

COUNCIL MEETING: 26 FEBRUARY 2008

Minutes of meeting held at the Colinton Mains Community Centre.

Present: G Lighthart (Chair), L Linn, G Hunter, A Hunter; J Napier; H Levy (Treasurer)

In Attendance: M Lyle & K Hutcheson (L&B Police)

Apologies: P. Wright (Sec.) E Aitken (Cllr). J Rust (Cllr) E Barry (Cllr)

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on the 22nd January 2008

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

2. MATTERS ARISING:

Item 3(b) Pentlands Community Centre – Chairman reported that the two boilers had been fixed but there was now a problem with the water heater.

Item 2(b) Oxgangs Primary School playing field - reply received from Edinburgh Schools Partnership in response to the Secretary's letter to the head teacher at Oxgangs Primary. Letter states that the ESP were still waiting for City of Edinburgh Council to formally return the pitches to them on conclusion of the local flood plan work.

3. Community Police Report: Insp. M Lyle

Disused Hunters Tryst Primary School – there had been 18 calls to the building since the last meeting. The Council arranged to remove contents lessening the fire risk but the empty building is still an attraction with reports of kids on roof, etc. The Police are urging swift action to demolish but the discovery of asbestos will delay matters.

St Marks Primary School – there have been no calls to the school since last meeting

Recorded crime is down 29% and vandalism down 24%.

Youth misbehaviour is still a problem with youths congregating at Oxgangs Broadway. An initiative by the Police to meet with the residents and shopkeepers in the area met with a poor response. It is a small core element of youths that are causing most of the problems and whilst they are known, there is insufficient evidence to charge them.

The Chairman expressed the opinion that cuts to the funding for Community organisations was a factor but this was not endorsed by the police who consider that ones who are causing the bother do not attend youth groups, etc.

HL reported the stated cuts were not going ahead. Volunteers were working with the Neighbourhood Centre and Police and targeting problem youths. Families are able to get support from professionals but disclosure problems when working with children, youths and vulnerable adults causing a reluctance to give voluntary support.

The race/hate crime – Scotmid security officer/young girl

There have been 10 reported incidences of vandalisms to motor vehicles.

GH indicated that the railing damaged by a vehicle accident on Colinton Mains Drive near the roundabout at Tesco has still to be repaired (Note – repaired shortly after date of this meeting). Also concerned about the lack of action by the utility company responsible for the hole in the road at the corner of Oxgangs Road North and Colinton Mains Road.

HL queried whether the Police were organising an Oxfords Police Open Day/Road Safety event and this was confirmed.

4. Councillors' Report: (written report from Cllr Rust)

CCTV Oxfords Broadway – he has been pursuing the case for the above and it is now second on the Council's list for such work. The cameras have already been purchased and a site meeting is to take place to find out whether the CCTV can be connected to existing street lighting or if cables need to be installed by Scottish Power, which may take some time. In addition he is seeking to have the chewing gum removed from the walkway and litter cleaned up in the flowerbeds at the side of the shopping precinct.

Funding is being obtained for handrails in Cockmylane path. (HL indicated that she had heard this upgraded pathway was to be designated as a new cycle path)

Asbestos has been located at the disused Hunters Tryst Primary School resulting in the demolition programme being delayed.

New Council budgets are out.

5. Treasurer's Report: H Levy

Verbal report on the state of finances given and it was noted that the only bill outstanding was for stationery.

Laptop – there was a general agreement that the Community Council Secretary should be provided with a laptop to facilitate electronic communications and information access. The Treasurer is to provide cost details for next meeting.

6. Planning Report: J Napier

Report on the Weekly Planning Bulletins for 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

The subject of road safety was discussed with references to bad parking and the failure of a small minority of drivers to adhere to the new 20 mph signage. No conclusions.

7. Meeting Reports – P Wright

a) Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting, 23rd January 2008

Held in City Chambers the meeting was chaired by Cllr Rust and attended by representatives from Firrhill, Balerno Longstone and Ratho CCs + Colinton Amenity Assoc and Christine Doherty SW Edinburgh Neighbourhood Office.

Discussion on way forward for Pentlands NP: all agreed we should have sub-groups, though it became clear that CCs representing different communities would have different priorities; + who would sit on these sub-groups would also need to be looked at – as well as when and how they would report. Christine Doherty was tasked with compiling a Questionnaire to distribute to all CCs for filling in (to get an overview of community requirements before moving on to set-up specific sub-groups). [These to be returned after February meetings.]

b) Pentlands NP Ratho 29th January 2008

Power Point Presentations given on –

- 1) Voter Registration: report by the CEC Secretary
- 2) Community Safety: by member of Police Community Safety TAC Team

[Reports on Oxfangs Care – Young Peoples Mental Health Project Update are available from PW for members to read]

c) Local Issues

- 1) PW asked a question about planning permission for breaking up pavements to make drive-ins and whether Council ever inspects re-instatement.
- 2) GL brought up latest report on funding cuts for Community Centres: Pentland Centre is already cut back to the bone.

[PW talked with Graham Kitching about need for handrail at corner of Oxfangs Hill and Green (he will action)]

8. Correspondence

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

1. CCTV. Oxfangs Broadway (e-mail, Cllr Rust, see Councillor's Report)
2. Assoc of Scottish Community Councils: Regional meeting 15/03/08.
3. Road Maintenance, Oxfangs Park (Footpaths to be resurfaced starting soon?)
4. Info on Environmental fora – (citywide) + Friends of Parks
5. "Inside Letting" booklet.
6. "Working Capital" – Joined up for Jobs magazine.
7. Traffic diversions for closing of Shandwick Place (from Cllr Rust)

9. A.O.C.B.

Due to lack of time it was agreed to meet at Pentlands Community Centre on Thursday 6 March at 2:30 pm to complete the Neighbourhood Partnership questionnaire that had been circulated by the Secretary prior to the meeting. [Item 7a) above refers]

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, 25 March 2008 at 7pm.