

FIRRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING: 10 FEBRUARY 2010

Minutes of meeting held at the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre.

Members attending: H Levy (Chair), P Wright; A Hunter; G Hunter; L Linn; P Podd; J Napier;

Business meeting held in place of the normal meeting scheduled for 23rd January which was organised as a drop-in session for members of the community to view plans of the various activities taking place in and around Colinton Mains Park.

1. Oxgangs Library:

Chair met with Carol Marr, librarian who is developing an electronic 'information hub' of the local community as part of the 'Your Edinburgh' website, which is a new, easy to use community information website for Edinburgh where you can information about local and national organisations, health services, advice and support groups, leisure and sport activities, local history, what's on and lots more for your area.

Local organisations such as the Community Council will be allotted a webpage on which they may provide information on their activities and contact details as appropriate.

The library is currently looking to add information about organisations in Oxgangs, Colinton and the surrounding area. All it takes is to provide details of your local club, society or organisation. Forms are provided on the library website: -

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Leisure/Libraries/Explore_your_library/Edinburgh%20Hid den/CEC_your_organisation_on_your_edinburgh.

An Information Event is due to take place on 27 March at Oxgangs Library between 2 and 4 pm.

The Community Council support the library's aim to provide an information hub for the local community and approve the added benefit of another access point to the Council's own website at http://www.firrhillcommunitycouncil.btik.com/p_Home.ikml that this will provide.

2. Firrwood Gardening Club:

The Chair gave a report on a local group of people who had formed a gardening club. The group had been seeking financial support to purchase equipment but were as yet un-constituted thus unable to access most funding schemes.

It has been suggested this group join the "Friends of Colinton Mains Park" scheme, which is looking for more local supporters and this may provide them with the resources they need.

The Gardening Club meet most Tuesdays between 10 and 12 am in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, for anyone who is interested in joining.

The Community Council support the suggestion that this group associate itself with the 'Friends of Colinton Mains Park', wish them every success in their venture and hope we will hear more about their activities in the future

3. Treasurer's Report:

Chair reported on the ongoing problem to get copies of bank statements to enable the Community Council's finances to be properly audited. Statements of account are required from the HBOS branch handling our account but there has been extreme difficulty in obtaining them. The Bank has not made it clear what the problem is and trying to contact a responsible person who has the authority to deal with the matter is a lot easier said than done.

Treasurer was previously instructed to investigate moving our account to another bank and her recommendations were discussed at our meeting on 26 October 2009.

Action:

- a) Treasurer to implement the decision of our previous meeting to transfer the Community Council's account to Barclays Bank.
- b) Chair is to visit the HBOS main office, St Andrews Square and try to resolve the situation of the missing statements of account.

4. Tesco:

Concerns have been raised on several occasions over the years regarding the regular occurrence of trolleys from Tesco's store found abandoned in the area. Whilst accepting it is members of the community who are causing the problem, the Community Council consider there is a duty on the part of Tesco to prevent it from happening. Other stores seem to manage this problem but Tesco have taken no action other than providing a contact number on each trolley.

Concerns were also raised about the condition of the small patch of shrubbery on the corner before the petrol station, which belongs to the Store. Whilst the land belongs to the Store they have taken no action to maintain it and it has become an eyesore.

Action: The Chair and Vice Chair to seek to speak to the Store's management about these problems and seek a resolution.

5. Health Matter

South Edinburgh Public Partnership Forum

Heather has been appointed as the interim chair for this forum

Pentlands NP Health, Community and Employment Sub Group

Norman Tinlin, Secretary for Fairmilehead Community Council, has been appointed as Chair for this sub group which has set up an action session on 'mental health – to assess what affect the budget is having on services such as support facilities for the children of armed forces personnel serving abroad.

6. Cockmylane Path

The Secretary raised the loss of the paths used by residents in Oxfangs Green and surrounding streets to get to the shops and other amenities in Oxfangs Broadway and Brae. As there is no sign of one or other of these paths being re-instated, the Secretary proposed Cockmylane Path, which is the best alternative route, should be upgraded to provide a safe well lit pathway.

Action: it was agreed this be put forward through the Neighbourhood Partnership for funding.

It was also proposed that the Community Councillors should arrange a suitable day for a walk round the area and compile a report on areas for action.

7. A.O.C.B.

Annual General Meeting

The Chair wanted to fix the date for the next AGM in order to ensure those activities we are intending to hold on that day are well organised.

Agreed the AGM would be held on 27 September 2010

Community Council Newsletter

The Chair advised it was unlikely the 'Peak' would be published due to lack of support. With this in mind and following discussions with the Vice Chair, she was proposing the Community Council give consideration to producing their own newsletter, as a means of communicating.

The Vice Chair astounded the meeting by proposing a motto in Latin – NEC ASPERA TERRENT. Translation means "*undaunted by adversity*", which seemed a very fitting choice for a community council.

It was suggested we ask School to run a competition to provide a logo to go with the motto.

Agreed Chair and Vice Chair would progress this matter.

Colinton Mains Park

Footbridge – Chair to write to Brian Torrance about the condition of the south side of the bridge and the bridge itself. The north side of this bridge has been completely rebuilt by Carillion to current standards, with an entrance wall, handrail and beautifully-surfaced wheelchair ramp, as the flood prevention works impacted on that side and so this was part of their remit. The bridge itself is dilapidated, with no wheelchair access/egress on the south side, which is a ridiculous situation.

Portacabin – Chair to contact Scottish Water re the use of this temporary changing facility whilst the new Sports Pavilion in Colinton Mains Park is being built. There was some discussion at the drop-in session re services from the old toilets to be used for this purpose. Water supply and electricity are reportedly fine but Scottish Water raised some doubt about the condition of the sewer, indicating that they suspected a there was a blockage somewhere in the area between the old toilets and the bowling green. This will need to be investigated.

Landscaping – Chair to contact Stuart Mackay, Carillion re the landscaping to ensure it fits in with the new timetable caused by Scottish Water's work in the park

Pavement Repair

The Vice Chair reported that the damaged pavement at Oxbgangs Road North opp No.139 (at lamp post number ODH22) was resurfaced on Thursday 28 January 2010, thanks to the improved weather conditions. Clarence ref no 78381.

8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Firrhill Community Council will be held in the Colinton Mains Community Centre on Monday, 22nd February 2010 at 7pm.