



Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.00pm at Northfield Community Centre

Present: Community Council Members: Dave Armstrong (DA) (Vice Chair - Chaired Meeting); Chris Alcorn (CA - Treasurer); Margaret Bennett (MB - Engagement); James Keating (JK - Minutes).

Ward Councillors: Cllr Danny Aston (DA) and Cllr Joan Griffiths (JG).

10 members of the public (including 4 newly elected Community Councillors).

Apologies: Gordon MacDonald (GM - Chair); Nick Marshall (NM - Sec); Charlie Wood (CW); Police Scotland - CPO Anna Morrison

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION POINT
1.	Welcome and Apologies (as above)	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting (14th January 2025)	
	The minutes were approved (proposer CA; seconder MB)	Noted
	Matters arising below.	
(a)	Hamilton Terrace traffic and parking issues (CEC plans) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CEC Road Safety Officer Mark Symonds e-mailed on 11th March informing that consultation on the Duddingston Road temporary traffic measures has closed and the comments will now be analysed. Portobello Ward Cllr Campbell reported that Full Council Motion on focussing parking attendants at school's drop-off / pick-up not possible as contract already awarded. Flashing sign at south end Terrace still not fixed as replacement not functioning. DA advised new sign is due to be installed on 24th March. 	Noted
(b)	Wall Clearance - Lady Nairne Crescent/Meadowfield Terrace (CEC plans) Following January meeting, MB forwarded latest correspondence from CEC to Cllrs Aston and Griffiths who contacted Paul Swann (PS) of CEC Housing Services regarding lack of progress. This resulted in a site visit by PS and a building surveyor on 21/1/25. It was agreed CEC to rebuild and secure the wall where it meets the one in the Terrace and to find a permanent solution to kill-off the ivy. Housing currently awaiting a quote for costs which will be met by the CEC.	Noted
(c)	Piershill Flat Still no progress on the structural report. MB has requested Ward Councillors to push for a meeting to make the case for keeping the flat for Community use. Community need to be informed one way or another.	Cllrs Aston & Griffiths MB
(d)	Return of 69 Bus Service Operator, HcL provide monthly passenger numbers to CEC: January c490 / February c620. Target is c1000 monthly passengers.	

	Lady Nairne Loan has been suggested for TRO / double yellow lines to CEC as part of Local Transport Improvements - potentially underway. HcL installed service timetables on half shelters & stops on route, but waiting to hear from CEC Public Transport how to access timetable boards	Noted CA
(e)	Scot Govt consultation on new National Speed Restrictions The link to this consultation was uploaded to NWCC website and FB page.	Noted
(f)	Lilyhill Terrace - new community information notice board Historic Environment Scotland Manager and Architect met on site 28/2. HES reluctant to give consent to placing a board on their wall as Scheduled and been repaired. Fall-back position is to cost a stand-alone notice board near entrance (this may be more than the £1k grant - in N&WCC Account and need a CEC Highways permit). Check specification and cost for board.	Noted CA
(g)	Calvary Park All actions from January meeting were completed and the meeting took place on 28/1/25 at Duddingston Kirk (Millar Hall), attended by :- N&W CC - Margaret Bennett (Chair), Chris Alcorn (Minutes). CEC Ward Cllrs - Staniforth / Griffiths / Aston- (majority of meeting). Residents - Mrs & Mrs Wilson, 131 Duddingston Road West. CEC Property - Lesley Turner (Team Manager) & Lesley Lumsden (Surveyor). CEC Parks - Scott Thomson (Parks & Greenspace) & Peter Watson (Ops). CEC Public Spaces Events Team - Lindsay Grant. Edinburgh Leisure (EL) – Jen Holland (CEO) & Cathy Findlay. Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) – Julian Warman. Portobello Rugby Club (PRC) – Ross Marrins & Darren Crowther. Duddingston Conservation Society (DCS) – Christina Hales (Trustee). A full report of the meeting appears in Item 5.	Noted
(h)	Various Grant Applications Update: <u>CEC Ward 10 Small Community Grants Fund</u> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Northfield Heritage Information Board (£2.1k); and</i> • <i>Royal High Primary School Nursery Garden improvements (£3.4k).</i> Both deferred till April 2025. New '25/26 Fund opened 6/3 - closes 30/4. <u>Old Edinburgh Club - Jean Guild Grants</u> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ex-Piershill Barracks & Jocks Lodge Heritage Information Board (£2.1k)</i> <u>Successful.</u> Chris A invited to award meeting / talk on 19/3. <u>CEC Place Based Investment Fund</u> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Re-Greening our neighbourhoods by street tree planting (ELGT £221.k)</i> CEC Admin Team reported £1.2M fund from Scot Gov still due and oversubscribed at c£4M), and asking if we still wanted to be considered? E&LGT (in consultation with N&WCC), replied, Yes. <u>EH Magazine Duddingston Direct Charity Award</u> - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Abercorn Crescent or Duddingston Avenue - street trees (£2.5k)</i> Up against 9 other local pitches. N&W Com Cllrs to encourage local residents to vote into EH Direct by 15th April. Awaiting outcome. <u>Royal Society of Edinburgh</u> -	CA CA CA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parsons Green PS & Royal High PS - climate and biodiversity lessons via free trees for pupil's gardens (delivered though E&LGT) (£5k) <p>Unsuccessful as appears they had many applications from across Scotland.</p>	
3.	Police Report	
(a)	ASB incidents around Northfield Broadway - youths setting fires and fireworks. Wearing balaclavas and absconding upon seeing Police. Mixture of uniformed and plain clothes Police patrols in the area resulted in fewer Police calls in the last few weeks in February.	Noted
(b)	Issues with drug dealing in Piershill area - Extensive work has been carried out by Police and CEC's Legal team and is ongoing. Significant progress been achieved with addressing these issues.	Noted
(c)	Ongoing parking issues around School Streets in Duddingston Rd area - Numerous traffic initiatives carried out in collaboration with the Traffic Wardens. Large scale operation to be carried out once the flashing lights sign on Hamilton Terrace fixed as will enable Police to enforce restrictions.	Noted
4.	Financial Matters	
(a)	Financial Update - Outgoings since last Community Council meeting in mid-January = £338.47 / Pending = £52.80 / Incoming = £2,599.00/ Available = £3,709.83 (With Incoming CEC grant LPP/Env Fair = £5,859.83)	Noted
(b)	2023/24 Financial Report - submitted to CEC Governance in January and accepted.	Noted
(c)	Bank of Scotland (BoS) - Account issue - BoS Card Readers required to allow Treasurer to input invoices into on-line Business Banking Account to be verified and paid, finally resolved in March. James Keating now also enabled. Branch has now moved to Leith. However, BoS just announced new maintenance fee of £4.25 per month. 1st 100 electronic payments Free, but BACS @ 0.7p per payment. So potential cost c£50pa: Ruth Pearson (new Councillor) advised about a list of banks, via a Charity, which do not charge. She will forward to CA.	Noted
(d)	CEC grant of £2,599.00 for 2024 Environment Fair & LPP - chased-up and arrived in January 2025, as delay at CEC Finance.	RP/CA Noted
(e)	Willowbrae Noticeboard - £1,000.06 from CEC grant in May '23 remains ring-fenced (See report at Item 2f above) Once have new costs, need to review whether to proceed, or return funds to CEC.	CA
(f)	Old Edinburgh Club grant: £2,150 for Ex-Piershill Barracks Heritage board-OEC nominated Project Lead to be met and draft text agreed and board manufacturer, (CEC Parks recommended), would design and install for CC.	CA
5.	Calvary Park - Outcome of 28th January 2025 meeting called by N&WCC	
	The main point arising was the complexity of the ownership and leasing arrangements were hindering attempts to deal with any of the problems. A degree of confusion existed as to who was responsible for what. CEC admitted that the exact terms of their lease to Edinburgh Leisure were	

	unknown to them, especially in relation to the Tennis Courts. It was also clear that the competing interests of various users and their impact on the adjacent bungalow residents were not fully understood by all concerned. At the end of the meeting a number of Actions were identified. Some were to obtain clarity about legal matters, others to identify cost implications and budgets. A list of possible solutions was compiled for further investigation of costs and feasibility. All parties pledged to continue to engage and work towards solutions & meet again if need be.	MB, CA, DA, JG, AS and IW
6.	Local Transport Improvement Plan -	Noted
	CEC have £0.5m for whole of Edinburgh so approx. £50k for NWCC area. Views and suggestions were requested gathered from across the CC area. Link to our submission will be added to website and FB	CA > GM / JK
7.	CC elections results & arrangements for formation of new N&W CC	
	Results & role of the Community Council - Cllr Aston (Returning Officer) acknowledged that N&W Community Council had successfully attracted 11 community councillors, just under the threshold where an election would have been held. Cllr Aston thanked the new and returning councillors and emphasised the vital role of a community council in ensuring local democratic processes work properly.	Noted
(a)	First Meeting of New CC - Cllr Aston stated that, as the first meeting of a newly elected Community Council must take place within 21 days of the date of establishment on the 28th of March, there would need to be a meeting between 29 th March and 18 th April. It was agreed that an additional meeting ahead of the next scheduled meeting on 13 th May would need to be held. Cllr Aston proposed that he send around a Doodle poll to agree a most suitable date.	Cllr Aston
(b)	CEC Governance Training Sessions for new Community Councillors - There is currently only one in-person training session scheduled for new community councillors on 26 th April (only two places allocated to each CC). However, there are two on-line sessions on the 28th and the 29 th April.	TBC who goes. All N&WC Cllrs
(c)	N&W CC Meeting Schedule & AGM - It was noted that the current community council meeting schedule is the second Tuesday of the month every alternate month i.e. January, March, May, July, September & November. AGM due on 13 th May.	Noted
8.	Planning Update	
(a)	Applications - Over the last 8 week period from mid-Jan to mid-March, 40 GRANTED / 1 earlier application still awaiting Decision + 23 new applications submitted since mid-January 2025 2 REFUSED / 0 TPO's submitted / 1 Proposed Certificate of Lawfulness.	Noted
(b)	Objections by N&WCC - on 2 applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2C Northfield Drive (24/06124/FUL) - Demolition of existing building and erection of purpose-built student accommodation; and • (PF1) 9 Piersfield Grove (25/00193/FULSTL) - Retrospective change of use of premises to short-term let accommodation. 	Noted
(c)	Comments submitted by N&WCC - on 2 applications:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (PF2) 53 Northfield Broadway (25/00169/FUL) - Adaptation disabled metal ramp about replacement of mature hedge requiring removal; • 11 - 13 Lady Nairne Place (25/00209/FUL) - installation of an ATM at Premier Convenience store and necessary ramp access. 	Noted
(d)	<p>Granted Applications of Interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of use from Retail unit (Class 1) to <u>Coffee shop</u> (Class 3) at 1 Meadowbank Avenue (24/06158/FUL) i.e.; at London Rd traffic lights. • 30 CEC Listed Building Consent applications to replace windows in various Listed Piershill Square East & West local authority properties. 	Noted
(e)	<p>CEC Listed Building Consent applications – Piershill Flats</p> <p>Another 11 CEC Listed Building Consent applications recently submitted to replace windows in Listed Piershill flats at Portobello Rd.</p>	Noted
(f)	<p>Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA): 'New Yorker' pool room</p> <p>MB & CA were asked to an on-line meeting in December 2024 by architects and agents for PBSA on 'New Yorker' pool room site. They indicated application due in January 2025, but still not submitted. Cllr Aston thought they were considering comments to Public Notice due to size of proposal - c360 student flats. CEC had just published draft student accommodation Planning Guidance. Out for consultation till early May. CA is attending a workshop on 18/3 at City Chambers to discuss 3 new CEC Guidance Notes. It was agreed to hold a public meeting when the PBSA application is submitted and that N&WCC could invite Meadowbank & Craigentenny Community Council (M&CCC) and other interested parties.</p>	CA MB
(g)	<p>Jock's Lodge - The Willow PBSA</p> <p>Cllr Aston though the building warrant still hadn't been granted when he last checked earlier in the year as one is required to have permission to demolish. It is possible that a Highways permit will be required as the pavement will be taken over during construction and this will have a major effect on London Rd traffic at the Jock's Lodge junction.</p>	Noted
9.	Any other competent business & Public Forum	
(a)	<p>Re-use of Willowbrae Church at Jocks Lodge -</p> <p>Some residents have expressed interest in a community buy-out. It was agreed that the new community council would liaise with C&M CC and hold a public meeting to determine local support for new uses.</p>	MB
(b)	<p>Firework Control Zone Consultation -</p> <p>N&WCC have been asked to comment on whether any of the CC area should be designated as a firework control area under a CEC consultation. It was felt that it would stigmatise areas if a partial ban was applied. It was agreed to take no action.</p>	Noted
(c)	<p>Draft CEC Local Housing Strategy -</p> <p>It was agreed to post the link to the consultation on the CC website & FB.</p>	GM/JK
(d)	<p>Equalities & Diversity framework consultation -</p> <p>The CEC Equalities Team is engaging with the public to help shape future Equality Outcomes 2025-26 and wider EDI Framework for 2026-30. It was agreed to post the link to the consultation on the N&WCC website & FB.</p>	GM/JK

(e)	CEC Planning Seafield Regeneration Masterplan - New Masterplan is available for consultation until the end of April (https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/seafield-place-brief-and-masterplan-consultation/). Due to the lack of time to hold a public meeting it was agreed to post the link to the consultation on the NWCC website & FB and encourage individual responses.	GM/JK
(f)	Thanks to Retiring Northfield & Willowbrae Community Councillors - A note of thanks was made to several community council members who are retiring - Nick Marshall, Charlie Wood, and Ellie Burroughs. Special gratitude was expressed particularly to Nick Marshall who served as the Community Council Chair and also as Secretary for many years.	MB
10	Date of Next Meeting -	
	Regular Community Council bi-monthly meeting as scheduled & AGM: Tuesday, 13th May 2025 at 7.00pm at Northfield Community Centre	ALL
	First official meeting of new in-take of N&W Community Cllrs, TBC. Post Meeting Note - now Monday 31st March 7.00pm at NCC (Grey Rm).	ALL