

Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council



MINUTES OF MEETING 23 November 2017: NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

John	Nisbet	Vice Chair
Gordon	Macdonald	
Ian	Murray	
Geoff	Pearson	Secretary
Samantha	Rutherford	
Charlie	Wood	

One member of the public was present.

Welcome

1. John Nisbet took the chair.

Apologies

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Joan Griffiths, Alex Staniforth; Tommy Sheppard MP, Sarah Cleary, Paul Dunleavey, Dave Ferguson, Nick Weech, Bill Whyte.
3. Nick Marshall was attending a consultation by the Scottish Community Development Centre on the future of community councils.
4. On a motion by the Chair, the Community Council agreed, under Section 8 of the Edinburgh Scheme for Community Councils, to approve a maternity absence of 4 months for Lorraine Simpson and to congratulate her on the birth of her child.

Minutes of Meeting

5. The minutes of the meeting of 28 September were agreed.

Matters Arising

6. The Secretary reported a number of items.
7. Community Grants had been awarded by the Neighbourhood Partnership to:
 - St John's Primary School
 - Parson's Green Primary School
 - Royal High Primary School
 - Duddingston Glebe

A number of other applications were still being considered.

8. Several members attended training sessions on planning run by the Council.
9. Work on a Business Forum had begun.
10. Nick Marshall is progressing a green space audit. The Secretary had met a representative of the residents of Cavalry Park Drive in relation to local vandalism and other matters.

11. The issues in Meadowfield Park had been considered by the Council (see note attached).

12. An approach to other community councils within the North East Locality for an informal meeting had been warmly received by Craigmillar, neutral responses from Leith Links and Leith Central, and no response from the others. Craigentiny and Meadowbank CC is in a rebuilding phase but is keeping in touch.

Treasurer's Report

13. The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance was £4172.

Meeting Dates

14. It was agreed that meetings would be held on 11 January, 22 February, 22 March, 19 April, and 17 May (AGM).

Localities

15. The Secretary reported that it was still difficult to work with the Council while the future of Neighbourhood Partnerships was not settled and the involvement of community councils in Localities unclear. Discussions were underway to resume the Environment Forum and Area Board.

Cycling

16. Gordon Macdonald reported that a meeting was being arranged in December with Historic Environment Scotland.

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

17. The Community Council noted that the AGM of EACC is to be held on 25 November.

Outreach

18. Inter-generational Events: Sam Rutherford reported that planning was underway for further events with schools and older people following the successful first two events. New themes were being discussed.

19. Treverlen Park: The planning application for the new Park was published on 21 November and the Community Council had been invited by the Council to submit views as a consultee. The Community Council noted this was an important development and agreed to make arrangements to inform and gauge the opinion of all sectors of the community. Submissions are requested by 12 December.

Any Other Competent Business

20. None.

Date of next meeting

21. The next meeting would be on 11 January.

22. The Chair closed the meeting at 20.45.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary

Note on Meadowfield Park
Scott Thomson, CEC Parks:

There has not been a football pitch on the site for many years partly due to the water-logging and changes to the schools only playing soccer 7s rather than 11 aside. A number of years ago we created a half set of goals at one end which is not affected by the flooding and is well used. We have never been asked for a full size pitch on this site.

I understand that when this area was created many years ago there was a cut and fill exercise to level off the contours with the soil. I suspect this has reduced the amount of soil depth and exposed the underlying rock.

At the edge of the football park there is a natural spring, this is just where we have created a small board walk; we tried to improve the flooding by creating 3 small ponds and using the soil to create a bund to hold the water.

Other issues within the park are:

The amount of surface area within the park and Queens Park which catches rain water and run off, the over flow from Dunsapie loch also runs into the park as does the main drain from the loch .

Putting in drainage into the park would not be possible as there is nowhere to put an outlet as we cannot use Scottish Water drainage systems.

As for the zip wire I and my colleagues in Parks have enquired on several occasions to get this replaced. I will pass your enquiry on to them and ask them to reply to you directly.

3 October 2017