

Northfield and Willowbrae
Community Council



MINUTES OF MEETING 22 March 2018: NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

Lorraine Simpson	Chair
John Nisbet	Vice Chair
Sarah Cleary	
Paul Dunleavey	
Davy Ferguson	
Gordon Macdonald	
Ian Murray	
Geoff Pearson	Secretary
Samantha Rutherford	
Nick Weech	
Bill Whyte	
Charlie Wood	
Ex Officio:	
Ian Campbell	Councillor, City of Edinburgh Council

Three members of the public were present.

Welcome

1. Lorraine Simpson announced that this would be her last meeting as Chair due to competing claims on her time. The Community Council thanked her for her service.

Apologies

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joan Griffiths, John McLellan and Alex Staniforth.

Minutes of Meeting

3. The minutes of the meeting of 22 February were agreed.

Matters Arising

4. None.

Treasurer's Report

5. The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance remained at £3817.39 with various invoices for recent events yet to be submitted.

Cycling

6. The Community Council welcomed a letter from Historic Environment Scotland in response to an enquiry of 3 March. HES plans to engage a traffic management consultant to review arrangements on the Holyrood Park Low Road. The extension of cycling routes across the new Meadowbank site would be considered. The Community Council agreed that the Cycling Group would keep these matters in view.

Community Events

7. Sam Rutherford and Sarah Cleary reported that further events based on the successful Chinese New Year afternoon were being planned in conjunction with the Community Centre and other agencies. Discussion were underway with churches and church groups to widen the range of people engaged and with the Salvation Army about its forthcoming May event.
8. Geoff Pearson reported that the Piershill Backgreen Association is moving ahead with its plans for bringing colour and social interaction to the large expanses of grass behind the Squares.
9. The Community Council noted, with pleasure, these and other possibilities which were being opened up.

Planning

10. Meadowbank: The Secretary reported following the drop-in and traditional meetings held in February a consultation response had been developed with the statutory consultee Craigentiny and Meadowbank Community Council. In view of the Council deadline, this had been agreed internally in correspondence and submitted jointly on 3 March. The purpose of both meetings was to hear and record the full range of opinion. The response contained an overview of the outcomes of the two meetings and informal views provided direct. The main body was a 14 page verbatim transcript of all written comments made by attendees at the two meetings.
11. Many of the Community Council members had attended one or other or both meetings and had considered the response in draft. Two members of the public asserted that the response was incomplete and inaccurate. In particular, they expressed disappointment that the letter did not refer to an informal show of hands, requested from the floor at the second meeting, for those in support of and against the planning applications. One person at the second meeting declared themselves for the applications.
12. On a vote 8 members supported approval and 3 abstained. There were no votes against. The Community Council approved the response sent.

POLO

13. The Secretary reported that following the last meeting a letter had been sent to the Convenor of the North East Locality Committee asking that the POLO programme be adopted for action. A Council officer had replied pointing to a small reference on page 21 of the Locality Improvement Plan. No formal reply had been received from the Committee, perhaps pending its next meeting.

Participatory Budgeting

14. The Secretary reported that he had attended 2.5 days of training in participatory budgeting provided by the Council. There is national agreement that 1% of the block grant provided to Councils by the Scottish Government should, by 2020, be distributed by participatory budgeting – which was already in use for some community and youth grants. The Community Council recognised that strong community engagement, a key issue for the community council, would be essential for participatory budgeting.

Any Other Competent Business

15. None

Date of next meeting

16. 19 April.

Geoff Pearson, Secretary