

Firrhill Community Council

Minute of Meeting held in Oxfangs Care Offices,

Firrhill Neuk on 23 May 2011

Members:

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

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Visitors:

Apologies:

L Linn; D Crawford.

E Barry – non-attend

J Rust & E Aitken part meeting

The meeting started at 7:00 pm. H Levy in the Chair.

The Chair gave notice that the newly elected MSP for the Pentland electoral district, Gordon MacDonald, was attending tonight's meeting. *Not found until after the meeting, he sent an apology at 05:08 pm for not attending due to adverse weather conditions.*

Agenda Item	Narrative	Action & Owner
Approval of Previous Minute	Draft minutes of meeting held on 25 April 2011 were reviewed. There being no corrections the draft minutes were moved for approval by P Wright and seconded by G Hunter. Agreed	JN to publish
Matters Arising	<p>Flood Prevention: AH reported he received a response from Jim Carlyle and action had been taken to complete the gardening work. New top soil and grass had been laid.</p> <p>Oxfangs Primary School – Playing Fields: This relates to information having been received about the development of this area as a 'wetlands' instead of re-instating the original playing field. Chair reported that inquiries made by Cllr Rust has identified that the suggestion of a Wetland area was first brought to light by David Hall, (Business Manager Firrhill High School) in February 2010, however at this point there was no clear direction and time scales for the flood prevention works to be completed and any discussions of a wetland area was put on hold until confirmation and agreement was</p>	

	<p>sought by all parties.</p> <p>The site has still not been cleared of all the remains of its use by the flood prevention contractor's site compound. Tom Dougal, Flood Prevention Team confirmed that he is in discussions with the school on the level of re-instatement required to put the playing field back into the same condition it was in prior to it being used by the flood prevention team.</p> <p>A further communication indicates that there has been ongoing discussion between staff in CEC flood prevention team, Alex Tweeddale (AT) who is the PPP Contracts monitoring Manager and since this is a PPP school Edinburgh Schools Partnership (ESP) as CEC partners and Amey, the FM provider responsible for ground maintenance at the school.</p> <p>It reports that there has been ongoing flood prevention works on this grass area (it is not a football pitch in the contract) since 2005 and it is only in the last few months satisfactory plans to move forward the reinstatement of the area have been progressed with flood prevention colleagues.</p> <p>The situation at present is that the grass area will be brought back to a satisfactory grass condition for use by the school but obviously it now forms part of the flood prevention plan and may be water logged at certain times of heavy rainfall.</p> <p>Amey will maintain the grass area as per contract and the area is part of ESP estate during the period of the PPP contract period. Any change of use or works to be carried out must be approved by ESP.</p> <p>Confirmed by AT that they have received a scope of works from the CEC Flood Prevention Team in relation to the reinstatement of the grassed area within the Oxfords School grounds, their partner & provider ESP/Amey are currently reviewing and collating a quotation on behalf of the Flood Prevention Department, which hopefully will be taken forward in the next couple of weeks.</p>	
Community Police Report	<p>Received from PC 3034-A David Crawford</p> <p>The following report is a combination of information and incidents covering the period of April 2011 up to and including 19th May 2011.</p> <p>The total number of incidents recorded and dealt with within the Oxfords Station area was 658. In relation to the different beats this number can be broken down as:</p> <p>PF56 – Fairmilehead/Swanston/Buckstone - 159</p> <p>PF57 – Firrhill/Oxfords/Colinton Mains - 301</p> <p>PF58 – Bonaly/Redford/Dreghorn - 198</p> <p>The Local Policing Priorities for Ward 8 decided upon in February were :-</p> <p>Youth issues at the derelict 'Fairmile Inn' to cut down on anti-social behaviour. Patrols are continuing to monitor this area.</p> <p>A Vandalism Awareness Campaign. Local officers provided formal inputs to Primary 5-7 classes in local schools to raise the level of knowledge amongst the children re the negative effects the crime of vandalism has on</p>	

	<p>communities.</p> <p>Parking problems in the Pentland View and Caiystane area. As can be imagined, this issue continues to receive attention and is ongoing.</p> <p>I will be attending the upcoming St. Mark's Primary School Fair on Saturday 4th June 2011 between 10am and 1pm. Please feel free to come along and support this enjoyable event – you might even be able to have a wee shot in the police car!</p> <p>CRIME</p> <p>6th April, a window was broken at a flat in Oxgangs Street.</p> <p>11th April a house was broken into in Oxgangs House.</p> <p>19th April 2011, a window was broken at a flat in Oxgangs Street.</p> <p>26th April, a garden hut was broken into in Oxgangs Avenue.</p> <p>27th April, a car tyre was found damaged on a car parked in Firrhill Drive.</p> <p>29th April, a fire was reported on a Service 4 Lothian Bus in Oxgangs Road. A rear seat on the top deck had been deliberately set alight. A young man has been traced and charged with this serious act. Luckily, minimal damage was done and no-one was injured.</p> <p>4th May, an attempt was made to break into a house in Firrhill Drive.</p> <p>12th May, a male was arrested after causing a disturbance within Oxgangs Library.</p> <p>14th May, a house in the Oxgangs Crescent area was searched under the powers of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. On this occasion no drugs were found.</p> <p>16th May, the chemist's shop in Colinton Mains Drive was broken into via the front door. It would appear the culprit has a streak of vanity as a few items of hair care product were the only property removed. Enquiries are ongoing into this matter.</p> <p>As well as the above incident on the Service 4 – Oxgangs Officers have been assisting colleagues in the Wester Hailes area with an initiative designed to stop incidents of recent damage to Lothian Buses. Missiles were being thrown off bridges onto buses passing below. A number of youths have already been charged with a number of offences – mainly vandalism.</p>	
Ward Councillor's Reports	<p>Councillor Rust covered the following subjects:</p> <p>No. 18 Bus Service: A report on funding the no. 18 bus went to the Transport Committee on Tuesday, 10 May with the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. that off-peak and weekend service is run by First Bus. Their bid was both cheaper £79,560 per year (First Bus) : £100,880 (Lothian Buses) and scored better on the combined quality + price score although the relative weight given to each criterion was 70% price and 30% quality. 2. Lothian Buses will continue to run the Monday - Friday Peak Services 	

	<p>however which has a potential downside in that Lothian Buses and First Bus tickets aren't valid on the other's services. Also, First Bus services won't appear on Bus Tracker.</p> <p>The Transport Committee agreed the recommendation with First Bus awarded the subsidised parts of the service, which is the middle of the day and all the weekend services.</p> <p>The timetable is as before and we should have a continuation of these subsidies for at least four years with the potential to extend by another two years.</p> <p>A number of concerns were raised which are detailed below. The decision of the Transport Committee was :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommendation approved; and 2. To note the number of concerns expressed by the Committee and to request a further report after three months of the contract (November 2011) providing: <p>an update on how the service was operating, to include reference to all the points raised by the Committee (including monitoring of the contract, integrated ticketing, bus tracker/information panels, DDA compliancy); and details of the procurement process for subsidised service provision, including what could and could not be included in future tender documents.</p> <p>In discussion it was noted that the service still fails shop workers and late customers at the Gyle Shopping Centre with the last bus leaving there at 5.45pm on Saturday whilst most shops shut at 6pm with Boots, M&S and Morrisons shutting even later.</p> <p>Also of concern was the extra cost to users who can't use their Lothian Bus Travel Card or a £3.20 day ticket but having to pay First bus the full fare. Not having cross ticketing meant only people over 60 with the national One Card will be able to use it on both buses.</p> <p>The Quality of Service criteria did not take into account the extra cost to the travelling public which outweighs the saving made by the Council. It will save £21,320 a year in its subsidy but the extra cost to the various groups of No18 bus users is likely to be greater.</p> <p>Colinton Mains Community Centre: There was a problem with the play area grass not being cut. This has been resolved: Services for Communities will cut it on behalf of Children & Families Dept.</p> <p>PNP Review Meeting: held on 17th May see under PNP Reports</p> <p>Development Management Decision Making Process: this item was reported at the Planning Committee meeting on 19 May where it was recommended that the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) agrees to the changes proposed for agenda format, report structure, the criteria and procedures for hearings and presentations, the procedures for site visits and the role of ward members and instructs that the procedures are effective from 1 August 2011; b) instructs the Director to prepare information sheets to assist 	
--	---	--

	<p>stakeholders attending Sub-committee meetings and site visits and participating in hearings;</p> <p>c) instructs the Director to undertake a survey of applicants, agents and members of the public attending Development Management Sub-committee meetings to seek feedback on the proposed changes and report back to Committee after a period of 12 months; and</p> <p>d) recommends to the Council that a new bullet point be added to the paragraph 4.154 of the Scheme of Delegation, under the section 'Exclusions to paras (a) and (b)' as follows - an application which meets the criteria approved by the Planning Committee for a Hearing by the Development Management Sub Committee.</p> <p>Portobello CC was allowed a deputation on this item and the amendments they were proposing were by and large accepted and agreed by the planning committee, namely:</p> <p>a) Paragraph 3.13: Community councils should be allocated 15 rather than 10 minutes to speak at hearings.</p> <p>b) Appendix 3 - Guidelines for site visits (procedure): Ward councillors and community council representatives should be allowed, through the planning officer, to point out factual information during a site visit.</p> <p>c) Paragraphs 3.13 and 3.18: We asked for 15 minutes per ward to be allowed for ward member representations at hearings, regardless of the number of councillors involved.</p> <p>What they agreed to was to stick to five minutes per councillor but with the caveat that this could be extended at the discretion of the planning committee convenor for complex planning applications.</p> <p>Overall a pleasing result for community councils.</p> <p>Telecom Mast: this relates to Planning Application 11/00359/FUL for the erection of a Telecommunications Mast 38 metres south of 41 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh. Reported to the Development Management Sub-Committee of the Planning Committee on 11 May for a decision. The Sub Committee accepted the recommendation that the application be refused for the reasons below.</p> <p><i>"The proposed cabinets will result in the width of the pavement being reduced by a minimum of 790mm to approximately 1.75m. Transport Planning recommend refusal of the application as the footway width will be reduced to 1.75m locally to a level that will be detrimental to pedestrian safety."</i></p> <p>Health & Social Care Centre: Cllr Rust was asked by members to enquire about progress on this, as it is so long since we had an update and wonder whether planning on this has stalled.</p> <p><i>At the end of his report, Councillor Rust left the meeting to attend to other business.</i></p>	
--	---	--

Newsletter Update	<p>Chair circulated a rough draft for comment. The article on the outcome of the Environmental Get-together had still to be inserted and there was still space for a few small items otherwise everything was in place.</p> <p>Comment made that there was a predominance of items relating to gardens whereas the environment covered many other issues. The Chair proposed to include a list of the recycling points in the Firrhill Ward but open to other suggestions.</p> <p>Draft to be circulated for final comment before going to the printer.</p> <p>Same distribution list to be used.</p>	HL
AGM Final Planning	<p>Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre has been booked for 27 June. Chair to ask one of the local city councillors to act as temporary Chair for the election of office bearers.</p> <p>D Crawford to give a presentation on "Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Policing Oxgangs in 2011"</p> <p>Catering: wine and nibbles to be available</p> <p>Notices to go out at the beginning of June</p>	HL
Treasurer's Report	<p>Outstanding expenses were paid to the Chair for the sums of £19 (transport) and £3 (Environmental Get-together catering cost).</p> <p>Treasurer advised that the annual grant has been received from Edinburgh District Council in the sum of £677.04p. The bank balance stands at £2,781.88p.</p> <p>The insurance for Community Councils has risen by £2 this year and is now £54.</p>	PP
Planning Applications Report	<p>Only two items have been recorded in the weekly planning bulletins from 26 April to 23 May 2011 for the Firrhill Ward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a decision to grant application 11/00816/FUL for a driveway run-in at property in Colinton Mains Grove. 2. an application 11/01595/FUL for the installation of new velux windows in an attic conversion at property in Oxgangs Road North. <p>The 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 has been covered in the Ward Councillors' Reports above.</p> <p>It should be noted that there have been problems regarding the receipt of the electronic weekly planning bulletins to the effect none had been received since the last meeting. Paper copies were obtained for this meeting and an arrangement made for future bulletins to be directed to the Secretary until the problem was resolved. Perversely, late this afternoon this week's bulletin was received electronically.</p>	JN

PNP Report	<p>Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership: 17 May 2011</p> <p>This meeting was held in Colinton Mains Parish Church and in addition to the Chair was attended by PP and JN.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neighbourhood Partnership Community Grants Fund 2. The Pentlands Partnership Annual Review 2010-11. <p>A presentation was given by Graham Budd/Andrew McTaggart/ Michael Driscoll, reviewing the work of the partnership over the past year and a look at some of the work planned for the next year.</p>	
PNP Report	<p>Health, Community and Employment Group: 12 May</p> <p>This meeting was held in the South West Neighbourhood Office and attended by MJOB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scott Neill, Partnership Development Officer, SWNO, gave a report on the responses obtained from the PNP Community Conference, indicating the signs were that the next developing Local Community Plan will have more potential actions covering short to long term actions. <p>The issues were under the following broad headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing isolation • More and improved health centres & facilities • Comments on orchards, allotments and eating what you grow • Improving promotion and education about healthy lifestyles • Tackling mental health as there is still a lot of stigma surrounding it, provide places for people to go to get support and make people aware what help is available • Promoting exercise and using the open spaces we have. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Bill Hannah, Public Involvement Co-ordinator (Community Dev.) gave a brief overview of the Local Health Action Group in the Oxgangs area informing the members that the areas also took in a slither of Firrhill. He is hoping to use the local forum to shape the work he will develop in the area and feels that the voluntary sector is on board but further work has to be done to encourage health professionals to engage. <p>Commented that GP's do engage differently and certainly the community have found services in Oxgangs limited especially after 6pm on a Friday when they are encouraged to use NHS 24. Certainly data is required to make a judgement on the service needs or where gaps are in the existing service being provided</p> <p>It was felt that GP information through a survey should be available. BH to check</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. BH produced an example of a community map for Oxgangs and part of Firrhill. Members thought this would be a good piece of work if other 	MJOB

	<p>agencies developed their own community map by taking a audit of existing and future services i.e. bank, shops, schools, health care facilities etc.</p> <p>BH confirmed the map designer would make the changes obtained from the public consultation in the Oxfangs Library and reduce the map in size.</p>	
Environmental Report	Circulated for comment prior to publication	HL
Roles and Responsibilities	<p>Draft report circulated</p> <p>Next session to be held during August and then January</p> <p>Topics: <i>How to conduct a good meeting</i> and <i>Challenging Behaviour</i></p> <p>Raised that the previous review of the Community Council's constitutional rules and standing orders had not been completed and a general support for the Council to go through these documents paragraph by paragraph in order to gain a greater understanding of their interpretation. This was accepted and it was agreed that our July meeting should be restricted to this single subject.</p> <p>A draft "bespoke" constitutional document to be circulated for perusal before this meeting.</p>	JN to action
Correspond/	See attached list under Appendix 3	PW
AOCB	<p>Discretionary Roads & Footways Scheme:</p> <p>Gordon Drysdale, SW Roads Manager, has advised PNP EIT group members that he's re-opening the list of projects for consideration in the FY 11/12 as part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme (NIP).</p> <p>The Secretary, who represents Firrhill CC on this group, contacted all members prior to the meeting to consider ideas for bids on our behalf.</p> <p>Members were reminded that to comply with the rules on Capital Expenditure bids must create a new asset, enhance the life of an existing asset, or enhance the value of an existing asset</p> <p>Projects carried out in this area over the past year, using money from the '10/'11 budget, but also money left over from the previous year have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new path and handrails to improve library access (£10k); • new lighting through Colinton Mains Park (£21k); • footway re-surfacing and new handrails on Cock-my-lane (£7.5k), <p>a total of £38.5k.</p> <p>Our Ward's budget is 'shared' with Colinton and Fairmilehead, and it was noted that, in the same timescale, Colinton improvements totalled £72k (most of this on improvements to the pavement on the main shopping street), while improvements in Fairmilehead totalled £40k.</p> <p>This year, there is only £42.5k for Ward 8, ie, around £14k for each area if</p>	PW

	<p>shared equally!</p> <p>Discussion took place over two projects already on the list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re-surfacing of Braidburn path parallel to Colinton Mains Park (£21k – turned down for funding last year); • installation of pedestrian island on Oxgangs Ave, between Ox. Green & Cresc. (put forward by Cllr Barry; not yet costed). <p>Unfortunately, we don't have enough info on the size of the latter and, if to be the same as the island at the Police Station end of Oxgangs Ave, it was pointed out that this feels unsafe, is far too narrow for a parent with pushchair/pram, or someone in a wheelchair, and so most people tend to walk further along from the junction to cross. Another suggestion is that lighting might be installed along the burn path; the lighting put in last year covered only the main path through the park, which we considered to be a very poor return for £21k and leaves 'dark spots' elsewhere.</p> <p>It was decided that members would continue to think about possible projects and get back to the Secretary with those a.s.a.p.</p>	
	<p>Primary School Catchment Area – The Chair had been approached by some parents whose children had been refused a place at Pentland Primary School. Councillor Elaine Aitken gave clarity on the catchment area and the appeal process, but stressed that discussions were made by the Children's & Families Dept, not the school, and that all the appeals (17) were to be heard at the City Chambers on Tuesday 31st May 2011.</p>	HL
Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting (AGM)	<p>27th June 2011 at 7.00pm.</p> <p>The venue will be the Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, Firrhill Drive.</p>	HL

The meeting ended at: 10:00 pm

CORRESPONDENCE: 26 APRIL TO 13 MAY 2011 (SECRETARY)

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

1. f. by Cllr Rust: re 'Wetlands' proposal for Oxgangs PS playing field: this was suggested by D Hall, Business Manager, Firrhill High.
2. Kevin Cook: TTRO for Craiglockhart Rd N.
3. Karen Reeves, Parks & Greenspace, re Water of Leith Plant Sale, 7 May.
4. f. by H Levy: Oxgangs & Online Ambition: Napier Uni Job-hunting session re looking for a job online: Oxgangs Library, 25 May, 6.00-7.30 pm.
5. Lloyd Richardson: TTRO for no right turn, Lanark Rd-Craiglockhart, 11-15 May.
6. Susan Varga, City Libraries re online service for grant-funding 'edinburgh4community': allows users to search through Govt, lottery, charitable trust, etc funds available on a European, national, regional and local basis – info re funding for individuals, charities, community groups, voluntary organisations. Free to use on Your Library at:
<http://yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk/grants> (register on site at first use).
7. Graham Croucher, Sports Officer, re award of contract to build new CM Park Pavilion to T & A Kernaghan (Holdings) Ltd.
8. Bill Hannah: Oxgangs Local Health Action Group Mtg Agenda for 9 May, F'hill Neuk.
9. Liberton & District CC AGM: 23 May, Liberton Kirk Halls.
10. S Smith, SW N'hood Office: Pentlands NP Annual Review in public, Colinton Mains Church, 17 May, 7 pm.
11. f. by Cllr Rust: guidance on control & independence in Scottish Charities from Regulator – role of trustees in charities, etc.
12. f. by Cllr Rust: clearance by CEC of winter grit should be completed by 23 May.
13. Cllrs E Aitken & Barry: news that No 18 service will be run jointly by Lothian & First Buses from 1 Aug – Lothian at peak times, First (put in lower tender than Lothian Buses) at off-peak and weekends; contract to run until at least 2015 but will be monitored.
14. S Smith, SW N'hood Office: Pentlands NP April 2011 Digest.
15. J Anderson, Graduate Asst, Scot. Govt. re website dedicated to Public Info Notices from Councils across Scotland at www.tellmescotland.gov.uk
16. Cllr Rust: Review of winter maintenance:
Responses at winter.maintenance@edinburgh.gov.uk;
Survey at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/winterweatherworkingtogether
17. K Hopper, City Dev'ment: Draft Edinburgh Canal Strategy (on Council's website) to be presented to Planning Committee on 19 May for approval for consultation. If approved, consultation will run from 23 May to 19 August.

By post

1. Cllr Rust: paper copy of 'Winter Weather Working Together' presentation by PNP.
2. 'Working Capital', Edinburgh's Joined up for Jobs Partnership mag.
3. 'Tenants Voice', April '11 – ETF mag.

CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE: 14-23 MAY

By e-mail (forwarded to FCC members where appropriate)

1. B Hannah, Oxfangs Local Health Action Group: request for info on local research.
2. f. by H Levy: Edinburgh Carers Conference, 17 June, Hilton Grosvenor Hotel.
3. D Cairns, Joint Secretary, Portobello Community Council: Planning Committee Paper on CC and other representations; wants support to increase times allowed. [our Secretary asked members for their views; sent e-mail letter to Planning Committee Councillors]
4. Kevin Cook: TTRO for Craiglockhart Place
5. PC D Crawford: Police Perception Survey for completion.
6. M Hitchen: Sustainable Govt – Public Service Efficiency News – News of Central Govt, Local Govt, Defence/Fire/Police, Education, Health, Lifestyle – now sent by e-mail.
7. M Driscoll: Eileen Hewitt will be returning as CCs Liaison Officer.
8. Cllr Rust: re Special Meeting of Full Council to discuss trams project; includes instruction to Chief Executive to include figures and detailed analysis on cost of cancelling tram project, so that Council can weigh up financial options of cancellation v. proceeding to St Andrew Sq (for Report at end of June).
9. Cllr Barry: Compulsory Purchase Order for shops and flats at Oxfangs Crescent to be carried out Spring/Summer '11 to enable new build.
10. M Driscoll: renewal request for CC insurance policy with Zurich, through ASCC – now £54 – form for completion [forwarded to our Treasurer]
11. G Drysdale, Area Roads Manager: re suggestions for projects to be considered for this community from Discretionary Roads & Footways Scheme.
12. B Hannah, Local Health Action Group, re Planning Event on 27 June.
13. D Cairns, Portobello Community Council re Planning Committee Meeting: most amendments proposed were accepted, including our concern – that Ward Councillors and CC reps be allowed, through the Planning Officer, to point out factual information at site visits.