

FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING: 22 APRIL 2008

Minutes of meeting held at the Colinton Mains Community Centre.

Present: G Lighthouse (Chair), P Wright (Sec), G Hunter, H Levy; B Brand;
L Lynn; J Napier (Mins);

In Attendance: E Aitken (Cllr); E Barry (Cllr).

Apologies: A Hunter; D Crawford (Oxgangs Police); J Rust (Cllr)

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: held on the 25th March 2008

BB requested that it be noted that at the last meeting she had given a report on the parking problem at Firrhill Drive and the remedial action that was being considered but it had not been recorded. With this amendment the minute was approved as a true record (Prop: G Hunter; Sec: A Hunter)

2. MATTERS ARISING:

- (a) Item 2(a) – Pentlands Community Centre – with regard to the faulty water heater, the Chair reported that the heater has still not been repaired.

3. Community Police Report: D Crawford

Due to his extended leave, the following report was extracted from police newsletter for April.

The citywide news was a farewell message from Chief Superintendent George Simpson, making particular mention of the highly improved crime statistics over the past 18 months along with the continuing development of partnership working. His replacement will be CS Colin Campbell.

The hot topic was a general warning and advice to drivers who leave their cars parked in remote rural areas whilst pursuing leisure activities.

The local news reported on some updates with work that has been and continues to go on in the background in Oxgangs. In May, CCTV facilities are scheduled to be installed at Oxgangs Broadway and Oxgangs Bank. This will be a first for the area and will connect this location to the larger City of Edinburgh Network. This Crime Prevention tool can offer more insight and clarity in respect of potential incidents and the culprits. In April an initial meeting was held regarding the possible set up of a Youth Café in Oxgangs. Indications are that the ideas received were done so positively that this will continue to move on.

Incidents that occurred during the month of March consisted of 6 break-ins (2 houses, one shop and 3 cars) and one attempt. Two cars were stolen and 2 maliciously damaged. There was one incident involving drugs, one assault, one of malicious damage to a stair window and one incident of dog fouling. In 11 of those cases the culprit has either been charged or reported.

In addition to the police report the following items were raised

BB reported she contacted the police on the previous Sunday about bogus workmen in the area.

GL reported that all windows had been boarded up at the disused Hunters Tryst PS. Councillors reported that there are indications the company who bought the site may be experiencing financial problems, which may result in a further delay before redevelopment.

GL queried the position regarding the playing fields to the rear of Colinton Mains Green and asked the Councillors to check current position. Previous report indicated that the Council were still to hand the site back to the school.

4. Councillors' Report: Cllrs Aitken and Barry

With reference to the item on car parking at Firrhill Drive, the proposal to develop the identified grassed corner site next to Number 14 for car parking is being costed.

CEC have still to confirm funding for the handrail at Cockmylane, but plans have been agreed.

Colinton Mains Recreational Park – confirmation that all the money is in place to complete this project. Query raised if there was still a problem with the drainage.

The pedestrian crossing project at Oxgangs Avenue has moved up the list of approved projects held by the Council.

On a recent Councillors' walkabout, areas of littering in Oxgangs Green; potholes in Oxgangs Place and fly tipping in the woods between Morrison's store and the army houses had been noted. Concerning the latter, this land belongs to the army and they were prepared to take action to have it cleaned up. Discussion had taken place with both the main stores (Tesco and Morrison) regarding problems with the mess caused by polythene bags and the recycling point. The latter had been raised with 'Services for Communities' who were responsible for uplifting the recycling bins and they were going to improve their service of these areas.

HL asked for information concerning police boundaries. Had the new boundaries changes, made for the purpose of aligning the police administrative areas with the new neighbourhood partnership areas, not been successful and were further changes being proposed?

5. Treasurer's Report: H Levy

No change in the Community Council's finances to previous report. Proposal to purchase a computer for the Secretary, previous agreed by the Council, had been progressed and the best deal on offer was for a tower computer and printer at a cost of £600. The purchase of this computer package was agreed.

6. Planning Report: J Napier

Report on the Weekly Planning Bulletins for Ward No.08. The period covered is from 18 March to 14 April 2008, during which only 3 applications and 3 decisions related to property within Firrhill Community Council's area are reported in the Bulletins:

- A planning application has been registered to build an extension to residential property at Oxgangs Road North.
- A planning application has been registered to erect a conservatory to the rear of residential property at Colinton Mains Road.
- A planning application has been registered for a garden area parking bay at property in Caiystane Gardens
- A planning application to build an extension to the rear of residential property at Oxgangs Bank was granted.
- A planning application to install an ATM at 82 Colinton Mains Drive was granted.
- A planning application to carry out a loft conversion at Colinton Mains Grove was granted.

HL reported that Stage 3 of the Oxgangs Re-Development is set to go to the Planning Committee in August. Plans for this part of the redevelopment to include an area for a workshop centre that will enable Oxgangs Care to assist vulnerable families and children. Plans also include an area for the provision of a general store retail outlet.

7. Update on arrangements for AGM – P Wright

The session room at Colinton Mains Church has been booked for 6.30 pm, Tuesday 27 May 2008.

An invitation had been made to the Environmental Wardens Service to attend and speak on their work but they had declined indicating that they have just started to run surgeries in the Oxgangs Library every fortnight for public consultations

Oxgangs Care had agreed to provide a speaker to attend and give a presentation on the work carried out by this organisation.

There was a discussion on how to put out notices round the community and it was agreed to target other voluntary groups within the area and also to seek the assistance of the local schools to enable the distribution of a local flyer, i.e., a “school bag drop”.

8. Meeting Reports – P Wright

a) *Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Business Meeting, 8th April 2008*

Chaired by Councillor Rust the meeting was held in the City Chambers and 7 Community Representatives attending to discuss the new Fairer Scotland Fund. Many funds including the Community Regeneration Fund will come together into FSF data zones indicating poverty. The new fund will have a tighter focus on tackling poverty and deprivation. Edinburgh Partnership will indicate how fund should be distributed but the criteria require applications to fulfil 15 national outcomes made up from 45 national indicators and targets and 57 local indicators. The meeting resolved to form a committee within Pentlands NP to advise the Council and Edinburgh Partnership. This proposal to be taken to the NP meeting on the 15th April.

b) *Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting, 15th April 2008*

Chaired by Councillor Rust the meeting was held in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre and attended by Councillors, Council Officers, Community Representatives and members of the public. Business items included:

- i) Fairer Scotland Fund: £7 million for Edinburgh; setting up NP committee was approved
- ii) Feedback on CCs Consultation Questionnaire.
- iii) Presentation by NHS Lothian on proposed Firrhill Health and Social Care Centre [handout photocopied for members].
- iv) Oxgangs Care – Young Peoples’ Mental Health Project: still a work in progress – will report back at next NP meeting.
- v) NP Community Grants Fund: revised criteria coming into force [draft criteria and guidance note for applicants supplied as appendix to meeting documents]

Any documents supplied at above meetings can be viewed by contacting Secretary.

c) *Association of Edinburgh Community Councils, 16th April 2008*

Attended by the GL who reported on the items raised highlighting proposals to seek the right for Community Councils to obtain independent legal advice where appropriate and on the opposition to the downgrading of Meadowbank Sports Stadium.

9. Correspondence

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

- a) Notice of meeting, agenda and business papers for the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Business Meeting, 8th April 2008.
- b) Notice of meeting, agenda and business papers for the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting, 15th April 2008.
- c) Edinburgh Tenants Federation: "Tenants Participation Strategy, 2008-11" booklet and the March issue of "Tenants' Voice" newsletter.
- d) Notice from Councillor Barry that a report on the progress of Braidburn Flood Prevention Scheme and new funding arrangements is to be presented to the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee on 6th May 2008 [any comments to be given to Councillor Barry before then].
- e) Notice from Councillor Barry that a display of Scottish Water's proposals on the Glencorse Water treatment Works will be available for viewing in Oxfangs Library up until 20th April.
- f) Notice of meeting and agenda for the CEC and Community Councils Joint Meeting on 24th April 2008 at 7pm in Waverley Court. Main item will be "The Developing role of Community Councils"..
- g) "Postwatch Scotland" Issue 18 of the publication
- h) Offer from Macmillan Cancer Support to provide a speaker on their work.
- i) "SEPA View" Spring issue of the publication

10.A.O.C.B.

Community Grants Fund Review – proposed changes to the community grant fund criteria are out for consultation with Neighbourhood Partnerships. Information on the proposal can be found on the CEC website – report¹ presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee, 26 February 2008.

Number 18 Bus Service (Sunday) – the CEC administration have decided to withdraw the use of council grants to subsidise unprofitable services. General opinion that Lothian Transport are prepared to run services at a loss where there is competition for the route but not on those routes where there is no competition. Difficulty in obtaining evidence to prove case

11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Firrhill Community Council will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held in the Session Room at Colinton Mains Parish Church from 7:00 pm on 27 May 2008.

¹ Report No. PS/57/07-08/SfC