

Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council



MINUTES OF MEETING 28 September 2017: NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

Gordon	Macdonald	Chair
Sarah	Cleary	
Davy	Ferguson	
Nick	Marshall	
Ian	Murray	
Geoff	Pearson	Secretary
Samantha	Rutherford	
Nick	Weech	Treasurer
Charlie	Wood	
Bill	Whyte	

Ex Officio:

John	McLellan	Councillor, City of Edinburgh
David	Love	Police Scotland

Two members of the public were present.

Welcome

1. It was agreed that Gordon Macdonald would take the chair in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Apologies

2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kate Campbell, Mary Campbell, Alex Staniforth and Joan Griffiths; Tommy Sheppard MP, Lorraine Simpson, John Nisbet and Paul Dunleavy.

Minutes of Meeting

3. The minutes of the meetings of 17 August were agreed.

Matters Arising

4. None.

Treasurer's Report

5. The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance remained at £4604.

Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants

6. The Secretary reported that there was at least £12,000 still available to be awarded as grants from the Community Grants Fund, which offered up to £2,000 to community groups in the Neighbourhood Partnership area. The Environment Forum still had £69,000 to

allocate for projects to improve the City's assets. The Community Council agreed to encourage local groups to apply.

Report from Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

7. Sarah Cleary, Sam Rutherford and Nick Marshall had attend the EACC meeting on 14 September. Other members had attended previous meetings. After a wide-ranging discussion, the Community Council concluded that local interests were best served by building links with neighbouring community councils, within the Locality, this being increasingly important given the possibility that Neighbourhood Partnerships would not continue.

8. The Community Council agreed to convene a meeting of Locality community councils to explore joint working and support.

Localities

9. Councillor McLellan reported that in a long debate the Council had decided to pursue a common template for Localities rather than create 4 different arrangements which might have emerged from the 4 working groups that had been set up. The Community Council agreed that it should continue to give priority to engagement with our Locality.

Cycling

10. Gordon Macdonald noted that the Council seemed no longer to have a dedicated cycling team which brought a pause to the work underway on routes through Northfield and Willowbrae. Nick Marshall indicated that Historic Environment Scotland (HES) was working on routes through Holyrood Park.

11. The Community Council agreed to write to HES seeking involvement in this process.

Business Forum

12. The Secretary explained that as part of the POLO project to improve Portobello Road and London Road, it had been suggested that a Business Forum be set up to bring together all kinds of business in the area. As POLO is currently paused, because of its links to the Neighbourhood Partnership, he proposed that the Community Council take this on. An invitation would be sent to all businesses in the area including sole traders for a meeting in late October/early November.

13. The Community Council agreed to examine the scope for establishing a Business Forum.

Food Memories Events

14. Sarah Cleary and Sam Rutherford reported that events bringing together older people and pupils in P7 classes in Parson's Green and Royal High Primary Schools would be held on 2 and 9 October, in partnership with other groups working on dementia and older people.

15. The Community Council welcomed these events, recognising the hard work done by members and agreed to provide financial support if this is needed.

Schools Competitions

16. The Community Council discussed various ways of improving community cohesion and awareness. Points raised included:

- A brand for the Community Council – to provide a coherent public presence
- Schools art competitions – perhaps images of our community, with prizes.
- Budget for social media engagement

17. It was agreed to ask members to meet informally to work out ideas and proposals, for decision by the full Community Council.

Any Other Competent Business

18. PC David Love responded to a number of points about break-ins, drug arrests, motor bike nuisance and bike theft in the area.

19. Members raised several matters:

- Davy Ferguson raised the need to manage trees in Baronscourt Park and around South Elixia Place.
- Gordon Macdonald relayed local concerns about the drainage of Meadowfield Park near Parson's Green School and the broken zip wire in the play park.
- Nick Marshall suggested that an audit be made of green space in the area, with the possibility of proposing some spaces for protection under the Fields in Trust scheme.

20. It was agreed to pursue each of these with relevant bodies and officers.

Date of next meeting

21. To be announced, probably 23 November.

22. The Chair closed the meeting at 21.10.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary