OF MEETING 11 October 2018: NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

John	Nisbet	Chair
Sarah	Cleary	
Gordon	Macdonald	
Davy	Ferguson	
Nick	Marshall	
Ian	Murray	
Geoff	Pearson	Secretary
Samantha	Rutherford	Vice-Chair
Nick	Weech	Treasurer

Ex Officio

John	McLellan	Councillor, City of Edinburgh Council
Alex	Staniforth	Councillor, City of Edinburgh Council

In Attendance

T/PS Thomas	Mallinson	Police Scotland
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Several members of the public were present.

Welcome

1. John Nisbet welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

2. Apologies for absence were received from Paul Dunleavy, Charlie Wood, Councillors Joan Griffiths, Mary Campbell, Kate Campbell and Ian Campbell.

Minutes of Meeting

3. The minutes of the meeting of 30 August were agreed.

Matters Arising

4. Sarah Cleary reported that discussions were underway with local organisations about the proposed application for a Community Grant to support volunteering.

Treasurer's Report

5. The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance was £3976 after purchase of the pop-up banner.

Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting

6. Geoff Pearson reported that the Neighbourhood Partnership had considered the feedback from the two local pop-up events in Piershill Squares and Lochend Road South – in which the original purpose was community involvement in the deployment of funds from the

Housing Revenue Account, Neighbourhood Environment Programme and the Community Grants Fund. Although a long list of ideas had been generated, it had been clear that there were real concerns about council house management, principally in not carrying out essential repairs. This has impacted on, for example, demands on Police resources.

7. Further events were planned for 15 October, Northfield Grove, and 22 October, Restalrig Square.

8. PS Thomas Mallinson reported that a follow-up meeting to that of the Neighbourhood Partnership had been held. Leaflets were being prepared for a stair drop in the areas of concern. He also reported the comprehensive preparations being made to improve safety around Bonfire Week.

9. The Community Council noted progress.

Edinburgh Partnership Review

10. The Community Council approved the response made to the consultation opened by the Council on The Edinburgh Partnership Review and Consultation on Governance and Community Planning Arrangements.

EACC

11. The Community Council decided not to withdraw formally from membership of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils. However, concern was expressed about the ability of EACC to represent the community at the Edinburgh Partnership and its failure to bring community councils together. It was agreed to write to EACC, the Partnership and all community councils expressing these concerns and to review involvement within a year.

Duddingston

12. Geoff Pearson reported email correspondence with the Secretary of Duddingston Golf Club, including an invitation to the Club to attend a meeting to discuss the suggestion that the Club might sell land for housing. The Club declared that no deal had yet been struck with a building firm and had declined to meet. In parallel, enquiries had been made of the Forestry section of the City Council about rumoured illegal tree felling; the Council was not aware of illegal activity.

13. The Community Council discussed what might be done to engage the community if the Club took any further steps, noting the extensive statutory protections over the land, which would figure in the current review of the Local Development Plan.

Cavalry Park: Fields in Trust

14. Geoff Pearson reported that he had written on 12 September to Alistair Gaw, Executive Director for Communities and Families, asking for progress on the expected application by the Council for Fields in Trust status for Cavalry Park. No reply has been received but it is understood that Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place, is being asked whether his department has any objection. A reminder will be sent.

15. A member of the public suggested that the site might be proposed for entry to the Common Good Register – this would be pursued.

Events

16. Sarah Cleary outlined a wide range of local events with which the Community Council was associated, including a Christmas art fair at the Salvation Army Donor Centre. Discussions continued about the possible use of the “health flat” at Piershill Square West

Any Other Competent Business

17. Members of the public referred to an online petition asking the City Council to retain the building formerly occupied by St John’s Primary School. The Community Council felt that without a reasonable consultation of the local community it would not be able to come to a view, recognising that the various developments associated with the new Portobello High School had been the subject of extensive and repeated public consultation.

Date of next meeting

18. 15 November.

19. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary

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