

# Firrhill Community Council

## Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 28 March 2011

### Held in Colinton Mains Bowling Club

<b>Present:</b>
Cllr H Levy (Chair)
Cllr P Wright, (Secretary)
Cllr A Hunter, (V Chair)
Cllr P Podd, (Treasurer)
Cllr L Linn,
Cllr G Hunter
Cllr J Napier (Minutes)
Cllr

<b>Ex Officio Present:</b>
Cllr E Aitken, CEC
Cllr

<b>Apologies Submitted:</b>
Cllr M J O'Brien
Cllr

<b>Ex Officio Apologies:</b>
Cllr J Rust, CEC
Cllr E Barry, CEC
PC D Crawford, LBP Oxfangs

<b>Not Present &amp; No Apologies Submitted:</b>
Cllr

The meeting started at: 07:00. Cllr H Levy in the Chair.

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
Approval of Previous Minute	Draft minutes of meeting held on 28 February 2011 were reviewed. There being no corrections the draft minutes were moved for approval by L Linn and seconded by G Hunter. Agreed	J N to publish
Matters Arising from Previous Minute not otherwise on Agenda	<p>Newsletter – Chair gave an update on its distribution. Secretary requires copies for CM Community Centre.</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities Meeting – date for this training session will be 27 April with a 6.00 – 6:30 start. Cost of the event will be shared. Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre are providing the catering.</p> <p>Telecommunications Mast – see under Planning Report</p> <p>Fifty Years Birthday – dubiety raised concerning the date Firrhill Community Council was first formed. Chair attempting to find out from original members still resident in the community but so far inaugural date is unconfirmed.</p>	

Police Report	No report available	
Councillor's Report	<p><b>LBP Newsletter</b> – due to concerns about the level of information that was being published in their newsletter, Lothian and Borders Police have revised its format. The revised publication will only provide information of a more general nature. Detailed local information on crime will continue to be given verbally by police officers attending community meetings.</p> <p>This was discussed at length by the Community Council and the formed opinion was that information on local crime is of more interest and therefore more likely to heighten awareness within the community than the general messages issued by the Police.</p> <p>The risk of inaccuracies within the Council's minutes from the recording of verbal information may result in no report on crime committed within the area being published other than as statistical information.</p> <p><b>Household Refuse Bins</b> – the complaint about the bins not being returned to the place from which they were taken has been raised with the CEC Cleansing Dept. The Dept have promised to ensure their staff are duly reminded.</p> <p><b>Dog Fouling</b> – this problem has been identified as a priority issue by the PNP Safety Sub Group. Dog Wardens have been asked to consider the use of on-the-spot fines.</p> <p>Unkempt Ground – this is the small area of land on Colinton Mains Drive at the corner of the roadway into the Tesco garage/store, which is in need of maintenance. To enable representations to be made, we need to determine who the landowner is.</p>	<p>EA to raise with the new Inspector</p> <p>EA to check ownership</p>
Chair's Report	<p><b>Environmental Get-Together Feedback:</b> this event was held on 24 March in the Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre with the aim of reviewing all that had happened, was still planned to occur and what we would like to see happen in the future and address any outstanding issues. An invitation list was created and invitations were sent out. A similar format to that used in the 2009 Environmental Stakeholders event was used.</p> <p>A number of outstanding issues was discussed along with possible funding avenues for their achievement and designated person/group to action agreed.</p> <p>Huge amount of info gathered  Jim Granger was in attendance  Possibility of three new members  Format was appreciated by many  Contact details for Mackenzie Construction  Flood plain next to Oxfangs PS – who wants it to become a wetland  Discussion on the land and deeds  Action needs to be taken to ensure people are safeguarded to planting, etc.  Potholes  Community Map – review of all work done in the area – nothing new.  Query re corner at Oxfangs Avenue/Oxfangs Road North  CM Community Centre very busy</p>	

Special Agenda Item	Association of Scottish Community Councils: Election of Area Representative: The Biennial Area Representative Elections are underway for the Edinburgh City Council Local Authority Area. Community Councils are entitled to make a nomination. No action – item noted	
Treasurer's Report	Still to receive the accounts back from the auditors. With this process having taken longer than originally expected there is now a degree of urgency as the Council's grant will not be paid until the City Council are satisfied the accounts are in order.	Chair to contact EB
Planning Report	<p>See attached report (Appendix 1) for details of applications and decisions as recorded in the weekly planning bulletins from 28 February to 21 March 2011.</p> <p>With reference to Application 11/00359/FUL for the proposed erection of a 15m <b>Telecomms Mast</b> plus 2 ground level cabinets on the pavement at <b>Colinton Mains Drive</b>. This had been discussed at the previous meeting where it had been agreed that an objection to the application would be submitted and that a meeting with the Case Officer dealing with the application would be organised by JR.</p> <p>The Council's objection has been submitted. No notification re meeting.</p> <p>Noted by members that the area of pavement covered by the application has been marked out inferring the application has been granted. There has been no decision recorded in the weekly planning bulletin.</p>	<p>JN</p> <p>EA to check with JR JN to check with Case Officer</p>
Reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies	<p><b>PNP Funding Panel: 16 March 2011 attended by HL</b></p> <p>The panel successfully distributed the remaining budget (£17,812) for 2010/11 leaving only a token £3 remaining. The new community grant fund applications were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pentland View GT500 Project – full award of £1,220</li> <li>• Oxfangs Neighbourhood Council – full award of £2,660, however it was noted that the funding was covering multiple events/activities and should in future be applied for separately</li> <li>• Nether Currie PIPER – £500 full award</li> <li>• 31st Edinburgh Juniper Green Scouts – declined, did not meet criteria</li> <li>• Colinton Local History Society – full award of £1,689</li> <li>• Edinburgh United – declined, more appropriate funding open to this group (SFA)</li> <li>• Currie Fair Committee – full award of £1,555</li> <li>• Dunedin Canmore Housing Association – partial award of £2,575, this project should be using IT equipment from Oxfangs neighbourhood Centre.</li> <li>• Ratho Primary School – full award of £3,500</li> <li>• Buckstone Youth Project – full award of £3,550, however it was noted that the funding was covering multiple requests/activities (IT equipment, volunteer training, replacing old equipment etc) and should in future be applied for separately</li> <li>• 60th Morningside Scout Group – full award of £560</li> </ul> <p>In the future, where the FP members feel an application is for multiple funding, the applicant will be asked to apply separately for items/events not</p>	

	related to a defined project. I.e. events throughout the year	
	<p><b>Environment and Transport Group Meeting: 7 March 2011: attended by PP in place of PW.</b></p> <p><b>Winter Weather:</b> an extensive report has been produced by Lorna Farquhar, Task Force Manager for the Central Roads Team. Still waiting on a list of the footpaths that are prioritised for winter maintenance.</p> <p>The Chair gave a report about the social impact the severe winter weather had on some sections of the community. This report would be added to the report produced by the department and form part of their ongoing review of arrangements. (Copy attached as Appendix 2).</p> <p><b>Recycling:</b> whilst householders are asked to separate cardboard and plastic for recycling, it appears the collection staff involved in the process of gathering these recycle materials put them into the same container. Group propose to invite an officer to the next meeting to find out why.</p> <p><b>Community Forums:</b> social networking sites have been trialled and found to be generally good. The following points being noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Software is usually free therefore not costing the Council for its use.</li> <li>• Sites have capacity to attach and download papers and information which can save space on PC's. Everything is held within the site.</li> <li>• Topics can be raised and membership can be restricted, certainly in the case of the Sub Group users of the forum would be restricted to members and key officers and only by invite.</li> <li>• The sites can promote good dialog and broad discussions which would extend time sub group members have to debate actions and objectives with officers and other invited partners.</li> </ul> <p>A demonstration was provided with members taken through a simple example showing message threads and what the symbol's meant. In the general discussion and questions that followed, it was stated that the forum would have a limited membership, essentially of this group and a few invited guests. In this scenario, abuse would be highly unlikely. A check will be carried out to ensure members have the technical necessities to use the forum.</p> <p>It was considered that rather than receiving many emails when discussing a topic this method would see members only joining a forum to discuss a topic if they were offering info and or asking a key partners a question. It was envisaged that by using the forum, group topics could be discussed and taken near to a conclusion before the next meeting, thereby speeding up the decision making process.</p> <p>Members were invited to suggest topics for the trial with transport, environment and suggestions for the presentation from the recycle &amp; sustainable team being proposed.</p>	HL to provide a copy for the minutes
	<b>Local Health Action Group Meeting 28 February 2011:</b> Chair gave a report (see Appendix 3).	
Correspond/	See attached list under Appendix 4	

AOCB	<p>AH reported on damage to <b>bridle path</b> caused by Mackenzie Construction workmen driving a tractor the full length of the path from Colinton Mains Drive entrance to their workings at Oxfangs Road North</p> <p>Flood Prevention: SEPA have lettered relevant householders inviting them to sign up to their 'Floodline' direct warning service. This service notifies those who register when a river flood warning is issued for this area, thus giving people a chance to prepare and protect their property and reduce potential damage.</p> <p>PNP Public Meeting: 19 April</p> <p>Firrhill High School: this is its fiftieth year</p> <p>Garden cuttings have been dumped in open spaces</p>	
Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting	<p>25<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The venue will be the Board Room in the Oxfangs Care Offices, 12 Firrhill Neuk. The Board Room will not be able to accommodate many visitors</p>	

**The meeting ended at: 09:10 pm**

***Social Impact of Severe Weather  
Oxgangs December 2010***

The heavy snow of December 2010 had a social impact on all members/ages of the community of Oxgangs, although it has to be noted that people were very aware of making sure vulnerable older members of the community were not left cold or hungry and that clearing paths and digging cars out became almost like a street party atmosphere. It developed into an opportunity for people to strengthen and nurture community spirit. This needed to be highlighted more, not the extraordinary events just the hum drum ones.

But there is a section of the community that are always hit the hardest and forgotten or ignored in these difficult situations, this is the young families that either choose not to claim benefits or are just above the benefit threshold.

There was next to no public transport, no 5, 16 or 18 buses for two weeks which meant that for some it was not feasible to commute/ walk to work if not at work, No pay! Or work was closed due to the weather, No pay! Of course if there was more local business, people would not need to travel so far for employment.

Our schools were closed for two weeks. If children are not at school you can't go to work, No pay! Post offices closed no access to money, cash machines empty no access to money. You are housebound so are using heating you would not normally use. Using food for meals you would not normally cook. When you are just managing to keep your head above water events like this are enough to tip the balance into the red and it also takes much longer for these families to recover.

When I suggested the 'Emergency Food Parcels' the stock reply I got was "I won't qualify as I am not a pensioner", "I do not have a drink problem" or "a drug problem" and what I found the most unsettling was "I do not want to be judged by Social Workers and deemed a failure".

There was lots of publicity pictures about the 'Emergency Food Parcels' being delivered to older people.

Pentland Community Centre opened and provided free hot soup for one day, a good idea if not enough, but again it was targeted at older people, who incidentally were unable to access the centre due to the amount of snow and walking conditions, Young families were deemed as 'not' in need or 'vulnerable'.

We seem to have a society that rewards failure and have become experts at creating hidden poverty. We MUST get better at creating and nurturing a more EQUAL society.

***Heather Levy  
Chair  
Firrhill Community Council  
February 2011***

WEEKLY PLANNING BULLETIN

Date: 28 February 2011

No applications, no proposal of application notices and no decisions recorded for Ward 08

Ward 01 Almond - green belt application 11/00468/PAN for the deletion of planning condition 4 of outline planning permission 06/05149/out which reads: "The maximum number of residential units on the site shall be restricted to 610 units on land adjacent to Queensferry Road, Kirkliston"

Ward 10 Meadows/Morningside – application 11/00540/PAN for the alteration and extension of existing James Gillespie's Primary School, and associated works, including erection of new school gym/assembly hall and nursery and internal addition of two classrooms, removal of temporary decant buildings and demolition of the existing nursery and gymnasium building at James Gillespie's High School 57 Lauderdale Street, James Gillespie's Primary School Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh, EH9 1BD

Date: 7 March 2011

No applications, no proposal of application notices and no decision recorded for Ward 08

Ward 10 Meadows/Morningside - application 11/00542/PAN for redevelopment of existing James Gillespie's High School, and associated works, including demolition of existing buildings (except Bruntsfield House), erection of new school and associated buildings and including temporary decant buildings, relocation of services, alterations to boundary walls and synthetic pitch and floodlighting at James Gillespie's High School 57 Lauderdale Street, James Gillespie's Primary School, Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh, EH9 1BD

Date: 14 March 2011

No applications and proposals of application notices for Ward 08

Ward 12 Leith Walk – application 11/00725/PAN for the residential development of 127 flats on a site previously approved for 163 flats (planning applications 03/02270/FUL, 06/00184/OUT and 06/00184/REM at 80 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QZ

Decision: Application: 11/00180/FUL to erect a new single storey extension to existing dwelling to form bed-sit with 1st floor roof terrace with alterations to block off existing windows, form new gable kitchen window and new patio doors at first floor to roof terrace at 19 Oxfangs Green, Edinburgh, EH13 9JG has been granted

Decision: Application: 11/00317/FUL to alter and extend property at 18 Colinton Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH13 9AW has been granted

Date: 21 March 2011

No applications, proposal of application notices or decisions recorded

## **Oxgangs Local Health Action Group Meeting**

### **Venue: Oxgangs Care Offices**

**Date: 28.2.11**

Attendees: Bill Hannah (Chair), Heather Levy (Firrhill Community Council ), Evelyn Parker (Firrhill High School) , Jill Punton ( Edinburgh and Lothian Council on Alcohol) Elaine Aitken (CEC Councillor), Norman Tinlin ( Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership) , Mirren Vanko (Pentland Community Centre), Michael Forrester (Oxgangs Care)

### **Welcome / Introductions**

Bill welcomed everyone to today's meeting and forwarded apologies from Steve Aiken, David Crawford, Roslyn Ranger, Peggy Wright and Andrew McCallum

### **Minutes of previous meeting**

These had been sent out to all on the projects database, along with the Agenda prior to today's meeting and were verified as accurate

### **Review of work so far**

Bill provided an overview of work undertaken since the last meeting:

#### **1. Development of a Community Directory:**

Bill highlight the development of the directory had been slow; agreement has now been given from 'Keep Well' to replicate their directory for SW Edinburgh and to localise this by including organisations who have returned the directory templates and the direct approaches Bill has made with, for example the Community Pharmacists in the area

Mike is still to meet with Graham Budd to explore other (on-line) options for this resource and linking in with Neighbourhood Partnership web based work they are undertaking on community mapping the NP area.

#### **2. Development of a Community Map Resource:**

Bill had brought and displayed the latest version of the community map for the group.

This had been produced in-house by NHS Lothian and has been used by Bill as an engagement tool to explore with people at various inputs throughout the area where local services are.

Bill also discussed a recent meeting with Dunedin Canmore Housing Association, who had expressed an interest in developing the community map as a resource with the Group and to incorporate this map into their 'welcome pack' for their tenants, representatives from



the Housing Association and their design company representative met with Bill and the NHS Lothian map maker, to explore design options for the map. At the meeting, initial commitment from the Housing Association seemed to have shifted and they now wanted to know what 'budget' the NHS was putting into the development of this resource. Bill re-iterated that there was no budget for this piece of work other than the services in kind provided by NHS Lothian namely in granting permission to use its geographical map (via their Ordnance Survey contract) and the direct work/support of Bill as an NHS Lothian employee, to coordinate the work. The design company agreed to provide details of costs for the re-designing of the map and this will be brought to the Group for a discussion on how this area of work can be progressed

### **3. Action Plan paper:**

Bill highlighted to the Group that he has continued to work / meet Jo Kennedy, on the development of an Action plan which captures the work he and the Group have undertaken. This is a requirement for funding bodies.

### **4. Oxfangs/ Firrhill Health Event – Planning update:**

A short life working group had been set up to development this event and an update was provided to the group and outstanding tasks agreed.

A discussion also took place around evaluation procedure and process on the day and Bill has agreed to provide evaluation sheets for all participating organisations and requested volunteers from the Group to encourage and support people at the event in completing a questionnaire (to ascertain level of awareness of local services, which services individuals use locally and what people felt were priorities to improving their health care were)

### **5. A general discussion then took place on the focus of today's meeting;**

"Information gathering from local people and agencies about services in the area"

It was acknowledged that a key strand of our work was to capture local people's and service provider's perspectives of services and how existing services were coordinated, promoted and used in the area. The project already uses a variety of techniques to capture this; namely the questionnaire used during Bills' inputs to groups/ meetings with service providers and the templates created for the community directory, but there is a need for this information to be collated, disseminated and supported to develop ideas/actions in the future. Bill has suggested this topic is kept on the Groups agenda to retain focus on achieving this objective

### **6. AOCB**

Norman mentioned the 'Get On' launch event taking place on 3.3.11. Most people present had been sent the promotional flier via Sue Cameron.

### **7. DTNM: Tuesday 22nd March 20011. Time: 9:30 – 11:30**

Venue as usual will be in Oxfangs Care Offices. Heather Levy will book room

CORRESPONDENCE: 28 FEBRUARY TO 19 MARCH 2011 (SECRETARY)

By e-mail (forwarded to Firrhill CC members with this facility)

1. f. by H Levy: copy of Community Bulb Plant Report sent to Craig Dunlop.
2. Scott Neill: EIT sub-group Minutes (17 Jan. '11) + Agenda for 7 March.
3. f. by J Napier: copy of e-mail to Brian Fleming, Council Case Officer, re Planning Application for mobile 'phone base etc on Colinton Mains Dr (Firrhill CC against using pavement for this purpose).
4. M Cockburn: 'Welfare Reform – who benefits?', Norton Park Conference Hall, 14 March (for disabled).
5. G Turner obo Cllr Jenny Dawe: Leader's Report for March '11.
6. Bill Hannah: poster for Oxfangs & Firrhill Health Event, 11 March, ONC
7. f. by H Levy: info for Firrhill CC Environmental Get-together, 24 March, 2 pm, ONC
8. Dorothy Hill: Police Board Newsletter
9. Cllrs Aitken & Barry: TTRO for Colinton Mains Terr, 10/11 March; road/footway repairs.
10. Graham Budd: re Pentlands EIT sub-group new internet forum with links.
11. f. by Cllr Rust: response from David Virgo, CEC, re large puddle reported by A Hunter near Oxfangs Primary – blocked drain has been cleared.
12. ASCC Online Bulletin, March Issue 1, including open letter to Edinburgh City CCs.
13. f. by Cllr Barry: copy of letter to Mark Turley/Andrew Burns re lack of gritting on 9 Mar.
14. J McIntosh, SfC: application for licence for shows in Tesco car park, 6-10 April.
15. S Lansdowne: maps with proposed waiting restrictions in S & W Edinburgh.
16. S Smith, SW Office: Pentlands NP Public Meeting, 22 March, Fairmilehead Church.
17. K Morrison, SfC: reply to Cllr Barry's letter re lack of gritting (detail of streets gritted).
18. M Driscoll: info re Red Nose Day Community Cash Fund (closes 18 March).
19. S Williams: re Big Lunch Scotland Campaign (planning pack available).
20. M Driscoll: Cockburn Assoc Civic Forum meeting, 29 March, 4.30 pm, City Chambers.
21. f. by Cllr Barry: TTRO for Colinton Mains Place, 21-23 March; road/footway repairs.
22. f. by S Neill: database of funding contacts for community groups, etc.
23. M Driscoll: ASCC Bulletin, March Issue 2.
24. Cllrs Aitken & Rust: responses re complaint about green bins being left blocking pavements after emptying: there is no consistent approach to this, but a meeting will be held to try to come up with a policy.
25. S Neill: request for articles for Pentlands April Digest.

By post

1. 'Health Link': Spring edition of NHS newspaper (for distribution to members).