



MINUTES OF MEETING 16 May 2019: NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present:

Sam	Rutherford	Chair	Ian	Murray	
Sarah	Cleary		Geoff	Pearson	Secretary
Gordon	Macdonald	Vice-Chair	Nick	Weech	Treasurer
Nick	Marshall		Charlie	Wood	

A dozen or so members of the public were present.

Welcome

1. Sam Rutherford welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

2. Apologies for absence were received from Paul Dunleavey, Davy Ferguson, John Nisbet, Bill Whyte, Councillors Joan Griffiths, John McLellan and Alex Staniforth, and PC Martin Wood.

Minutes of Meeting

3. The minutes of the meeting of 14 March were agreed subject to slight changes suggested by a member of the public. The Community Council reiterated that any suggestions for agenda items or amendments to minutes should be notified to the Secretary no later than 8 days before meetings, so that relevant adjustments can be made to the agenda which is issued 7 days before meetings.

4. The Community Council reminded all present that its members were all volunteers and worked hard for the benefit of the community. It noted that it had become a regular occurrence for unreasonable personal attacks to be made on its members. While positive contributions to its discussions were welcome, indeed important, regular objection and intervention by people attending was unproductive. Its decisions and published documents were agreed collectively and were not the responsibility of any individual member. Meetings of the community council are meetings held in public, and not public meetings.

Matters Arising

5. None.

Treasurer's Report

6. The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance was £2,136.84.

Complaint

7. The Community Council deferred approval of the response to a complaint which had been received.ⁱ

Planning

8. The Secretary reported that the application for student accommodation at 61-63 London Road would be going to the Development Management Committee for decision: a member of the public said that it was expected to be considered on 19 June.

9. Willowbrae Road: the Secretary reported that the site, now fenced off, had been acquired by MNM, who had explained that their plans were for quality private housing. No planning process had begun.

10. The Secretary reported that there had been no formal progress on the City Plan 2030 pending Scottish Ministers' approval of the Strategic Development Plan.

Events: Eid

11. Sam Rutherford reported that work on the EID event on 16 June was proceeding well, with local schools and other groups becoming involved. (see Note attached)

Public Forum

12. An open discussion was held with many members of the public participating. Topics included risks to pedestrians from cyclists and traffic congestion; the need for to push alternatives to the car, the imminence of the Pavement Parking legislation, the meeting time for community council meetings, progress on the POLO initiative.

Any Other Competent Business

13. None

Date of Next Meeting

14. Tuesday 10 or Thursday 12 September – to be confirmed (see discussion at the AGM).

15. 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 Constitution, 7 days before the meeting.

EID UPDATE

16 June Northfield Community Centre 12 - 3pm

Format of the day:

Market stall with information about local organisations	North East Locality team
Chest, Heart & Stroke	NKS
EaRN (Equality & Rights Network)	MECOPP
Volunteers/ link mentoring	Milan
Fire Brigade	Mehis
Police	Action Group (to follow up on Big Lunch, Library & Salvation Army
Shakti	

Commissioned art work, food, storytelling & workshops on the day thanks to the Locality Arts grant funding (£4169) and £1500 from the Community Council.

Workshops

2 Primary Schools (Parsons Green and Royal High Primaries)
PHS
Milan Elderly Asian group
Syrian refugee families
Parents at St John's (plus younger children)

Format of the workshops

David Mola - stained glass artist has given a talk looking at Islamic art, where we have learned about tessellation, geometry in nature and lattice work
Each participant has made a small panel which will form part of a larger art piece which will be a lantern lit from inside.
A simple four sided form with each side having a different cut out pattern.

Around 12 people have participated in each workshop.
They have taken place in the schools, Craigmillar library and a day centre.
All participants have loved taking part and are keen to see the finished piece.

Other plans for the event itself include

Food - Falafel cooked by local Syrian refugees, with accompanying hummus, flatbread & salad
Dance - there will be a 45 minute dance workshop where anyone who would like can join in the green room to have a go

Saris - one of the steering group I who works for the NHS - will do a sari demonstration - letting people try them on.

Henna - hand painting will be offered. We have some volunteers and need to build on numbers for this

Storytelling - the artwork will be situated in the back, smaller, dark room and will be lit with the reflections from all the glass panels filling the room - we are organising storytelling sessions in this room in English (and possibly Arabic?)

Drop in art - still to be decided? Add coloured acetate to the windows to build a community, colourful window in response to Islamic tiles.

We will need volunteers on the day to help set up, tidy up and guide people to and through the rooms. If you'd like to offer some of your time please feel free to leave your email.

The centre piece for the event will be a glass piece and one of our community members has suggested a Wonderland for the future if anyone is interested in being involved in a winter project please leave your contact details.

ⁱ The Community Council placed an item on the agenda to note formally the outcome of its consideration of the complaint - including lessons learnt. The complainant requested this not be discussed and this request has been respected.

The Community Council had properly adopted a complaints procedure but found challenges in putting it into practice. It noted that the City of Edinburgh Council is consulting on a review of its Scheme for Community Councils under which a complaints procedure may be established.

A formal response to the present complaint has been issued and no further action is planned.