

NORTHFIELD AND WILLOWBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 17 September 2015: 19:00 Northfield Community Centre

Present:

John	Fayrer	Chairman
Margaret	Alexander	Treasurer
Dave	Ferguson	
Dave	King	
Gordon	Macdonald	
Nick	Marshall	
Ian	Murray	Vice-chairman
Geoff	Pearson	Secretary

One member of the public was present.

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from George Callaghan, Caroline Kaye, Christine Kerr, Stewart Kerr, and Cameron Buchanan MSP.

Minutes of Meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting of 16 July were approved.

Matters arising

3. None

Financial Report

4. The Treasurer reported that £3542.06 was held in the Community Council's bank account and the annual grant from the Council of £697.38 had been received on 14 August. This included a basic grant of £522 and unspecified amounts for population and accommodation costs.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation

5. The Community Council agreed to offer a donation of £150 towards costs of the 25th Anniversary Celebration publication being produced by the Federation, reflecting the interests of the many tenants in the area.

Consultations

6. The Community Council discussed methods of participating in the many consultations which arrive almost every day. The biggest issues such as the major SESPlan – the future shape of Edinburgh - might well be vital but are difficult to relate to immediate

local concerns. Likewise the current consultation on the Health and Social Care Integration Plan. Even in well-connected areas like Portobello these did not attract significant interest.

7. The current consultation by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland which is essentially about load-balancing councillors and wards might attract more attention as it moved most of N&W east of the Figgate Park into Portobello. As the community council boundaries are not to be revised, this seems to mean that all 7 councillors may attend N&W CC as ex-officio members. The community council's formal response will be agreed at a later meeting.

8. The community council agreed to continue to look for issues and methods that would work for our area.

Environment Forum

9. The shopping list of projects for consideration for funding by the Environment Forum had been exhausted but there were funds still available. Among those suggested were:

- Scone Gardens steps
- No Bird Feeding signs for the Figgate Pond
- Cycle routes
- Contributing to the new path in the Baronscourt Park

10. It was agreed to open a trawl on Facebook and the website.

Progress Reports

11. Abercorn Cottages: the Planning committee has disallowed two upper windows but agreed the rest of the proposed changes. It was agreed again to ask the Duddingston Conservation Society whether it would like to take up a representative seat on the community Council as we were the statutory consultee for their area. Such membership would be likely to strengthen the way in which planning issues were handled between the two organisations.

12. The New Park: Following the presentation just before the launch of the consultation by the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, various meetings were discussing what the new park should be like. The Community Council agreed to hold its next meeting in St John's School when the components of our final comments would be assembled.
13. Craigtinny and Telferton Allotments: The Secretary reported that a letter of opposition to loss of the allotments had been sent to the developers in August. The Inchview Terrace Residents Association has been formed. The Council had issued a Certificate of Lawfulness for the agricultural use of the allotment site.
14. Baronscourt Park: The Secretary reported that the meeting between Morrisons and CEC officers in August had resulted in a first informal draft plan.
15. Notice Boards: We await assistance from Council officers on the planning and other permissions.
16. Brighton Place/Southfield Bridge: Now much clearer since about 150 pigeons had been removed and the netting replaced.
17. Dominos – there have been recent complaints from local people about Dominos vans loading and unloading after midnight. It was agreed to write to Dominos and the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Any Other Competent Business

18. Disabled Parking Space - Draft Traffic Order TRO/14/28B : a member of the public asked the Community Council to give positive support to this Order in which one proposal is for a space outside St John's Primary School. In discussion, it emerged that the member of the public was concerned that an objection had been made to this specifically on the grounds that the legislation was not appropriate to the particular kind of space.
19. The Community Council agreed to write in such terms to the Council.

Date of Next Meeting

20. The next meeting would be on 22 October in St John's at 7pm.
21. The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.55.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary