

NORTHFIELD AND WILLOWBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 23 March 2017: Northfield Community Centre

Present:

Lorraine	Simpson	Chair
Paul	Dunleavey	
Gordon	Macdonald	
John	Nisbet	Vice Chair
Geoff	Pearson	Secretary
Samantha	Rutherford	
Nick	Weech	Treasurer
Bill	Whyte	
Charlie	Wood	

Ex Officio:

Stefan	Tymkewycz	Councillor, City of Edinburgh
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In Attendance

Anthony	Keane	Police Scotland
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Three members of the public were present.

Welcome

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

Apologies

2. Apologies for absence were received from Davy Ferguson, Ian Murray and Sarah Cleary.

Minutes of Meeting of Previous Meeting

3. The minutes of the meeting of 2 February were agreed.

Sir John Fayrer

4. The Community Council noted the passing of John Fayrer who was the Chairman of the previous community council. His contribution to the community was made in many quarters with a quiet, principled approach, tempered by a rich sense of humour.

Treasurer's Report

5. The Treasurer reported that the retained funds held by the City Council had been released together with a half-year grant for the current year. The total was £3735.50, made up of £3,347.06 returned and £388.44 new grant.
6. It was agreed to purchase public liability insurance, at a cost not exceeding £100.

Police Report

7. PC Ant Keane attended the meeting and provided a summary of the detailed statistical report he had circulated earlier in the day. This included:
 - There was to be pro-active policing on motoring and theft of motor vehicles.
 - An operation had resulted in 9 search warrants being implemented (in other parts of the NP area) and £300,000 worth of controlled drugs had been seized.
 - A large part of policing now was not related to crime but to social circumstances.
 - A further 16 officers have been trained in the use of speed measuring equipment and a targeted approach in the more obvious places would be underway shortly.
8. The Community Council thanked PC Keane for his report.

Cycling

9. Gordon Macdonald reported that it had been difficult to re-establish links with the Council. The previous community council had been working on routes into N&W from the City, including one through Holyrood Park, which the Council had now put on hold.
10. Discussion heard that 10% of the City transport budget is to be allocated to cycling and safer routes; that cycling would be made more attractive by the 20mph limit and that adults cycling on pavements seemed to be increasing.

Isolation

11. Sam Rutherford reported that a meeting had been held with experts from LOOPs (Local Opportunities for Older People) to examine ways of reaching with people who may have little social contact. Suggestions for further work included:
 - An event at the Barrel House, similar to one that had run at The Scottie.
 - Parsons Green School was keen to do inter-generational work.
 - The Neighbourhood Partnership Health and Well-being sub-group had resumed activity and the community council should attend.
 - Edinburgh Leisure was running events and programmes to enable older people to use its facilities.
 - EVOC's Red Book might offer other organisations to help.

- The name Isolation for the sub-group might be seen as negative; “Inclusion” might be preferred.

12. The Community Council welcomed and noted the work of the two sub-groups.

Neighbourhood Partnership

13. The meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership board, set for 14 March, had been cancelled. A substantial Localities Leadership Team event on 21 March continued the process of developing the Local Improvement Plan.

14. Cooperation: Several members had attended events organised by Leith Links CC

15. Community Safety Forum (28 February): There had been discussion of the various statistics produced by Police Scotland.

16. Environment Forum (7 March): The meeting of the POLO group had been postponed pending clarification of the funds available. The Forum agreed to a proposal that the funds for the Meadowbank Terrace be met from EnvForum rather than other sources and the £30k allocated to POLO should be maintained. The balance would be considered by Council officers against projects within the POLO plan and decisions would be made by EnvForum at a later meeting.

17. POLO: meetings to resume now funding was clearer.

Outreach

18. There was a wide ranging discussion about methods of engaging the community. Geoff Pearson reported that printing and distributing (to 6,000 homes) a full colour A4 sheet could be done for about £7-800. The Community Council had funds to do this once but not enough to do it even annually, as the cost exceeded the annual grant.

19. The CC Facebook page now has three editors. Recent posts on the demolition of Old Portobello High School, police car chases and the Morrisons/Baronscourt path have pushed the Facebook reach to over 40,000 and Likes to almost 600.

20. Amongst the points made in the discussion:

- Circulation of a document/flyer might reach people not using social media. It might be distributed via local shops and volunteer delivery, rather than a commercial service.
- The Parks department had offered to put CC material in its notice boards.
- For social media, videos and photos were essential.
- Vlogs and blogs raised most interest.

- Vlog interviews with local businesses would be of interest.
- A Twitter survey with a simple question would give some idea of reach, as it has good metrics
- The website might have a refresh with a new look, logo and content.

21. The Community Council agreed to pursue examination of some of these ideas, in part as preparation for the AGM in May.

Date of Next Meeting

22. The next meeting would be 25 May at 19.30 in the Northfield Community Centre.

23. The Chair closed the meeting at 21.15.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary

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