Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

Minutes of Community Council AGM and Ordinary Meeting held on 12/05/2026 at Northfield Community Centre

	Agenda Items	Action
1.	The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the format for the evening. Present at the meeting were Ruth Pearson (Chair and minute secretary), Margaret Bennett, Chris Alcorn, James Keating, Gordon MacDonald. Apologies were received from George Callaghan, Dave Armstrong, Sunila Nimalasuriya, Cllr Danny Ashton, Cllr Alex Staniforth and PC Jill Bontron.	
2.	Minutes of AGM meeting dated 13th May 2025 were submitted for approval. Proposed by GM, seconded by MB. There were no matters arising.	
3.	Chair's Remarks and presentation of Annual Report– RP summarised the key points of her annual report and asked for any questions or comments. CA questioned the number of followers on the NWCC website, RP will check this before submitting final report for publication on website and Facebook page	RP
4.	Engagement Officer's Annual Report – MB highlighted the main activities listed in her engagement report RP will arrange for this to be posted on the website and Facebook page.	RP
5.	Treasurer's submission of Balance Sheet and certified Annual Accounts – CA summarised the end of year financial report, confirmed that they had been audited and asked for questions. RP asked for clarification of how much of the funds currently held were held in grants and how much was held as unallocated money. This was clarified and will appear in account information going forward. Discussion on paying BoS monthly fee. RP agreed to look for free banking account. Accounts to be posted on website and Facebook page by RP.	RP
6.	Election of New Office Bearers – George Callaghan was proposed for Treasurer to replace CA. Proposed by GM, seconded by JK. There were no nominations for secretary so this post remains unfilled and will continue to be shared between CA, MB and RP until a secretary can be found.	
7.	Minutes of last ordinary meeting (10/03/2026) – these were approved (proposed by MB and seconded by CA). Matters arising: • **Calvary Park update** – MB clarified the current position, highlighting that over the past year a variety of measures have been requested to deal with the many issues at Calvary Park. However, the recent decision by CEC to process with its Pitch Hub strategy across Edinburgh has major financial implications. If Calvary Park is given priority for this major upgrade, then interim measures will not be needed. Discussions with CEC on the possible impact of a pitch hub on the residents of the bungalow within the park are ongoing. • **Willowbrae Church Sale update** – Monica Terlecka from Jock's Lodge Community Trust gave an update on the progress with instigating a Right to Buy, including how many signatures have been gathered for the petition (800 required), and different suggestions gathered on how the space might be used if the bid is successful. There has been no communication from Church of Scotland throughout the process, and a letter to CoS legal team has yet to be answered. The Trust are still looking for members; it costs £1 to join. More information on this and the buyout can be found on their website: https://jlct.scot	

	• **Marionville Fire Station** – a letter has been sent to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service of which the NWCC chair was one signatory. As several of the signatories are no longer in post following last week's elections, and the last board meeting was also postponed due to the elections, RP proposed that she write to the new chair of the SFRS again to ask to speak at their next board meeting. • **Resilience Workshop** – MB updated the meeting on the planned film and discussion event that she is hoping to have organised before the end of June, to be run at the Community Centre. The event will be published on our behalf once a date has been agreed. • **Conversation Café** – MB explained that CEC has granted permission to continue under the present terms for a further 3-6 months to allow time to grow the membership. Since taking over the running of the community centre, CEC are exploring the best way to provide insurance cover to small groups without a separate constitution, and various models are under consideration. • **Hustings Event update** – this took place on Friday 10th April, with the candidates from Conservative, Labour, SNP and Green party. There was interesting and respectful debate on the questions posed from the audience of ~80 people. RP gave thanks to MB as the main organiser of the event, who confirmed that a thank you gift had been presented to Emeritus Professor Wilson McLeod who chaired the event and Stuart McAuly who provided much needed sound engineering expertise.	RP to write to SFRS Chair MB
8.	**Police Report from Community Police Officer** – PC Jill Bonthron emailed the following update as she was unable to attend the meeting: *"We are continuing to receive reports regarding drug use in the area which has been highlighted both by the residents and officers making proactive stops whilst on plain clothes patrols. We endeavour to continue both hi-visibility and plain clothes patrols in the area.* *I would ask residents to remain vigilant with regards to theft from motor vehicles/ theft of motor vehicle by not storing any valuables within and ensuring vehicles are locked.* *Please report any suspicious behaviour via 101, contact us or Crimestoppers should they wish to remain anonymous.* *Lastly, I would like to remind residents of home security during the (hopefully) upcoming warmer months. Such as, not leaving lower windows and doors open whilst unattended."* A member of the public raised an issue of four individuals on bikes stealing milk from doorsteps. In answer to her comment that this was not worth reporting, she was advised that even small incidents are worth reporting via 101 as it helps build a picture of issues in the area.	7.30pm
9.	**Treasurer's update on financial position** – CA advised there was no additional update as everything is contained within the annual report.	
10.	**Planning update** – CA gave a summary of local planning applications. There were no objections other than to short term lets, which it is council policy to refuse due to the current housing emergency in Edinburgh.	
11.	**Local Place Plan update** – RP thanked CA, MB and Ellie Burroughs (former member) for their hard work in gathering information from the community and collating it into the 72- page LPP for our community area over the past two years. CA advised that views will now be gathered on the draft LPP from Ward Councillors, neighbouring community councils, other organisations and the public within the Northfield & Willowbrae area. The consultation period runs for 6 weeks. The hope is to have it back in time for our July 2026 meeting or at the latest our September 2026 meeting to be endorsed and sent to the council. The LPP asks for views on Planning, Environment and Transport related issues, but we have also gathered other community issues which will be for the CC to prioritise and action going forward.	

12.	**Community & Environment Fair 2026** – RP suggested date of Saturday 19th September, and this was agreed. Any suggestions for stalls/events to be emailed to RP who advised she would begin contacting previous stallholders and other local community businesses, schools and groups. Members were asked to put the date in their diary as the fair will require everyone to help run it on the day. CA agreed to book the community centre for that date.	RP CA
13.	**Public Forum & any other business –** • **69 Bus** – CA raised issue of timetables for 69 bus are not present in all bus stops. Also issue of difficulty for disabled elderly residents not being able to access the stop at the top of Meadowfield Drive had not yet been addressed by LRT. CA agreed to contact them about these issues. • **Northfield Steps** – a member of the public raised the issue of a gap at the top of these steps presenting a considerable trip hazard. CA agreed to write to Roads/Operational Services to highlight this and ask for urgent repair. • **Mountcastle Drive N** – no bus trackers or bus shelters along this road. CA asked to address this when contacting Roads/Operational Services. • **Dates for the next year** were agreed as: Tuesday 14th July 2026 - 7pm Tuesday 8th September 2026 - 7pm Tuesday 10th November 2026 - 7pm Tuesday 12th January 2027 - 7pm Tuesday 9th March 2027 - 7pm Tuesday 11th May 2027 - 6.30pm CA asked to book these dates with the community centre along with our Community & Environment Fair.	CA CA CA CA
14.	**Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 14th July 2026, all agenda items to be sent to secretary's email no later than Thursday 25th June please.	

To keep up to date about the work of the NWCC, look up our website (https://www.northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk).

You can also like us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/nandwcc/).