

COUNCIL MEETING: 22 JANUARY 2008

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); E Barry (Cllr).

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

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on 4 December '07

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

2. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 5.a) Site of the disused Hunters Tryst Primary School:

Chairman asked Cllr Rust for information on the availability of plans for the proposed redevelopment. Advised detailed plans have still to be submitted to CEC.

Item 10. Oxgangs Primary School playing field

No change to previous report. Chairman proposed that the Secretary write to the Department of Education and Communities, who own the site, indicating the Community Council's concern at the delay in reclaiming this site for school use as a play area. Cllr Rust offered to do this and because it was not known where the ultimate responsibility for the playing field's condition lies, it was agreed that the Secretary would write to the Head of Oxgangs Primary School to determine what action he is taking if any.

3. Councillors' Report: Cllrs Rust; Barry and Aitken (written)

a) Gritting in the Firrhill Area:

A recent heavy snowfall had caused difficulties for pedestrian and traffic alike and resulted in a number of complaints to the city's councillors. They had obtained information on the city's policy for gritting and it was noted that there is a categorisation system based on the assessed risk. General opinion that the relevant department needs to assess the actual conditions and send gritting vehicles to those areas most affected rather than simply sticking to a rigid plan. Oxgangs being at a higher level than most areas of the city and inland tends to be more affected by snow than the city centre for example but is a lower priority.

b) Pentlands Community Centre:

Concern had been raised at the delay in repairing two of the Centre's heating boilers, which have been out of action for a period in excess of 2 years. There is only one boiler functioning with no back up. The matter had been raised with the relevant department.

c) Disused Hunters Tryst Primary School:

Due to the number of complaints concerning risk of children playing in this disused and derelict building there is a drive to get it demolished as soon as possible. (The Community Safety Officer subsequently confirmed that emergency action was being taken to demolish the building.)

d) St Marks Primary School – Vandalism:

Councillors had received reports from the Police indicating that the installation of CCTV seems to have improved the situation but it is still considered that additional lighting should be installed to the rear of the school's playground.

e) Upgrading of Kitchens / Bathrooms:

Councillors had received a number of complaints regarding unsatisfactory installation of fitted kitchen units, etc. Problem seems to be caused by different standards between contractors.

4. Community Police Report

No report available but PC Crawford's Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter was circulated round the members. The following information has been extracted:

During December four breaches of the peace were reported, one of which was racially oriented. Also reported were 2 acts of vandalism, 1 of burglary and 1 attempt to burgle. Five vehicles were damaged and a garden shed set alight. An indecent assault that took place in Oxbgangs Avenue is of serious concern.

PC Crawford has also intimated that the Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter circulated by the Police was under review and he would appreciate any comments from those who receive it. A number of members indicated they had already done so.

5. Treasurer's Report

No report available

6. Planning Report – J Napier

a) Weekly Planning Bulletins: Ward No.08

The period covered is from 3 December 2007 to 14 January 2008, during which only 1 application and 1 decision related to property within Firrhill Community Council's area is reported in the Bulletins:

- A planning application to carry-out an attic conversion was granted.
- A planning application has been registered to erect a lean-to style conservatory.

7. Meeting Reports

CEC's Customer Service Strategy Forum

This Services for Communities (SfC) consultation forum on draft strategy document was attended by the Secretary. The resulting report is being handed round for each member to read and pass on.

Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting, 27 Nov '07

Attended by the Chairman: No report available.

8. Correspondence

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

1. Cockburn Association & Edinburgh Civic Trust: notice of meeting of Edinburgh Civic Forum, 12 February to include planning issues and design workshop (referred to JN).

2. Information re Customer Service Strategy Forum on 10 January (attended by Sec.).
3. Letter from Nancy Jamieson re Planning Service and proposed planning training for Community Council members (referred to JN).
4. SW Neighbourhood Office asking for information on local groups/organisations to include in proposed Community Directory for Pentlands NP area (Sec. to respond).
5. NHS Lothian: invitation to attend a Rezoning Workshop to be held on 5 February at the Napier Craighouse Campus.
6. Scottish Water: response to Sec's letter re Talla Main, i.e., photocopies of letters sent by them to Scottish Borders Council and Blythbank Action Group.
7. Community Council Training Questionnaires (copy circulated to all members).
8. Michele Mulvaney, Community Engagement Manager, re NP Development Programme and Planning Workshops.
9. Scottish Water: Glencorse Water Treatment Works: email (circ by Cllr Barry) re open day to meet their project team.
10. Christine Doherty: Notice of Pentlands NP Business Meeting 23 January (Sec attending).
11. L&B Police Board re Custody Visiting Scheme – Visitors required (leaflet).
12. Pentlands NP: Agenda and Notice of Meeting to be held 29 Jan at Ratho (Sec attending)
13. Follow-up responses from City of Edinburgh Council's Customer Service Strategy Forum – see 2) above.
14. Letter from City Development (via Cllr Rust) re draft Trees and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance Consultation (available on CEC website).
15. Stewart Farquhar, SW Local Environment Manager: letter to Cllr Rust re winter maintenance in the Colinton Mains Area following complaints from residents.

9. A.O.C.B.

Royal Garden Party

The Chair reported that he had received a request to nominate someone from the Community Council to attend the Garden Party. He proposed the Secretary be nominated in appreciation of all the work she does for the Community Council. This was seconded by AH and unanimously agreed.

10. 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 **26th February 2008** at 7:00pm.