

Firrhill Community Council

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 25 April 2011 Held in Oxgangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk.

Members:

H Levy (Chair)
A Hunter (Vice Chair)
P Wright (Secretary)
PI Podd (Treasurer)
L Linn
G Hunter
MJ O'Brien
J Napier (Minutes Sec)

Ex-Officio Members:

E Aitken, Councillor, CEC
E Barry, Councillor, CEC
J Rust, Councillor, CEC
D Crawford, LBP, Oxgangs Police Stn

Visitors:

Apologies:

D Crawford; J Rust; E Aitken

E Barry – part meeting

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

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
Approval of Previous Minute	Draft minutes of meeting held on 28 March 2011 were reviewed. JN apologised for the lateness of its circulation which had resulted in a revision to the Chair's report not having been included. There being no other corrections the draft minutes were moved for approval by L Linn and seconded by P Wright. Agreed	J N to publish
Matters Arising	<p>PNP EIT Group Meeting 7 March: The Secretary has received and circulated to members a copy of the PowerPoint presentation on Winter Maintenance Review given at this meeting. (see item 3 under Correspondence Update). The presentation group are intending that future consultation will take place with Community Councils.</p> <p>Planning Report - Telecom Mast: this is with reference to planning application 11/00359/FUL for the proposed erection of a 15m Telecoms Mast plus 2 ground level cabinets on the pavement at Colinton Mains Drive.</p> <p>It had been noted by members that the area of pavement covered by the application has been marked out inferring the application has been granted but there has been no decision recorded in the weekly planning bulletin.</p> <p>JN contacted the relevant Planning Officer and received confirmation on 4 April that no decision has been taken in regard to this application. (see item 4 under Correspondence)</p>	
Community Police Report	No report received	
Ward Councillor's Reports	No reports received	

<p>Environmental Get-together Feedback</p>	<p>Chair apologised that her report is still in the drafting stage. The following issues were discussed:</p> <p>Reports of organised dog-fights in Colinton Mains Park</p> <p>Reports on new areas of flooding caused by the flood prevention work.</p> <p>Reports on dog fouling and irresponsible owners. Reported that there is apparently a pilot programme taking place in another area of the city to try and resolve this problem but the City Council will want to assess it before extending it to other areas. The use of more prominent signage in the Park and spot fines were discussed.</p> <p>The Chair reported that many of the community members who attended the get-together meeting have since contacted her to say that they were keen to get involved in the environmental projects arising from this gathering.</p> <p>The Chair also proposed that the next issue of the newsletter, which is scheduled to go out in May, should be devoted to environmental issues arising from this gathering. This was accepted.</p>	<p>HL</p>
<p>Flood Prevention Area Walkabout 18 April 2011</p>	<p>Walk by H Levy, A Hunter and G Hunter started at the bridge at Oxgangs Road North (ORN), observing the work being carried out in the garden of 4 Colinton Mains Road where the installation of a pump shed will adversely impact on the future use of the back garden. This additional work has resulted in the garden remaining closed off to the resident and damaged the recently restored front and side grass areas and flower beds. Paving and the large stone holding the metal fence on stairway have cracked.</p> <p>The walk continued along the path towards Colinton Mains Drive (CMD); there were various items of rubbish in the burn, and the bank is badly affected with wild garlic and hogweed. Where work is being carried out to try to get rid of the long-standing problem of a huge puddle, pieces of wood and long nails were found lying beside the path – an obvious attraction for and danger to children – a workman removed them whilst we were there. Persons walking on to the burn path from the connecting path from Colinton Mains Green may be at risk from fast moving cyclists due to the high fencing and hedges on either side obscuring vision of the burn path.</p> <p>We crossed over CMD to the path leading to Colinton School; the banks here are also covered in wild garlic and hogweed, and the tarmac path had widespread dog-fouling. Saplings in the area of the wooden bridge have been badly vandalised: one is missing, one snapped off, and one growing at an angle because the support strap is broken.</p> <p>Returned to the bridge at ORN and, proceeding east along the burn, found another pump cabinet being installed near the bridge at St Mark's School. Going towards the new play area, wild garlic and hogweed abound again; the burn is reasonably clear, but there were a few beer cans and several beer bottles in it. On Colinton Mains Park, the grass space between the football pitch and the play area was covered by a lot of dumped rubbish.</p> <p>Checked the construction site ("flood grass area"); McKenzie (contractor) is starting to clear the site, but sandy grit is still covering cars, houses and roads in the immediate area. There is still little factual information on when this ground is going to be returned to Oxgangs Primary School and there are rumours that it is proposed to turn into a wetland area for the school instead of playing fields.</p> <p>The school in response to our enquiries have denied any involvement. It is understood that the Edinburgh Schools Project own the land but it is maintained by AMY, who may have the authority to develop it as they see</p>	<p>AH</p>

	<p>fit.</p> <p>The Secretary has written to the local councillors and MSP to have the matter clarified.</p>	
Treasurer's Report	<p>Treasurer advised that she had still to receive the accounts back from the auditor although it appeared that the Council officers no longer required the audit to be carried out.</p> <p>Reported that the funds stood at £2561.84 with a few expenses still to be paid.</p> <p><i>(Note: Accounts returned to the Treasurer by EB on his arrival later in the meeting)</i></p>	PP
Planning Applications Report	<p>See attached report (Appendix 1) for details of applications and decisions as recorded in the weekly planning bulletins from 28 March to 18 April 2011 for the Firrhill Ward.</p> <p>Members discussed application 11/00572/FUL for the erection of Infill screens to the ground & second floor covered walkways to improve security within the blocks at 1 Oxgangs House, Edinburgh, EH13 9HE.</p>	
PNP Report	Community Safety Meeting	AH
PNP Report	Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership- Community Conference: This event was held on the 16 th April in the City Chambers Business Centre. A report on the event is attached as Appendix 2.	JN
Correspond/	See attached list under Appendix 3	PW
AOCB	<p>Pentlands National Park – Consultation on Charging for Car Parking: Chair received notice that the Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee has asked that a consultation be made about the introduction of car parking charges in the Regional Park. It is proposed to ask visitors to pay a small charge for parking at selected sites. The income would be used solely to support the environmental and visitor management services in the Park, e.g. path management and maintenance, operation of visitor centres, habitat management, interpretation and signage etc.</p> <p>Four car parks are currently being considered - Threipmuir, Harlaw, Bonaly and Flotterstone. The Regional Park Committee is keen to hear views by post, fax or e-mail by Friday 27 May.</p> <p>Comments made to her included the thought that folk would just park less considerably on the verges outside the pay area; there is the cost of policing/collecting the money and that cash in machines at remote unsupervised sites might be prone to theft. Suggested that the Park's Joint Committee might get more revenue more easily if they put notices at these sites asking for donations to help with upkeep through a "Just giving" website, when gift aid could be collected on donations.</p>	HL No action
	<p>Roles and Responsibilities Training Event: Chair confirmed arrangements for this event being held in the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesday, 27th April. Persons are being asked to attend for 6.00pm to allow time for the buffet, provided by ONC, to be served before the training session starts at 6.30 pm.</p> <p>Monica Hoenigmann, who is a member of the Quality Improvement Team for the CEC Children and Families Department, has agreed to act as the lead facilitator for the general part of the event, with additional support</p>	HL

	from Scott Neill and Graham Budd when groups are formed to look at the individual roles.	
	Pentlands Community Safety Panel: seeking to promote the distribution of leaflets covering safety issues at local events. Would like to be advised of dates and venues of such events in order that they can have a presence.	
Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting	23rd May 2011 at 7.00pm. The venue will be the Board Room in the Oxgangs Care Offices, 12 Firrhill Neuk . The Board Room is not able to accommodate many visitors thus the Council are asking those who wish to attend to advise the Secretary beforehand.	PW

The meeting ended at: 09:15 pm

WEEKLY PLANNING BULLETINS

[Date: 28 March 2011](#)

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

Ward 17 Portobello/Craigmillar - application 11/00946/PAN for mixed tenure housing and flats with small urban park + commercial unit, mixed use residential and commercial units on Taylor family site at Cairntows Park, Duddingston Road West, Edinburgh

[Date: 4 April 2011](#)

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

Ward 09 Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart - application 11/00823/PAN for material alterations to planning approval 06/01007 to substitute part of the residential development for student housing, and reconfiguration of the public realm, (86 no residential units and retail to be maintained as per previous consent.) at site 75 metres southwest of 19 West Tollcross, Edinburgh.

[Date: 11 April 2011](#)

Application 11/00816/FUL for a driveway run-in at 75 Colinton Mains Grove, Edinburgh, EH13 9DG.

Application 11/00942/FUL for a change of use from office to dental laboratory at 78 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh, EH13 9BJ.

Decision: Application: 11/00369/FUL to alter and change of use from vacant retail unit to hot food takeaway, and form ventilation flue on roof at 230A Oxfords Road North, Edinburgh, EH13 9BQ has been refused.

[Date: 18 April 2011](#)

Application 11/00572/FUL for the erection of Infill screens to the ground & second floor covered walkways to improve security within the blocks at 1 Oxfords House, Edinburgh, EH13 9HE.

PENTLANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP – COMMUNITY CONFERENCE DEVELOPING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN FOR 2011 - 2014

It was drawn to my attention that I had received a special mention in the agenda for this meeting to produce a report on the above conference which was held on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Taking into consideration that, with the exception of only two members, the Community Council attended this event en-mass, it almost seemed a bit of a waste of time. However the fact that so many members did attend perhaps reflects on the level of interest this conference evoked.

The event itself was held on the 16th April in the business centre at the City Chambers and as the invitation stated, it was for the purpose of giving community representatives an opportunity to tell the partnership team what local issues were important to us so that they can work, with their partners and service providers, to help improve local services. The information gathered would assist in forming the foundation of the new Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Local Community Plan.

A fair number of people attended and it will be interesting to see in the forthcoming reports of the event how many community councils and other community groups were represented.

Cllr Jason Rust, Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Convener and Stewart Farquhar, Acting SW Neighbourhood Manager opened the event explaining the importance of having an away day and setting out how it would be conducted.

The organisers had set out six tables with each table representing a specific topic for discussion. The delegates were divided into six groups and each group moved sequentially round the tables raising issues about the respective topics that were important to them and as a group determining which issues had greatest priority.

The end result should provide the partnership team facilitators with a range of issues identified by the delegates and the level of importance attached to each by the six individual groups. How wide that range of issues was and what was found to be the priority issues overall is not known at this time and Council members will have to wait for the Partnership Team to produce their findings.

I thought this method of conducting the event was good but the organisers failed to ensure large delegations were distributed across the groups. This resulted in our members forming part of only two groups, whereas we had the potential for a member to be in each group. In this particular instance it probably made little difference but should be considered for future events where we wish to promote a specific issue.

The topics covered the various remits of the Neighbourhood Partnerships and their respective sub groups ranging from transport, the environment and green space to health, education and care in the community.

Whilst the importance of the event may be seen as giving communities an opportunity to speak out, I think it benefits the Partnership Team more than the community representatives and that we should view this as one of the many consultations and representations that will be made by all the partnership groups/stakeholders in order to achieve improved services within the communities.

JN

CORRESPONDENCE: 29 March – 20 April

By e-mail (forwarded to FCC Members with e-mail facility)

1. M Driscoll re Personalisation & Outcomes Checkpoint Group within Council's Health & Social Care Dept. [H Levy has applied]
2. f. by P I Podd re Community 'models' wanted for 'Sustainable Edinburgh 2020'. Vision: "that Edinburgh will be a low carbon, resource-efficient city delivering a resilient local economy and vibrant flourishing communities in a rich natural setting."
3. S Smith re PNP Conference: Sat 16 April, City Chambers.
4. f. by J Napier: copy of his e-mail to Brian Fleming, Council's Case Officer for proposed mobile 'phone mast etc beside Tesco: pavement already marked out but nothing in weekly planning bulletins to state that application has been granted.
5. L Wood, SfC re Council potentially forming a partnership with an external organisation to provide our waste, street cleaning and grounds maintenance services.
6. B Hannah: Local Health Action Group Minutes of 22 March meeting + evaluation.
7. f. by Cllr Aitken: TTRO for special event at Dreghorn Barracks, 15 April.
8. D Cairns, Secy, Portobello CC re concern over Clause 11(g) of CC Model Constitution reducing from 50 to 20 signatures needed to call for a special meeting [FCC members generally don't have a problem with this.]
9. C Padgett, Edinburgh City Libraries re updating our CC's info on "Your Edinburgh Your Information" [done by FCC Secretary]
10. f. by H Levy: Pentland Youth Forum, 20 April, Pentland Community Centre.
11. K Reeves, Parks & Greenspace Officer re Wildlife Info Centre Hedgehog Survey for Lothians and Scottish Borders.
12. M Driscoll: Waste Management Workshop, 27 April; places for six city CC members.
13. D Bewsey, Colinton Amenity Assoc: comments requested re Transport & Severe Weather on new N'hood P'ship e-forum [H Levy has responded.]
14. f. by H Levy: 'Survey Monkey' re Edinburgh Public P'ship Forums web pages.
15. f. by H Levy: Pentland NP Papers for Business Meeting, 19 April in City Chambers: Draft Minutes for Pentlands NP, 15/02; Environment, Infrastructure & Transport Group, 07/03; Funding Panel 16/03; Health, Community & Employment Group 17/03.
16. Scott Neill re SW & Pentlands NPs 'Meet the Funders' Event, 25 April, 2-5 pm, at Gate 55 (old Westburn Primary School).
17. PC D Crawford: apologies for not being able to attend FCC's April or May meetings.

By Post

1. NHS Health Link: Spring 2011 (for distribution to members).
2. SEPA View: Spring 2011 (Environmental Protection Agency mag.)
3. City Council's Development Plan (for distribution to members).

Anyone wishing to view any of the above please contact FCC Secretary.

Correspondence Update: 21 – 28 April

By email

1. TTRO for Pentland Avenue: closed outside No.3, for 2 days 27th & 28th April for crane
2. Cllr Rust: re rumour that field at Oxfords PS is to become a wetland. Nobody on Council knows where this originated. As part of Edinburgh Schools Partnership estate, any change of use or works to be carried out would have to be approved by ESP. As per contract, Amey will maintain the area.
3. Cllr Rust: copy of Winter Maintenance Review powerpoint presentation at PNP Business meeting.
4. Cllr Rust: consultation by Pentlands Hill Regional Park Joint Committee on introduction of charges for car parking (see under AOCB)