

NORTHFIELD AND WILLOWBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 2 February 2017: Northfield Community Centre

Present:

Lorraine	Simpson	Chair
Sarah	Cleary	
Dave	Ferguson	
Gordon	Macdonald	
Nick	Marshall	
Ian	Murray	
Geoff	Pearson	Secretary
Samantha	Rutherford	
Nick	Weech	Treasurer
Bill	Whyte	
Ex Officio:		
Joan	Griffiths	Councillor, City of Edinburgh
Stefan	Tymkewycz	Councillor, City of Edinburgh
Tommy	Sheppard	MP

Two members of the public were present.

Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the first working meeting of the community council

Apologies

2. Apologies for absence were received from Charlie Wood.

Minutes of Meeting of Previous Meeting

3. The minutes of the meeting of 3 November were agreed.

Treasurer's Report

4. The Treasurer reported that a bank account, with three signatories and on-line facilities had been opened. Funds were expected shortly from the City Council.

Meeting Dates

5. The Community Council agreed the Calendar which included dates of Neighbourhood Partnership meetings and forums.

Planning

6. Following a public meeting it convened on 6 December the Community Council agreed, by correspondence, a letter of representations about a planning application for

student accommodation at 235 Willowbrae Road. The meeting formally agreed the letter sent on 12 December. The application was later withdrawn by the applicant.

7. The Community Council noted that other significant planning applications were in progress, some outside its area, which might require consideration for local impact. These include Treverlen Park, the Standard Life site off Baileyfield Road and the Meadowbank Stadium. In addition the number of routine smaller applications had increased.

8. The Community Council agreed to circulate to members the weekly list of planning applications with a view to considering how to make useful contributions to the planning process. An offer by the City of Edinburgh Council to make a presentation on Meadowbank Stadium would be pursued.

Police Report

9. PC Anthony Keane tabled and spoke to a useful statistical report comparing police data for the period April to November 2016 with a running 5 year average. In discussion, there was interest in the way in which the police Operation Rigoletto was strengthening the role of community policing. Topics of interest included road traffic issues, alcohol, BME issues and PC Keane offered to provide further data if the community council wished.

10. The Community Council thanked PC Keane for his report.

Conduct of Business

11. The Community Council agreed to nominate Geoff Pearson as its representative on the Neighbourhood Partnership.

12. It was further agreed to establish 2 sub-groups to explore issues and possibilities for cooperation with other community councils within the North East Locality:

- Cycling – members: Gordon Macdonald, Nick Marshall and Ian Murray
- Isolation: Nick Weech, Sarah Cleary, Sam Rutherford and Bill Whyte.

Engagement

13. The Community Council discussed ways in which it might best support the community. It was important that Northfield and Willowbrae played a full part in the new Locality where the several Leith and Portobello community councils were already strongly placed. Communications were a key role. Although the community council already has a Facebook page, website and small email mailing list, it was still relatively unknown in the area.

14. It was agreed to:

- explore costs for a one-off information document to circulate widely to households
- focus on expanding digital communications

- perhaps provide information on community council members and interests.

15. It was recognised that issues of local concern were good vehicles for improving awareness and it was suggested, for example, that fracking was one such. However, the community council recognised that there were already many organisations campaigning on fracking and the added value would be limited. Issues that might attract local interest included dementia.

16. It was agreed to consider priorities for action at a later meeting

Date of Next Meeting

17. The next meeting would be 23 March at 19.30 in the Northfield Community Centre.

18. The Chair closed the meeting at 21.15.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary