

Firrhill Community Council

'Nec Aspera Terrent'
(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 28 October 2013

At Lochan View Community Business Centre, 12 Firrhill Neuk

Attendance and Apologies:

Residents: J Burt; S Duffy; V Garden; F Gosney; H Levy; K Levy; L Linn; J Napier; P Podd;

Visitors: Cllr E Aitken; Cllr J Rust; PC G Howie, Oxfangs Police Station.

Apologies: P Wright; Cllr R Lewis

Annual General Meeting:

As returning officer for Firrhill Community Council during the City of Edinburgh Community Council Election period, Cllr Aitken took the Chair for this part of the meeting.

In welcoming the new, as well as those returned members of the Community Council, she informed the meeting only 9 nominations had been received. As this was short of the maximum number of 12 no election had been required in this area. The nominations were:

J Burt; G Duncan; V Garden; F Gosney; H Levy; L Linn; J Napier; P Podd and P Wright.

She spoke on the role of community councillor and wished them every success in that task.

Minutes of Previous AGM:

J Napier apologised for not providing a copy of the minutes for the previous AGM for review at this meeting. As stated on the agenda, the minutes were approved at the following meeting and have been available on the Firrhill Community Council website since that time. There was no discussion and questions.

Chair Report:

H Levy as the outgoing Chair welcomed the new members to the Council and thanked those who had decided not to stand again. She gave a review of the business and activities carried out by the Community Council since the previous AGM and in particular:

- Firrhill Medical Centre – there have been a number of setbacks over the years but the project is still going ahead with an expected completion date in 2017.
- Colinton Mains Park Sports Pavilion – despite a number of early teething problems that have come to light, this new facility is a boon for the footballers using the park
- Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership – the Community Council have maintained a regular attendance at meetings of the Partnership and its sub groups

She spoke also on her thoughts for the Community Council to host political debates on the forthcoming events:

- Independence Referendum 2014
- UK Westminster Elections 2015
- Local Authority Elections 2016
- Scottish Parliament Elections 2017

Treasurer's Report:

J Napier reported on the Community Council's finances from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 and gave the following audited statement of accounts:

Income		Expenditure	
Balance at Bank at 1 st April 2012	2,559.72	Internet and Consumables	166.98
Outstanding Cheque from previous year	- 15.50	Transport	14.15
Adjusted Opening Balance	2,544.22	Printing	231.00
Hope Triangle Grant/Donation	1,975.00	Refreshments	25.65
CEC Community council Grant May 12	500.00	Hope Triangle	1,396.38
CEC Community council Grant Aug 12	676.04	Total Expenditure	1,834.16
		Balance at Bank	3,861.10
Total Income	5,695.26	Total	5,695.26
		Hope Triangle Funds still lying in Bank Account	578.62

In presented this statement to the council the Treasurer wished to thank Mr Eric Barry for his work in auditing the accounts earlier today for this meeting.

There being no questions, J Burt moved that the Statement of Accounts be accepted by the Community Council as a record of the Council's finances during the last financial year. This was seconded by L Linn and agreed.

Election of Office Bearers:

Cllr Aitken introduced this part of the proceedings to appoint office bearers for this term and asked for nominations for each of the following positions to be filled :

Position	Nominee	Mover	Second
1. Chairperson	H Levy	J Napier	L Linn
2. Vice Chairperson	P Podd	H Levy	V Gardner
3. Secretary	P Wright	J Napier	P Podd
4. Treasurer	L Linn	H Levy	J Napier
5. Minute Secretary	J Napier	H Levy	J Burt

All the above positions were accepted by the respective nominee and accepted by the members.

The appointment of representatives to attend meetings of the Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership and its Sub Groups was deferred to later in the meeting

Cllr Aitken left the meeting at this point to attend another appointment. H Levy took over the Chair.

Business Meeting:

Police Report

PC Howie spoke on his report which he had provided prior to the meeting and answered questions raised.

In the period between 1st October and 24th October 2013, 105 calls were made to police for the Firrhill / Oxgangs area. A large portion of these calls were generated from the Young Persons' Centre on Oxgangs Avenue.

Crime of note throughout this period

7th a car window was smashed on Firrhill Crescent.

9th an attempt was made to steal a Ford Escort from Firrhill drive

12th a common stair was spray painted with graffiti in Oxgangs Farm Drive

14th a window was smashed at another common stair in Oxgangs Farm Drive.

On the same day a woman dropped an amount of cash outside Scotmid and a male-passer-by picked up the money and ran off towards Oxgangs avenue. The male is in his twenties, slim build, gaunt appearance, short dark hair wearing a two-tone tracksuit type top, dark trousers.

16th two bicycles were stolen in separate incidents in Oxgangs Crescent and Firrhill Drive. One of the bikes has already been recovered.

18th a house was entered at Colinton Mains Road. The male, only described as being about 5'8" – 5'10" tall and wearing a black beanie hat, made off through the gardens. Nothing was believed to have been stolen

Statistics

Beat Area	Number of Calls	Area
PS01	72	Balerno / Ratho
PS02	91	Currie / Hermiston / Juniper Green
PS55	113	Clovenstone / Baberton
PS56	57	Fairmilehead / Swanston
PS57	105	Firrhill / Oxgangs
PS58	86	Colinton / Bonaly

Community Policing Team

The Community Policing Team Inspector, covering the 3 Pentland Hills wards, is Inspector Liz Duthie. The CPT Sergeant covering Ward 8 (Firrhill / Oxgangs / Fairmilehead / Swanston / Colinton / Bonaly) is Sergeant 'Mac' Mackenzie.

The news that Oxgangs Police Station front office is closing was made public several weeks ago now, although it must be emphasised that Police Officers will still be working locally from this building. Thanks must be given to the two station assistants Viv and Mandy, who have been a great help to all, over the past (combined) 30 or so years. They will be sadly missed.

Another person moving on is PC David Crawford, who is retiring after completing 30 years of police service, 17 years of which has been at Oxgangs Police Station. He has contributed immensely over

the years and his local knowledge has been 'tapped' on numerous occasions to assist in solving a variety of crimes in the Firrhill and Oxfangs area. He too will be sadly missed.

The Community Policing Team covering Ward 8 consists of 3 community facing constables and the emphasis will be on *Keeping People Safe* in this area. Our principal partners will be those living and working in the Colinton / Fairmilehead Ward and the City of Edinburgh Council.

Should you wish to contact me, or my colleagues, please do not hesitate to do so. You can contact us by email at EdinburghColintonFairmileheadCPT@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or by telephoning the new national non-emergency number 101. You can also follow us on twitter @PentlandsPolice. If there is anything in particular you wish to bring to our attention, please get in touch. Partnership working requires participation.

A number of questions were put to PC Howie in regard to the closure of the police station to the public and its affect on the local community. Concern was raised at the loss of information about the area through the loss of staff from the station and the time it will take to recover that lost intelligence. In discussion it was noted the Edinburgh Local Policing Plan 2013-2014 is available for viewing on the police website. Also of note, there has been a rise in the number of house break-ins.

Action: The Chair to arrange for a card and flowers to be sent to the former Counter Staff at Oxfangs Police Station as an appreciation of their service to the community over the years.

Action: Chair to obtain copy of the Operation Cypher report which is now available.

To pass on information about crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or fill out their secure, encrypted online [Giving Information Form](#).

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The draft minutes for meeting held on 23 September 2013 were reviewed. There being no corrections the minutes were moved for approval by J Burt, seconded by L Linn and agreed.

Action: Minutes Secretary to post the approved minute on website.

Matters Arising:

It was agreed that discussion on items listed below will be deferred to the next meeting. Abbreviated reports only were given.

Flood Defence Work Questionnaire

As stated in the agenda, the Secretary obtained consent for complaints identified through our questionnaire to be forwarded to the relevant CEC department and has actioned same. To date there has been no response

Flood Defence Work: FOI Request for Information

JN circulated copies of his abbreviated report and advised that information had been received from the Authority in response to our request. Part of that information included a 94 page project report and he requested agreement that the information received be put on the website so that members could access it. This was agreed.

Colinton Mains Drive at entrance to Oxfangs PS car park

As stated in the agenda, the Secretary was advised via Cllr Rust that the fenced area has been reinstated.

Ward Councillors' and MSP Reports:

COUNCILLOR JASON RUST

1. I chaired the election of office-bearers at Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre AGM. The Committee were unanimously re-elected. Work on the new kitchen at the Centre will commence shortly, the funding now being in place.
2. I had a street naming officer investigate the sealed postbox on Oxfangs Crescent and speak to the local delivery office. The officer has been out on site and has confirmed that works are nearly complete on the pavement area around the box. The officer has informed the local delivery office, who were asked to wait until the pavement works were complete before re-opening the box for use.
3. Following a meeting of Pentland Primary Parent Council I took up with Environmental Services the possibility of food waste recycling for schools. This is going to be piloted at a couple of schools, including Pentland. At present, paper, cardboard and ink cartridges are recycled, but not food.
4. I reported the dangerous fence at the bus-stop across from Tesco, which was then inspected and the damage formally raised onto the Amey Helpdesk for a repair to be undertaken as soon as possible. I am pleased to report that this has now taken place.
5. I am making arrangements for the proposed new Health Centre on Colinton Mains Drive to be on the agenda of the next Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership which takes place in December.
6. I have been receiving "in principle" feedback from residents on the proposed extension of 20mph zones and am currently collating the responses.
7. There has been some interest in the former Council social work office in Oxfangs and St John's Church which are currently being marketed for sale jointly by the Council and Church. I will be advised once a closing date is set.
8. I am continuing to take up issues in relation to stair intercom installation on behalf of various residents.
9. I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Community Council for their work and support throughout the year. The local community is stronger as a result of the Community Council's efforts.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEWIS

Constituent Enquiries

1. Enquiry received regarding housing repairs. Constituent raised concerns with the state of her property which she feels is in a state of disrepair. EBS are investigating this and will provide a response.
2. Issue came up at a meeting regarding recycling at Oxfangs Street opposite St Marks, was there going to be recycling set up. I have been advised by Waste that recycling for plastic bags, glass, paper and packaging was available at Oxfangs Grove and also in a car park between Oxfangs Crescent and Avenue. The whole Oxfangs area do have the red/blue boxes but flats that are 4 story high can use the recycling at the areas stated. They are looking to review this.

Remit

National Performance Centre for Sport

You will all have heard about our success by now, so I am delighted to report to the group that Edinburgh has won the race to host the new National Performance Centre for Sport. This is great news for the capital city and for Scotland and I look forward to monitoring the progress of this project as it moves on site next year with completion scheduled for early 2016.

Project updates will also appear at www.goedinburgh2016.com

Leith Waterworld

Sale of this venue is almost complete. Graeme McGartland from Property Services will brief ward Councillors as soon as the legal process is complete.

Meadowbank Sport Centre Working Group

The appointed consultants continue to work on the options appraisal with a report scheduled to be submitted around the end of October. The Meadowbank Working Group also visited Meadowbank Sports Centre on the 17th September and toured the venue.

PNP Reports:

The reports listed below have been deferred to the next meeting.

- *Health – 3rd October (HL)*
- *South West Area Board – 8th October (JN)*

PNP Representation

It was accepted that the Chair would remain the representative to the Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership Business and Public meetings. Noted that there is a move to combine these meetings. The representation to the sub groups to be as follows:

- a) Environment, Infrastructure and Transport – P Wright
- b) Community Safety
- c) Health, Community and Employment – H Levy
- d) Funding Panel – H levy
- e) South West Area Board – J Napier

Representation to the Community Safety Sub Group will be deferred to the next meeting.

Planning Applications Report:

30 September 2013.

No Applications or Major Development Notices (PANs)

Decision: Application 13/03246/FUL to erect a conservatory to rear of dwelling at 265 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh EH13 9AY has been granted

7 October 2013.

No Applications or Major Development Notices (PANs)

Decision: Application 13/03246/FUL for the erection of a conservatory to rear of dwelling at 265 Colinton Mains Drive, Edinburgh, EH13 9AY has been granted

14 October 2013.

No Applications, Decisions or Major Development Notices (PANs)

Decision: application 13/03279/FUL to install a new ATM machine and surround in existing shop front at 2 Oxbgangs Broadway Edinburgh EH13 9LQ has been granted. Application is retrospective.

Correspondence

Members were provided with the correspondence list for the period 24 Sept to 24 Oct prior to meeting . (see App 1).

AOCB:

City Wide Clean Up:

A new city wide litter campaign, 'Clean Up Edinburgh', was launched today with a day of action being held on 29 November, to bring together communities, businesses and individuals across Edinburgh for clean-up events across the city. There are a number of ways the community can get involved from small individual actions to holding your own community clean up. Join one of our clean-ups on 29 Nov, happening across the city. Find out where and when these will be held by visiting www.edinburgh.gov.uk/litter or encourage your community to organise their own clean-up?

Action: Put information on the website

Hope Triangle Health Group:

Chair gave a reminder that the next meeting is on Thursday, this week.

Pentland Community Centre:

The refurbishment work in the Centre is complete and the organisers are currently putting the place to rights so that the Centre can open for business again.

Firework Display:

Unfortunately it will not be held this year because staff at the Centre did not have time to apply for a licence. Consideration is being given to holding future firework displays in Colinton Mains Park.

Independence Debate:

Chair looking for action to be taken on this as soon as possible. Best dates to hold it would be either the end of March or into May.

Action: Chair to check availability of venues

Date Time and Venue of Next Meeting:

The Chair proposed that as we are now into the dark winter nights that the time of meeting should be brought forward into the afternoon at a time suitable for our elected city councillors to attend. Agreed that for the next 4 meetings (Nov to March inclusive) the Community Council would meet at 2.30pm on the usual date.

Date, venue and time of our next meeting is Monday 25th November 2013 in the Lochan View Community Business Centre at 2.30pm.

Correspondence List

By e-mail: all messages forwarded to members with this facility; some transferred to website where appropriate.

- 1 Cllr Rust: copy letter from Chief Insp. Thomas re lack of police attendance at NP & CC meetings. A review of Community Police Team resources and shift patterns is being carried out so that police may be available on Mon & Tues evenings when most meetings take place.
- 2 A Rennie, FOI Officer, requesting talk with us, having previously appealed to Scottish Info Commissioner: she is concerned about the rise in FOI appeals because of public authorities not responding to requests for info within statutory 20 working days.
- 3 Scott Neill: October funding (various sources) for charities and community groups.
- 4 EACC Sec: Agenda for October and Minutes of June meeting.
- 5 Healthcare Improvement Scotland: Chronic Pain Guideline, draft patient version at <http://www.sign.ac.uk/patients/publications.html>
- 6 SW N'hood Office re potential residential developments on land west of Ravelrig Rd, Balerno, and at Goodtrees Farm, Balerno.
- 7 Eileen Hewitt: record number of over 500 nominations for city Community Councils this year. Elections required for Craigmillar, Liberton & District, and Portobello only.
- 8 Cllr Lewis re City Council granting 30yr lease to Port Edgar Holdings Ltd, which should guarantee continued investment in, and use of, Port Edgar Marina.
- 9 Cllr Lewis: 'Lion King' free exhibition at City Art Centre (stage show at Playhouse).
- 10 Housing Officer re Firrhill Walkabout (3 Oct) + issues raised at previous Walkabout.
- 11 ELGT (Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust): new blog site for community gardening support projects. E-mail mark@elgt.org.uk for more info.
- 12 Sarah Boyack MSP: Sept e-newsletter, includes updates on 'bedroom tax' and support from Scottish Welfare Fund.
- 13 Cllr Lewis: £10m carbon reduction fund which all community groups can apply for from Scot Gov. For grant info 'phone a Development Officer on 01786 468 779.
- 14 Cllr Rust re Public Counter Service Review, Edinburgh Division: includes details on Oxbgangs Police Station with stats on public visits, ie, out of 427 over 14 days, only 24 are classified as 'core public counter functions'. He will meet Area Commander with concerns.
- 15 Police Scotland, Edinburgh Div. re proposal to withdraw the role of traffic wardens where Police Scotland can focus on keeping people safe: eg, where parking is dangerous or causes obstruction, police officers can use appropriate enforcement.
- 16 Cllr Rust: message that fence reported broken at entrance to Oxbgangs Primary from Colinton Mains Drive has been reinstated (SR641249).
- 17 Cllr Rust: section of plants in front of Colinton Mains Park Pavilion was removed because people were walking across it. This will now be grassed instead.
- 18 Scott Neill re encouraging local groups to apply for funding from the NP Community Grant Fund; he can help with applications. Next meeting of Pentlands NP Funding Panel: 6th Nov.

- 19 Bill Elliot, Scottish Water (a) re heating, insulating and protecting your home for winter; (b) Keep Water Cycle Running Smoothly campaign in the media (and SW's website), re disposal of waste so as not to block pipes and drains and pollute rivers/burns.
- 20 Gordon Macdonald MSP's October Newsletter.
- 21 Eileen Hewitt: Petition Systems Training for CC members, 29 Oct, Drumbrae Library.
- 22 Sarah Boyack MSP: letter re proposal to close Oxbgangs Police Station. She is to respond to Police Scotland's Divisional Commander by 31 October.
- 23 Eileen Hewitt: Waste Action Grants for community projects to reduce, reuse and recycle. Contact Waste Education Officer on 0131-469 5070.
- 24 Jacky Bald re Electoral Registration annual canvass forms being delivered to households.
- 25 Eileen Hewitt re changes to Council Tax for empty and second homes from 1st Jan '14.
- 26 J Napier: further appeal to SIC re Council's failure to respond to our request for info.
- 27 Cllr Lewis: £125k invested by Council in accessible & affordable swimming for families.
- 28 Firrhill CC Sec to Brian Torrance re outstanding complaints from two Colinton Mains Rd residents for his Flood Defences Dept to deal with.
- 29 H Levy: Oxbgangs Care AGM, 28 Oct, 1.30 pm, at 12 Firrhill Neuk.
- 30 ELGT free workshops: 'Fungi Foray', 2 Nov, 10am-1pm, Colinton Dell; 'Bird Watching', 30 Nov, 10-12.30pm, Craiglockhart; 'Basic Survival Skills for Families', 11 Jan, 10-12.30 pm, Hailes Quarry Woodland Park; 'Winter Tree ID & Woodlands Through History, 15 Feb, 10am- 1 pm, Corstorphine Hill. Contact ruth@elgt.org.uk, 'phone 445 4025, to book or for more info.
- 31 FOI Officer: Commissioner's Decision 226/2013 re FCC's Application.
- 32 Cllr Rust: Colinton and Fairmilehead Ward Profile.
- 33 Eileen Hewitt: short survey (2 questions) on Council website re which part of Edinburgh you would say you belong to, or 'phone Ian Bell on 469 3852 re 'Natural Neighbourhoods'.
- 34 Lynn Duffy, HMO Joint Inspection Team re HMO Application: 4 occupants, 4 bedrooms at Flat 5, 14 Firrhill Drive. [Sec. since discovered that these are 2-bedroom properties, so e-mailed back accordingly. Flat still has to have HMO Inspection.]
- 35 Robert Scott: REHIS certificated course, providing elementary food hygiene training, at ONC, Sat 16 Nov, 9 am-5 pm; £45 per person.
- 36 Eileen Hewitt: CCs can get info from Licensing Forum & comment on licence applications http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/2017/licensing_board/1034/the_licensing_board/3
- 37 Invitation to grand opening of Colinton Library, 26 Oct, 10.30 am for start of events.
- 38 J Napier's response to SIC re Decision 226/2013
- 39 E-mail to Cllr Aitken, on behalf of S Duffy, thanking her for pushing that footpath from Oxbgangs Rd North across grass to flats be reinstated.
- 40 Cllr Aitken: will FCC meetings be held in afternoons during winter months?
- 41 Council Leader's Oct Report: includes info on Council's 'Speak up, Speak out' campaign (with NHS Lothian & Police Scotland); anyone affected by abuse can get support from Social Care Direct. + Edinburgh has won its first gold in Britain in Bloom's 'UK City' category.
- 42 C Pegg, FOI Review Officer: (late) response to J Napier's review request.

- 43 S McDonald re proposed Scottish Prison Service development, including a Women's Regional Unit, within the HMP Edinburgh estate.
- 44 Graeme Howie: latest Police Report for our community + he will attend FCC's AGM.
- 45 E Hewitt: Council has been granted a Management Control Order (first in Scotland) re two properties in Grove Street used for large parties and causing grief to other residents. Council has now taken over duty as landlord from owner, who'd refused to comply with restrictions.
- 46 CSV's Action Earth Campaign: grants of up to £500 for volunteers on environmental projects. Info on 222 9083, or 622 7766; or Robert Henderson at actionearth@csv.org.uk
- 47 S McDonald: Pentlands NP EIT Group Agenda for 11 Nov at 2.30 pm.

By Post

- 1 Electoral Registration posters.
- 2 Scottish Information Commissioner: Feedback Form re Decision 226/2013 [to J Napier]

If you would like more detail on any of the above or on any other matter referred to in this document, please contact the Secretary, Peggy Wright: Tel - 531 9796; email: peggy.wright@live.co.uk

This minute of meeting was approved at the following business meeting of Firrhill Community Council, held in the Lochan View Community Business Centre on Monday, 2nd December 2013.

Signed _____ Chairperson

Signed _____ Secretary