



**Minutes – Ordinary Meeting
Tuesday 10th March 2026
Northfield Community Centre, 7-8.30pm**

Agenda Items		
1.	<p>The chair welcomed everyone and outlined the format of the meeting.</p> <p>Present: Gordon Macdonald (chair), Margaret Bennett, Chris Alcorn, Dave Armstrong, George Callaghan, Sunila Nimalasuriya, Cllr Danny Aston, Cllr Joan Griffiths.</p> <p>Apologies received from Ruth Pearson, James Keating, Lauren Kennelly, Rebeca Diaz-Vazquez, Cllr Alex Staniforth, PC Jill Bonthron.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cavalry Park update - MB and CA, along with Cllrs Griffiths and Stanniforth, had a recent meeting with the Director of Place, Gareth Barwell, and Parks and Greenspace Manager, Steven Cuthill, to discuss our formal complaint and a number of outstanding issues in relation to it. Due to the overall Council strategy to create Pitch Hubs across the city, and the recent decision that Cavalry Park will be one of them, we have asked for clarification of the timescale and budgetary implications. Discussions are ongoing and we hope to give a full update at the next meeting. • Willowbrae Church - the Steering Group are now gathering signatures for the petition to be sent to the Scottish Government as the first stage in the process of registering Community interest. There will be a drop-in engagement event at Abercorn Tennis Club on 21st March between 10am and 4pm when the public can learn more about the project and the history of the area, have tea/coffee and an opportunity to sign the petition. • Marionville Fire Station Closure - SFRS board have a new chair, but it seems that the upcoming Scottish parliamentary elections may be used as a stalling tactic, as no further information has been forthcoming. • Morrison's Car Park - GC reported that a noise analysis of the car wash had been carried out, but measurements can only be done inside, whereas the main problem for residents is outside. There are still questions about legality, e.g. no sign of the operating company's name. 	<p>CA to write letter to new Chair</p>

2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Place Plan – After a series of meetings with representatives of Duddingston Conservation Society at which NWCC repeatedly stressed our willingness to reflect the views of Duddingston residents in our plan, we were disappointed by the decision to produce a separate plan for the Conservation area, thereby delaying completion of our own plan by several months. We now hope to have this available for public scrutiny by end of April and allow 4-6 weeks for comment by elected Ward Councillors, adjoining community councils, other organisations and the public. Conversation Cafe - the cafe has now been running for ten weeks and is slowly gathering attendees. We are using a loose format, focusing on one of four areas each week - Health & Wellbeing, Craft, Food, and Life Skills, while encouraging sharing of skills and experience. There are no plans yet for a meeting of users to discuss the long-term future of the Centre, but we hope to continue meantime. 	
3.	<p>Police Report – Jill Bonthron, Community Police Officer, sent the following update via email:</p> <p><i>We have had issues regarding drug use and theft from motor vehicles in the area highlighted by residents. We are conducting both hi-visibility and plain clothes patrols in the area and would encourage residents to ensure their vehicles are secure and that valuables are not left within vehicles.</i></p>	
4.	<p>Treasurer's update on financial position - Available - £8,976.71 but £4,950.06 is restricted funding for various grants, which leaves £4,026.65. Hire of community centre free until April, thereafter at the unchanged rate of £15.00 per hour for the Green Room.</p> <p>Restricted funds include £1,000.06 for notice board at Lilyhill Terrace entrance to park, two heritage boards at Northfield/Piershill, and money from Small Grants Fund for Royal High School Wildlife Garden.</p>	
5.	<p>Planning Update - CA reported that over the 8-week period from mid-January to mid-March, five applications had been granted, seven were awaiting a decision, four new applications had been submitted and three refused. Three short term let applications were all refused. A telecommunications mast on the pavement in front of the Premier Inn on Willowbrae Road has been permitted development.</p>	
6.	<p>Resilience Workshop Follow Up (MB) - possible showing of NEB film or similar in May - could use CC on Friday evening if we pay for Janitorial Staff. Donations towards cost would be possible. Suggested dates - 1st, 8th, 15th, 29th May.</p>	MB to proceed
7.	<p>Social Media Update - RP now has admin access to our Facebook page and Instagram.</p>	

8.	<p>Hustings Event - It was proposed that we organise a hustings event for the forthcoming Holyrood elections for Edinburgh North Eastern & Leith constituency. MB agreed to contact Craigentfinny/Meadowbank Community Council, the Ripple Project and Living Rent to ascertain if they are interested in co-hosting the event and to contact the council for advice around rules for organising a hustings. It was suggested that Meadowbank Church might provide a convenient and accessible venue and hall hire is £45 per hour. There are expected to be six constituency candidates, although eight parties and two independents are competing on the regional list. After discussion it was agreed to only invite constituency candidates, as it would be difficult to manage a meeting with ten participants and give each adequate time to answer questions.</p>	MB
9.	<p>AOCB and Public Forum - Abercorn Tennis Club have made a grant application to the CC for heating and court resurfacing and have asked for a letter supporting their application. After discussion and a vote, this was agreed, based on their not-for-profit status.</p>	
10.	<p>Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 12th May at Northfield Community Centre. Any items for discussion should be submitted no later than Monday 27th April for inclusion on the agenda.</p>	