

**COUNCIL MEETING: 25 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Minutes of meeting held at the Colinton Mains Community Centre.

Present: G Lighthouse (Chair), P Wright (Sec), H Levy (Treasurer); L Linn, G Hunter, A Hunter,).

In Attendance: E Aitken (Cllr), E Barry (Cllr),

Apologies: B Brand; J Napier; S Dalglish; M Jarvis (Oxgangs Central); Cllr J Rust

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on 28 August '07**

Approved as a true record (Prop: L Linn; Sec: A Hunter) except for omission: Display table to advertise FCC was taken at Tesco Community Day, Sat 11 August, manned in rotation by P Wright, J Napier and L Linn.

**2. MATTERS ARISING;**

*(i) McCarthy & Stone Development:*

After first plans were refused by CEC Planning Department, the company submitted altered plans – then withdrew these and lodged an appeal to Scottish Executive over Council's decision to refuse the first plans; appeal granted in April. Upgrade of crossing at top of Oxgangs Road North is to be financed by McCarthy & Stone and Tesco.

*(ii) Overgrown paths:*

Depends on whether right-of-way or adopted pathway; if latter, Council Officials will inspect it and if necessary serve notice on householder to clear foliage etc; if former, it might be possible to have it cut back by Council staff. (FCC members to look around and see where overgrown hedges, bushes or grass are, then report back for further action.)

*(iii) Neighbourhood Partnership Training Sessions*

The concern raised at our last meeting has been passed on to the appropriate department.

*(iv) Firrhill Drive*

The concerns raised at our last meeting regarding the on-going access problems at Firrhill Drive for emergency vehicles has been passed on to the appropriate department.

All the above information received from Cllr Elaine Aitken.

**3. Police Report**

No Police report available.

**4. Treasurer's Report – H Levy**

Treasurer reported a) still waiting for back copies of Apr '06 – Apr '07 statements so that accounts can be completed and sent to Council; b) Council grant should be in and insurance payment automatically deducted; and c) no outstanding bills.

*A statement of expenditure for the financial year 2006-07 is attached to the end of this minute.*

## 5. Planning Report – J Napier on holiday, report read out by P Wright

### a) *Weekly Planning Bulletins: Ward No.08*

27 August 2007 — 3 applications and 3 decisions. None within the old Firrhill ward. All involve residential property except for one decision relating to Merchiston Castle School.

3 September 2007 — 4 applications and 3 decisions. None within the old Firrhill ward. All involve residential property.

10 September 2007 — 3 applications and 2 decisions. None within the old Firrhill ward. All involve residential property.

### b) *McCarthy and Stone Development*

Reported at a previous meeting that this application (07/00205/FUL) was withdrawn on 7 June. The Secretary made further enquiries and reported at the last meeting, that M&S application had gone to appeal and subsequently approved.

For clarification, McCarthy and Stone did take their initial application (06/01573/FUL) to (SE) appeal after it was rejected by the CEC. The appeal was successful and as a consequence a second application was withdrawn

### c) *Colinton Mains Park*

A response to my request for information on whether or not a decision had been made regarding the changing facilities in the park had been received. The response indicates that no decision has been made and further consultation will take place with stakeholders. I have asked for a list of the stakeholders on the assumption that we may wish to ascertain their views.

HL gave an update on the plans for Colinton Mains Park. The pavilion comes into Phase 2 of the Council's Parks Regeneration work, i.e., 2008-2009 and it will consist of changing rooms and storage space only. There will be no community rooms as originally proposed. Facilities within the Park will include three grass and two all-weather pitches, but not the proposed 5-a-side pitch. Teenage equipment is presently in storage and will be re-sited.

This latter information contradicts the previous response received from the Council.

### d) *Braidburn Flood Prevention Scheme: Advanced Works*

Response also received regarding request for information on the number of complaints received during the period of this (bridge) work in Oxgangs Road North, the nature of the complaints, the time taken to respond and if any were still outstanding.

The substance of the response indicates that a resident's issues log was kept on the site and had 125 entries but no specific record of complaints was maintained. All issues were responded to within 14 days. Only compensation claims for land depreciation and disturbance have still to be concluded, which can take some time.

### e) *Oxgangs Green to Oxgangs Path Pathway*

HL reported on the conflict regarding this pathway. Residents had been assured they'd get use of path after new Pentland Primary School was completed but this has been renegeed on. They were "conned" into agreeing that gate could be locked at certain times for pupils' security but this now gives ownership of path to school; plans show pathway but **not** an adopted right-of-way. Closure of path affects many residents directly but is also impacting on health and outreach workers who can't get access to area. Meetings held with Councillors, residents, Fairmilehead Community Council members and Fairmilehead Association. A working group has been proposed to pull together information from all concerned residents and agencies. If nothing can be resolved re this path, Cockmylane should be upgraded and a new path created

through old Hunters Tryst Primary School site. Cllr Aitken has met with and spoken to Estates Manager, CEC Planning Department, re ensuring that paths are the developer's contribution/responsibility and a condition of development. So far, several Housing Associations have shown interest in Hunters Tryst site. The Community Council must see any plans.

## **6. Meeting Reports – P Wright**

### **f) *Neighbourhood Partnership Training Session***

The Secretary attended an evening training session on National Standards for Community Engagement. The Scottish Executive's Communities Scotland have identified 10 Standards for community engagement, they are: -

- INVOLVEMENT - identify and involve the people and organisations who have an interest in the focus of the engagement;
- SUPPORT - identify and overcome any barriers to involvement;
- PLANNING - gather evidence of the needs and available resources and use this evidence to agree the purpose, scope and timescale of the engagement and the actions to be taken;
- METHODS - agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose;
- WORKING TOGETHER - agree and use clear procedures that enable the participants to work with one another effectively and efficiently;
- SHARING INFORMATION - ensure that necessary information is communicated between the participants;
- WORKING WITH OTHERS - work effectively with others with an interest in the engagement;
- IMPROVEMENT - develop actively the skills, knowledge and confidence of all participants;
- FEEDBACK - feed back the results of the engagement to the wider community and agencies affected;
- MONITORING AND EVALUATION - monitor and evaluate whether the engagement achieves its purposes and meets the national standards for community engagement.

These apparently have already been taken on board by each department of the City Council and it will be interesting to see how much difference that will make re 'consultation'. NP representatives are expected to do the same when working in the community. Booklets available to read from the Secretary are "National Standards for Community Engagement" and NSfCE "Users Guide" + NSfCE "Illustrations from the Pilots". All Community Council Reps reported the same problems. How do we find out a community's priorities? How do we convince people that their views will be listened to and acted on? How do we overcome apathy and attract more residents to CC meetings when they will turn up to a meeting only if it deals with an issue directly affecting them? We here have an excellent vehicle in "The Peak", a free magazine going to every household, but advertising ourselves has made little difference.

## **7. Correspondence**

The following correspondence has been received since the date of the last meeting:

Letter of thanks (+ two photos!) from Tesco for taking part in their Community Day.

Info re Standards for Community Engagement meeting (PW).

Children and Families Dept: "Draft Parental Involvement Strategy". Feedback wanted {HL has already filled one in; so this copy taken by GH}.

Scottish Community Councils Notice of AGM/Conference '07 [to GL]

## **8. AOCB**

### **a) *Services for Communities***

Councillor Barry reported problems getting Services for Communities to do their job – lack of communication within department – work reported as having been done when it hasn't been, e.g. Street Lights out at pensioners' houses in Oxfangs Loan + grass cutting.

### **b) *Affordable housing***

Heather Levy reported problems re affordable housing in the area: she has had meetings with concerned residents.

## **9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Firrhill Community Council will be held in the Colinton Mains Community Centre on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007 at 7:00pm.

**FIRRHILL CC: Expenditure 06-07**

<b>Expenses 2006/07</b>	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	<b>Totals</b>
Photocopy		7.24		3.60	3.36				3.88	7.52	1.20	2.08	28.88
Membership Renewal			15.00										15.00
Transport													
Stamps			2.76		3.84	2.76		2.76					12.12
Church Lets								30.00					30.00
Phone Calls													
Stationary													
Meals/Provisions													
Ribbons								9.85					9.85
Donations													
Petty Cash													
Lothian B Police		200.00											200.00
<b>Totals</b>		207.24	17.76	3.60	7.20	2.76		42.61	3.88	7.52	1.20	2.08	<b>295.85</b>