

COUNCIL MEETING: 4 DECEMBER 2007

Minutes of meeting held at the Colinton Mains Community Centre.

Present: G Lightheart (Chair), P Wright (Sec), L Linn, G Hunter, A Hunter; J Napier;

In Attendance: J Rust (Cllr); Craig Cunningham, CEC Corporate Services Officer for Council Parks; Craig Dunlop, CC Corporate Services Officer for Council Football Pitches; E Barry (Cllr).

Apologies: B Brand; S Dalglish; H Levy (Treasurer); E Aitken (Cllr),

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on 25 September '07

Approved as a true record (Prop: L Linn; Sec: A Hunter)

2. MATTERS ARISING;

Talla Mains:

Cllr Rust advised he had received information from a Scottish Borders Council Planning Officer that the application was on hold to allow for further investigation. The Secretary reported that she had written to David McLetchie, MSP and this had been acknowledged. JN reported that whilst Scottish Environmental Protection Agency had initially objected to the application due to insufficient information being provided by the applicant in their Environmental Impact Assessment, this had since been provided and the objections had been withdrawn.

3. Community Police Report

PC Crawford reported that his response to the negative newspaper article regarding St Mark's Primary School, which exaggerated the level of youth crime within the area, had brought some positive results. A Morningside youth worker had contacted him and following discussions a team of voluntary youth workers had come into the area to attempt to engage with the youth community and ascertain the types of activities they would like to get involved in. A Friday Club was being run at the Pentlands Community Centre for youths (13+) to drop in and use the facilities.

A run down of crimes reported over the last month was given with attention drawn to a spate of housebreaking that had occurred. It was good to report that a number of those crimes had been resolved.

Concerns had been raised over the now disused Hunters Tryst Primary School and it was reported that steps had been taken to improve security.

AH reported that children were playing with one of the left-over barriers from the flood prevention site in Oxbgangs Road North.

The Chair thanked PC Crawford for his report. The Committee had agreed at the previous meeting to raise the matter of the vandalism at St Mark's School at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Partnership with the intent of moving for the formation of an action group to explore suitable preventative measures to mitigate such actions and the ways and means of obtaining the funding for such measures. It was pleasing to see that such initiatives were coming into play even out-with that arena.

4. Update Report on Colinton Mains Park – C Cunningham / C Dunlop

Reported that project was being financed through the sale of 15% of the land to Dunedin Canmore for housing. Most of the earthwork had been carried out last autumn but there was still further drainage work to take place. The expectation is that the pitches will be ready for next season (2008). Facilities will include 3 full size football pitches; one 'junior' rugby pitch; 2 full size 'seven a side' pitches; a team warm-up area and children's play area.

Flood prevention work to be carried out in 2009, may affect the use of some of the facilities. Discussion on lighting for the pathways across the park and it was the general view that adequate lighting was very necessary.

The pavilion had not progressed due to lack of funding, resulting in the existing changing rooms being refurbished to ensure their continued use in the interim. The expected cost of the new facility was £1 million and currently CEC have £200,000 that has been ring-fenced from the Meggetland sale for this purpose. An application for a grant will be submitted to the Sport Scotland lottery fund and the sought for sum will be £300,000 (£50,000 per locker room) and the deadline to ensure current allocations is 1st March 2008. It is hoped to procure the balance of £500,000 from future budget allocations for parks and pavilions. The provision of the new changing rooms and a general purpose community room is still considered a high priority project by the City of Edinburgh Council.

5. Councillors' Report

a) Site of the disused Hunters Tryst Primary School:

The City of Edinburgh Council have viewed proposed plans submitted by Dundas Estates and Development Company who have made an offer of £5.7 million to purchase the site for housing development. Plans propose 72 units, 25% of which will consist of affordable housing, and will be a mix of town houses and flats.

The re-instatement of a path to replace the loss of the Oxfangs Green / Brae path was not included in the contract specifications despite efforts by councillors to ensure this was done. There are plans to carry out improvement works to the footpath from Cockmilehead Lane to provide an alternative pedestrian route.

b) Traffic Calming Measures:

Traffic calming measures are being extended to the Pentland Drive / Caiystanes area.

c) Oxfangs Avenue – Road Crossing:

There are plans to provide a crossing, estimated cost is £50,000. Parking restrictions in this street are also under consideration

d) St Marks Primary School – Vandalism:

There are no plans to provide improved fencing or CCTV at the school due to cost.

6. Treasurer's Report – H Levy

The Treasurer had tendered her apologies for being unable to attend the meeting but had provided the Secretary with a short report. Firrhill Community Council's bank account currently stands at £2414 with only two outstanding bills for photocopying still to be debited. She has been advised that from next year, the CEC are to introduce a new format for funding Community Councils. Will provide information at the next meeting.

There is no further information regarding the continued publication of the Peak. Councillor Barry indicated that it might be worth investigating the Community Newspaper Trust for funding.

7. Planning Report – J Napier

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

22 October 2007 — 9 applications and 2 decisions. With the exception of one application for a change of use from residential to a children's day-care nursery, all concerned alterations/extensions to residential property. One application for a driveway related to property within Firrhill Community Council's boundary.

29 October 2007 — 7 applications and 6 decisions. All concerned alterations/extensions to residential property. None related to property within Firrhill Community Council's boundary.

5 November 2007 — 2 applications and 2 decisions. All concerned alterations/extensions to residential property. None related to property within Firrhill Community Council's boundary.

12 November 2007 — 2 applications and 3 decisions. All concerned alterations/extensions to residential property. None related to property within Firrhill Community Council's boundary.

19 November 2007 — 4 applications and 6 decisions. With the exception of one application relating to the replacement of kennels at Dreghorn Barracks, all concerned alterations/extensions to residential property. Two decisions related to property within Firrhill Community Council's boundary.

26 November 2007 — 9 applications and 4 decisions. With the exception of one application, all concerned alterations/extensions to residential property. Two applications related to property within Firrhill Community Council's boundary, one of which related to the demolition and replacement of the electrical sub-station at Firrhill Drive.

8. Meeting Reports – G Lightheart

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting, 27 Nov '07

No report available.

9. Correspondence

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

1. War Memorial Trust - letter from Dr Ian McKee MSP. Details regarding this charity organisation, which carries out maintenance and conservation of war memorials. Requesting that they be notified in the event of any memorials in the area in need of such work.
2. Spokes Newsletter from the cycling pressure group.
3. PostWatch Scotland: re consultation on post office closures, etc.
4. Letter from CEC (Eileen Hewitt) re a web-blog training course for community council members to be held on Monday 10 Dec 2007 at the Library, George IV Bridge.
5. Agenda for Neighbourhood Partnership meeting to be held at Currie High School 27 Nov 2007.
6. David McLetchie MSP: acknowledgement to letter re Talla Mains (see under *Matters Arising*).

7. CEC Corporate Services: Statement of Licensing Policy, Licensing (Scotland) Act '05 – November 2007 to November 2010.
8. Edinburgh Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association – “Tenants Voice” magazine.
9. Lothian Joint Physical and Complex Disability Strategy: Summary report for consultation.
10. Wren Recycling re Landfill Communities Friends.
11. Neighbourhood Partnership: Community Engagement Fund for Community Councils.

10.A.O.C.B.

Oxgangs Primary School playing field

Following concerns raised by Mr & Mrs Hunter re Oxgangs playing field, Tom Dougal, CEC City Development, was contacted by both the Secretary and Councillor Rust. As far as the Flood Prevention Scheme is concerned the field has been cleared and reinstated to the required standard and will not be used as a base for the next phase (up the burn). Apparently it is now the responsibility of the school (or the contractor who built it) to get the playing field fit for purpose again.

11. 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 **22nd January 2008** at 7:00pm.