

NORTHFIELD AND WILLOWBRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 18 June 2015: 19:00 Northfield Community Centre

Present:

John	Fayrer	Chairman
Margaret	Alexander	Treasurer
George	Callaghan	
Caroline	Kaye	
Stewart	Kerr	
Dave	King	
Gordon	Macdonald	
Geoff	Pearson	Secretary

Ex Officio:

Alex	Lunn	Councillor, CEC
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Several members of the public were present.

Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Dave Ferguson, Christine Kerr (who is recovering well), Nick Marshall, Ian Murray, Tommy Shepherd MP, Cameron Buchanan MSP, and Councillors Joan Griffiths and Stefan Tymkewycz.

Minutes of Meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting of 23 April were approved.

Matters arising

3. The Secretary reported that a meeting was imminent between Morrisons and CEC officers which would be attended by Community Council members. The meeting was expected to cover the entrance to Baronscourt Park and the audit of traffic entering the Morrisons site, for which Neighbourhood Partnership funds had been allocated.

Financial Report

4. The Treasurer reported that £3004.68 was held in the Community Council's bank account although invoices for the meeting room of £45 were outstanding.

Planning

5. The Community Council discussed its procedures for considering planning applications against the background of cases in Duddingston Village, Northfield Broadway and Jock's Lodge.

6. In discussion it was noted that:

- Relatively few planning applications were made for this area compared to other parts of the city and, mostly, they were for minor alterations to domestic dwellings affecting only immediate neighbours.
- The fortnightly list was checked routinely by the Secretary and George Callaghan and, if need be, local interests alerted.
- The level and complexity of the normal cases did not justify setting up a planning sub-group.
- However, when a case was identified requiring more attention it might be useful to set up an ad-hoc group to consider its merits and the extent to which local consultation should be undertaken
- Consultation was hampered by the limited reach available through email and social media.

7. It was agreed to keep planning under review.

Community Notice Boards

8. The Secretary reported that the Neighbourhood Partnership had agreed a grant of £2000 towards the costs of, probably two, notice boards which would require to be supplemented from the Community Council's own funds. It was not yet clear what kind of planning and roads permissions would be needed.

9. The Community Council agreed that there should be consultation on the possible sites for notice boards to ensure coverage across the whole area.

Residents Associations

10. The Community Council discussed ways in which hitherto silent communities could be engaged, for example in the areas of substantial development, for Schools Streets, the demolition of two schools and the construction of a new primary school and the creation of a new park. The discussion covered, amongst other matters:

- Grants are available to support tenants associations but not for private owners. It might be possible to encourage the establishment of new associations, not necessarily only for residents, by offering small start-up grants. This appeared to be envisaged in the objectives of community councils.

- Although local schools had been repeatedly approached, none had expressed a wish to become involved in the work of the community council but perhaps a different approach might be more successful.
- There may be other organisations who would be interested, although none could be identified.
- The role of social media was recognised.

11. Members of the Community Council agreed personally to pursue possible supporting organisations.

Friends of the Figgate Burn Park

12. The Friends had asked for a grant of £180 to cover administrative costs for 12 months. Noting that this would be 20% of the annual income of the Community Council, it was agreed to offer a one-off grant of up to £100 for which full accounting would be required.

Any Other Competent Business

13. It was noted that the City Council had opened consultation on the new Hamilton Park using as its agent the Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust. It was agreed to invite the Trust to make a presentation to the next meeting.

14. It was suggested that meetings themed around a single subject might be useful.

Date of Next Meeting

15. The next meeting would be 16 July.

16. The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.00.

Geoff Pearson
Secretary