

Northfield and Willowbrae
Community Council



MINUTES OF MEETING 4 December 2019: WILLOWBRAE CHURCH HALL

Present:

John	McLellan	Councillor, CEC, Returning Officer		
Alex	Staniforth	Councillor, CEC		
Dave	Armstrong		Shona	McMillan
Fiona	Clark		Gordon	Macdonald
Frances	Devlin		Ian	Murray
Mercedes	Dominguez		Geoff	Pearson
Nick	Marshall		Charlie	Wood

In attendance

PC Martin Wood

Apologies

Angi	Lamb		Paul	Dunleavey
Ross	McArthur		Joan	Griffiths

Several members of the public were present.

Part 1: Returning Officer

1. Councillor John McLellan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that there was uncertainty whether the correct procedure had been used to call the meeting on 31 October. He had consulted City of Edinburgh officers who had advised that the appointment of members and the election of office bearers be confirmed at this meeting. He declared that as two Councillors had been present at the appointment of members, there was no doubt on this nor on the decisions at subsequent meeting of the Community Council that day. He reported that the Scheme for Community Councils would be amended to clarify the relevant procedure.

2. Councillor McLellan reiterated that 13 persons had been nominated for election to the Community Council. As the number did not exceed the 14 places which were available under the Scheme, all those nominated were appointed to be Community Councillors:

Dave Armstrong, Fiona Clark, Frances Devlin, Mercedes Dominguez, Paul Dunleavey, Angi Lamb, Gordon Macdonald, Nick Marshall, Ross McArthur, Shona McMillan, Ian Murray, Geoff Pearson, Charlie Wood.

Election of Chair

3. Angi Lamb having stood down as Chair due to ill-health, Councillor McLellan then oversaw the election of a new Chair. Nick Marshall was unanimously elected.

Office		Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Nick Marshall	Shona McMillan	Fiona Clark
Treasurer	Frances Devlin	Fiona Clark	Dave Armstrong
Engagement Officer	Shona McMillan	Angi Lamb	Gordon Macdonald
Secretary	Geoff Pearson	Nick Marshall	Fiona Clark

Part 2: Meeting of the Community Council

4. Nick Marshall took the chair and thanked the Returning Officer for his conduct of the elections.

5. Community Council members then, in case of doubt, adopted and endorsed the discussions and decisions recorded in the minutes of 31 October.

Treasurer's Report

6. The Secretary reported that the current bank balance was £2,977.15 – no transactions had taken place since the Community Council formed. Arrangements had been made to put in place three bank signatories.

Reports

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

7. Nick Marshall reported that he had attended the AGM of EACC which was increasingly reflecting the changing place of community councils.

City Plan 2030

8. Nick Marshall reported that he had attended a meeting at which council representatives explained the current situation regarding consultation on CityPlan 2030, which is the Local Development Plan. Consultation on the initial "Choices" document will start in January 2020 and end in March and will set the framework for the whole plan. The Proposed Plan will be published for consultation at the end of August, with this second consultation closing in October. This timescale has already slipped by a year and may slip further.

Community Councillor Training

9. Dave Armstrong and Shona McMillan reported their attendances at the training provided for community councillors by CEC which they had found valuable, not least in meeting community councillors from other areas.

Morrisons

10. Geoff Pearson reported that following local concerns about the Morrisons' site, he had attended meetings with the Manager of Morrisons, Councillor McLellan and Andy Williams, the CEC Head of Waste and Cleansing. As a result, considerable improvements would be made to the management of the CEC Recycling zone on site. Other issues, such as security and safety, were covered and work on these continued.

11. This also had provided an opportunity to reinvigorate the positive relationship that the Community Council had with Morrisons, which should lead to further partnership working.

Portobello Town Hall

12. Geoff Pearson reported that members of the Community Council from time to time participate in informal discussions which may pave the way for more formal engagement with issues. For example, he attended an informal meeting to hear how the City Council intends to pursue the future of Portobello Town Hall.

Police Report

13. PC Martin Wood, Community Policing Team, discussed the way in which local complaints and reports of incidents were handled, particularly to ensure the protection of those who provided intelligence.

NE Locality Community Planning Partnership

14. Geoff Pearson reported that the first two meetings of the Craigentiny & Meadowbank Neighbourhood Network had taken place; and he had been elected to represent the Network at the Locality Community Planning Partnership. Both structures were new and were still exploring roles and methods. The Network is open to third sector bodies in the area and is managed by CEC. The LCPP reports to the Edinburgh Partnership which manages community planning for the whole city.

15. He also reported that work was in hand to deploy the remaining Neighbourhood Environment Programme monies – a programme started under the Neighbourhood Partnership, now superseded by the Network. A broad programme involving significant investment in Northfield was being planned and the Community Council would be involved in securing and developing the views of the local community.

Public Forum

16. Members of the public raised questions about:

- a dangerous tree near Piershill Terrace
- Community Council procedures
- safety issues in Baronscourt Park.

Any Other Competent Business

17. Shona McMillan outlined her early thinking for carrying through her Engagement Officer role which would be an agenda item at a meeting in the near future.

Date of Next Meeting

18. Wednesday 5 February at 7.30pm in the Willowbrae Church Hall.

19. The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Geoff Pearson

Secretary

If you wish to suggest items for discussion at a meeting or amendments to minutes or other documents, please contact the Secretary no later than 8 days before the next meeting – the agenda is issued, as required under the Scheme, 7 days before the meeting.