

Northfield and Willowbrae
Community Council



MINUTE OF MEETING 5 February 2020: WILLOWBRAE CHURCH HALL

Present:

Dave	Armstrong		Nick	Marshall
Fiona	Clark		Ian	Murray
Angi	Lamb		Geoff	Pearson
Gordon	Macdonald		Charlie	Wood

Ex Officio

Joan Griffiths Councillor, City of Edinburgh Council

Apologies

Frances Devlin Mercedes Dominguez

Paul Dunleavy

John McLellan Councillor, City of Edinburgh Council

Police Scotland

Several members of the public were present.

Welcome by Chair

1. Nick Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting. He emphasised that this was a meeting of the Community Council, held in public and not a public meeting. Accordingly, he asked that members of the public present, much welcomed, would speak at the Public Forum later in the agenda.

Co-option of New Member

2. The co-option of John Nisbet, a former member, was agreed unanimously by the Community Council.

Resignation of Members

3. The Community Council noted the resignation of Shona McMillan and Ross McArthur.

Election of Office Bearers

4. The Engagement Officer having resigned, the Community Council considered how to fill the post given the importance and difficulty of engagement in its area, concluding that an Engagement Group should be formed.

5. Gordon McDonald was unanimously elected vice-chair.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

6. A member of the public had suggested a variety of amendments to the Minute of the meeting on 4 December. The Chair referred to the guidance on minute taking published by the Council, proposing that no changes were needed; the Community Council agreed. (See Treasurer's Report).

Treasurer's Report

7. The Secretary (in the absence of the Treasurer) reported that the current bank balance was £2,953.15 – only one transaction had taken place since the last meeting.

8. It was suggested that a decision had been taken at that meeting on the purchase of flowers. While this had been discussed, it was considered after the meeting that this would be inappropriate expenditure and had not been progressed.

Safer Routes to School

9. The proposed presentation by New Practice Architects was held over to the next meeting. Charlie Wood reported on a similar presentation given the previous week to Portobello Community Council which centred on routes to Portobello High School.

10. Discussion focussed on the dangerous traffic conditions around St John's Primary School, which was participating in the Safer Routes programme. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Convenor of the Transport and Environment Committee expressing concern that the construction of the new St John's Primary School had omitted safety barriers and traffic markings.

City Plan 2030

11. Nick Marshall reported that the consultation on the CityPlan2030 was underway with several drop-in and consultative events being mounted by the City Council. It was noted that while there were few, if any, proposals for development in the community council area there would be local effects from, for example, the suggestion of redevelopment of land along Seafield Road.

12. Councillor Griffiths urged that careful consideration be given to the Mobility Plan which would change access to the City Centre affecting less able people who might rely on public transport.

Engagement

13. The Secretary reported continued interest from Morrisons in mounting a community event in or around the store. It was agreed to write to Morrisons, once the Engagement Group was established, to pursue this positive proposal.

NE Locality Community Planning Partnership

14. The Secretary reported that many of the projects planned using Neighbourhood Environment Programme monies (meeting 4 December) were being completed in the run-up to the end of the financial year. The largest was the Portobello Road reconfiguration which was a POLOⁱ idea – now costing £1.2 million. A substantial project for Northfield Drive and Grove was approaching tender stage and the Community Council would be very much involved in assembling the community view in the preparatory consultation.

Public Forum

Treverlen Park

15. Members of the public, while strongly supporting the new park, were concerned about the untidy nature of the entrance from Duddingston Road which was dangerous to children. Although the state of this area had already been raised with CEC officers the Community Council agreed to write to the Council seeking further action.

16. Several members of the public suggested that more information about the Community Council should be placed in notice boards across the area. It was agreed to write to the City Council seeking access to Council-owned boards.

Any Other Competent Business

17. None.

Date of Next Meeting

18. Wednesday 4 March 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.

i

<http://www.northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk/documents/London%20and%20Portobello%20Road%20Street%20Audit%20and%20Action%20Plan%20-Final%20Draft.pdf>