



Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: 23/03/2021

Time: 19:00

Location: Remote, Microsoft Teams

Present:

Gordon McDonald, Nick Marshall, John Nisbet, Dave Armstrong, Ian Murray, Charlie Wood, Fiona Clark, Liam Lamb.

Chair: Nick Marshall

Councillors: John McLellan (**Cons**), Joan Griffiths (**Labour**)

Apologies: Ethan Young (**SNP**), Anna Morrison (**Police**)

Other: Member(s) of the public

Minutes: Liam Lamb

- **Welcome and Introduction**

Nick Marshall welcomes everyone to the meeting. Both Anna Morrison & Ethan Young informed nick ahead of time that they could not attend this meeting.

- **Approval of minutes (09/02/2021)**

No issues were raised from the minutes of our last meeting

- Proposed by Dave
- Seconded by Ian

- **Matters Arising**

- 69 Bus

- It will be discussed during the elections - there is a lot of unhappy people in the community.

Anna Morrison - Communications

Despite Anna not being able to attend, she provided the CC with an update:

- A police operation has been created to address youths targeting Lothian Buses affecting Niddrie main roads and Portobello High Street - some individuals have been identified and arrested.
- The Police have received a number of complaints of youths causing issues in the area of Baronscourt Park. A number of antisocial behaviour indicators have been identified such as graffiti, littering, alcohol consumption and poor lighting. A report has been forwarded to the council asking for these to be addressed. Anna has also requested the local Morrison's store manager to install cameras at the rear of the shop.
- Anna mentions the "Street Work" project, having been out attending hotspots for youth gatherings in a bid to engage them in various activities. More projects like this will be available in the future with the easing of restrictions.
- Police are working with a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) dedicated to eliminating alcohol consumption among underage individuals.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- The current balance of the account is **£3666.72** - no transactions recorded since December (date to be confirmed)
- Dave has invested a small amount of his own money (~ £5) to boost the reach of recent posts on the CC's Facebook page. He currently does not have a statement for reimbursement from Facebook but will provide one when available.
- Geoff had made payments for the CC's website subscription
 - He will need reimbursing for those expenses.
 - **Action:** Details of the reimbursement should be forwarded to John (N.) who will approve them and have them seconded by Frances.
- The CC did not hold an AGM last year and will still need to submit our accounts.
 - **Action:** John (N.) is currently working on this.

- **Traffic**

- **Spaces for People (SfP) - Duddingston Road**

- The CC has received a report from residents under the Duddingston Residents Association regarding spaces for people.
 - Although there were mixed opinions from the 180 responses, the majority seemed to be opposed to the scheme.
 - Concerns were raised by some members of the CC about the partiality of the report, and how well it represents the majority of opinions from residents in the area.
 - We have reports of positive signs from schools in the area actively discouraging parents who are ignoring the scheme when dropping kids off - encouraging signs.
- The CC failed to publish communications regarding the Duddingston West consultation. Despite the deadline closing on Wednesday 24th March, it was

agreed the CC should post a message on the Facebook page apologising for not acting sooner and providing members of the community a final opportunity for any last-minute opinions.

- **Action:** Dave will post a message on Facebook.
- Concerns were raised regarding the time window accorded to residents to respond to consultations in general - are they too short?
 - A citywide survey is underway regarding how consultations are done in general.
 - **Action:** Nick will re-circulate this to members of the CC for information.
 - **Action:** Nick will draft an e-mail requesting for future consultations to be extended to two weeks. Members of the CC will review and approve those communications.
 - Is there anything the CC can do regarding future consultations to make sure a fair representation of opinions is collected?
- It was agreed that the CC could share the results of consultations without an internal agreement, to fast track communications with the community.

○ Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) - Willowbrae North

- Consultation regarding the CPZ for Willowbrae is still in progress.
 - Councillors raised concerns about the changes with SfP and who will be the most impacted by parking spaces being reduced.
 - Consultation suggesting that nearly half of the parking spaces will be cut.
 - Concerns of residents paying more money than they are paying now and getting a worse deal. Does this affect the acceptance of the scheme?
- Abbeyhill scheme + General city centre changes
 - Parking car in middle town more challenging
 - People might be more tempted to park in residential streets
 - Knock-on effect into Willowbrae North
 - Lack of communication with the people who are being affected by this.
- Sara provided a report reflecting the opinions of people in the community against the proposals.
- Can the council do any more on the matter after Sara's report?
 - Make sure we're being kept up to date by the transport committee on the outcome of the consultation.
 - Charlie pointing out that we have an extension for the CPZ consultation
 - **Action:** Dave will post a message on Facebook encouraging residents to respond to the consultation while they still can.

- Development Planning

- Smoky Brae

- Councillors raised concerns with CC regarding damage in trust with residence regarding the general lack of consultation.
 - Councillors have called for an extension to the consultation period to allow people more time to respond.
 - The CC agreed that a message should be put up on Facebook regarding the Consultation deadline for the smokey brae.
 - **Action:** Dave will handle the communication on Facebook for this.
 - **Action:** The CC agreed we could reach out to neighbouring CC Facebook pages to broaden the reach of our posts.
 - **Action:** Dave, Gordon and Liam will form a small team to generally managed social media communications/publications of meeting minutes and agendas.

- Meadowbank Village Redevelopment

- Dave provided the CC with an update on development. The estimated end date is around the 29th of June, with the sports centre looking to be opened later into the year.
 - Communications have been circulated by Nick to members of the CC (Meadowbank Sounding Board Update) - members are advised to read through and familiarise themselves with the update.
 - **Action:** CC members are encouraged to provide Dave with some feedback on the update.
 - The CC and councillors agreed it would be positive for *Northfield and Willowbrae* and *Craigentenny and Meadowbank Community Council* to collaborate on representing the community's opinions on the development.
 - **Action:** Communicate with neighbouring CC Facebook pages to leverage shared online networks. It is hoped this might help increase responses from members of the community.

- Barrell House: Construction of Student Accommodation

- No updates are available just yet regarding the Barrell House.

- Any Other Competent Business

- Northfield Centenary

- Dave mentioned an evening news article being worked on regarding the Northfield centenary - the CC has been asked if it wants to be involved in some way. Councillors advised that it would be a positive thing for the CC to be involved with.

- The CC agreed that further communications are required to assess what can be done.
 - **Action:** Nick will draft an e-mail to reach out to the *Evening News* journalist.
- Northfield Sounding Board (Re Northfield Grove)
 - Councillors and some CC members who attended recent meetings reported proposals having been made for the development of play areas for kids. The CC and councillors all welcomed these ideas and agreed they were positive for residents in the area.
 - Councillors reported proposals being to be block-off garbage chutes to prevent the build-up of waste around the bins - these could be useful to help clean up the area.
 - **Action:** John (N.) and Fiona are both on the mailing list and will keep the CC up to date with the progress of proposals.
- Secretary Role
 - Sara recently resigned from the post, and there is room for someone to take on the job.
 - The CC agreed that we should set up a schedule for the approval and publishing of agendas and minutes to the CC's website and Facebook page.
- [Following Meeting](#)
 - The CC agreed on the next meeting taking place on **11th of May** at **19:00** after the elections.