

Firrhill Community Council

‘Nec Aspera Terrent’

(Undaunted by Adversity)

Minute of Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 25 January 2016

Held in Oxgangs Care Offices, Firrhill Neuk.

Members:

H Levy (Chair)

P Wright (Secretary)

S Duffy

J Napier (Minutes Sec)

F Gosney

L Linn

J Burt

P Valentine

Ex-Officio Members:

E Aitken, Councillor, CEC

R Lewis, Councillor, CEC

J Rust, Councillor, CEC

M Mawson, PC, Police Scotland

Visitors:

S Campbell, Resident

J McGowan, Oxgangs Library

J Kirkland, NHS Development
Worker for Oxgangs

Apologies:

J Rust, Councillor, CEC

L McGurk, Resident

L Supron, Resident

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

The Chair welcomed John McGowan to the meeting. Mr McGowan is the team leader at Oxgangs Library and organised its recent anniversary event.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes for our meeting held on 26 October 2015 were reviewed. With one correction the draft minutes were moved for approval by John Burt and seconded by L Linn. Approved.

Action: *Min Sec to make correction, publish on website and send copy to CCLO(CEC)*

Matters Arising

Landscaping in front of sports pavilion at Colinton Mains Public Park:

See previous minutes. Councillor Lewis advised that he has hit the usual snag of identifying person responsible for the maintenance of this land.

Action: *Matter ongoing.*

Community Police Report

The Chair welcomed Officer M Mawson to the meeting and invited her to give a report on police activities within the Firrhill Community Council area for the last reporting period.

Unfortunately, written reports are no longer provided by Police Scotland. Items noted were several neighbour disputes; parking issues at local primary schools; a number of reported assaults; a minor RTA in Oxgangs Road North; 2 incidents of theft from elderly females.

Incidents of drug misuse within the local library and community centre was also reported.

Community Policing Team

Ward 8 comprises 3 Beats, PF56 (Fairmilehead, Buckstone, Swanston), PF57 (Oxgangs, Firrhill), and PF58 (Colinton, Bonaly) with two Council Funded Officers, PC 4179E Graeme Howie and PC11550 Sonja Kaiser.

The Community Policing Team leader for the wider area is Inspector Liz Duthie. The CPT consists of 5 teams of community-facing police Constables led by a Sergeant, and the emphasis will be on community working in a bid to solve local issues.

Should you wish to contact the Community Policing Team, you can do so by email at EdinburghCPTColintonFairmilehead@Scotland.pnn.police.uk or by telephoning the new national non-emergency number **101**. You can also follow them on twitter @PentlandsPolice.

If there is anything in particular that you wish to bring to their attention, please get in touch. Partnership working requires participation.

Police Surgery: Wednesdays between 1700 and 1800 hours at Oxgangs Library.

Warning about doorstep callers: don't sign up with, or give money to, anyone who cold-calls, i.e., anyone you haven't arranged to call. Say NO and report them to Police Scotland Tel: 101 or the City Council's Trading Standards Tel: 0131-529 3030.

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

Ward Councillors' Reports

Councillor Aitken

Aldi Development

The Stopping Up Order has now been completed with formal notification that it had been put in place received last week. Legal services are now completing the transaction and, as far as I am aware, there is nothing outstanding that should prevent this in the near future. Our Estates Officer will let me know as soon as the sale is completed.

Refuse Problems

I have received many complaints about missed collections, overflowing street litter bins in Colinton Mains, full recycling bins in supermarket car parks and communal bins which need to be relocated. I have asked that the bins be monitored and emptied on a regular basis and the frequency increased as required.

Planters at Oxgangs Broadway

The Area Board members agreed to fund a project to improve the planters at Oxgangs Broadway. It will include new, hardier plants and it is hoped that the shopkeepers and community members will eventually take over the maintenance once the plants are established.

Hunter's Tryst Site

Hopefield Partnership are addressing a couple of small points relating to the preservation of the wellheads on the site, which are listed. Hopefield are in the process of preparing their planning application having undertaken some initial site investigations.

The Estates Officer meeting is meeting with representatives from Hopefield on Wednesday and will discuss timescales.

Bus Shelters

I've received complaints about the positioning of the new shelters and the height of the seats in some of them. The new shelter outside Oxgangs Library offers no protection from the elements and I have asked that this be reviewed.

Schools

- **Firrhill HS**

The new Head Teacher, Mr G. Hamilton, started last session.

A request has been submitted for 2 new waste bins near the school to try to minimise the litter following lunch breaks.

- **Braidburn School**

On 24th November, I had the privilege of opening the new Primary School playground at the school. The funding was raised by the school and Parent Council.

I also attended the Primary School Nativity Play.

- **Parking**

Once again, problem parking at roads near Pentland, St Marks and Oxgangs PS has been brought to my attention. Last year, I contacted the Head Teachers in the schools to ask if they would consider participating in a Parksmart project. The project runs over 4 weeks and involves a survey on how children travel to school, encourages them to walk or cycle and asks parents to sign a pledge to assist this. There are competitions including one to design a banner which will be provided in the resource pack. Having the banners displayed at all the local schools will have more impact.

Hope Triangle Health Group

Jacqueline Kirkland, ably assisted by Frances Gosney, organised a social event in Pentland Community Centre before Christmas. Jacqueline will report on plans for future events at the meeting.

Pentland View Site

Following the advertisement for the sale of the Pentland View Close Support Unit, 18 highly competitive offers were received at the closing date which have been assessed for best value and use. The sale will be subject to planning consent, with the expected planning application being for a high quality residential scheme. A Traffic Analysis will also be done. Historic Scotland were consulted and after their own internal analysis decided not to list the building.

Oxgangs Care AGM

Will be held on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 1pm in the board room in Firrhill Neuk. All welcome.

Holocaust Memorial Day

This year, the event is being held in Firrhill High School on Thursday evening. The school has hosted a number of associated events and workshops in the past – memorial tree planting, Diversity Day, Anne Frank Exhibition.

Councillor Lewis

Minor RTA at Pentland Drive/View as a result of parents dropping of their children at Pentland PS.

NHS Community Development Worker

Jacqueline Kirkland gave notice that her post as NHS Community Development Worker (CDW) for this area, is only funded up to the end of the financial year, and she has been advised there is no funding allocated for the following year. The post is jointly funded by the CEC and the NHS and is affected by the Council's budgetary proposals. The approved savings for 2016 - 2020 include improved management of health and social care service user demand, which may result in changes to the service.

The NHS CDW's role is to provide support for local people, working in a number of different ways to challenge discrimination and stigma, and to promote mental wellbeing across the area. CDWs can answer any questions you might have about mental health or any other well-being concerns and can tell you about local services that are available in your area, in order to:

- Help you to access mental health services appropriate to your needs
- Ensure your cultural needs are met when accessing statutory services
- Provide you with a range of self-help materials that can help with milder forms of anxiety, depression and stress
- Provide links to agencies who can help you with employment, benefits, childcare and education
- Provide training/workshops regarding mental health to Black & Minority Ethnic and voluntary organisations
- Start groups/clubs to address any issues

Jacqueline also runs a health and well-being drop in service in Oxfangs Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesdays 11-1pm. She also runs Oxfangs gets Healthy a healthy living support group to help people eat and feel better, this is on Tuesday evenings 6.30-8pm at Pentland Community Centre. Part of Jacqueline's duties is also to support the Hope Triangle Heath Group (HTHG).

In reviewing the service provided and considering the impact the loss of this post is liable to have on the community, members agreed to the Secretary writing formally to our elected representatives, stressing the need for the continuation of this post and in the event it is lost through budget restrictions, that it be temporary as it was essential the post be restored as soon as finances permitted.

Action: *The Secretary to write to Cllrs Aitken, Lewis and Rust accordingly.*

Oxfangs Library

John McGowan spoke on the events held at the Library during its anniversary celebrations in November and thanked the community council for their support in funding the procurement of an art display board and competition prizes. The art display board is sited on the wall in the main library and, if his plans came to fruition, will continue to be used to display local art created by local school-children and artists.

A discussion took place on the library and the lack of information on the services it provides to the community

The Chair noted that Heather Rose was retiring from her job in the library. Heather was known for her involvement in community work as much as her work in the library. The Chair asked that our good wishes for her retirement be passed on to her.

Members Reports

St Marks Church (SD)

SD reported the good news that St Mark's Church is not closing.

There was little change in the census taken on 8 November. The first meeting of the Cluster on 6th December with the Archbishop at St Columba's Church Hall was very well attended. Three more meetings of the Cluster have been arranged for later this year:

Saturday - 27 February, 10-12 at Sacred Heart

„ 11 June, 10-12 at Gilles Centre

„ 8 October, 10-12, location still to be decided.

The Parishes in the Cluster are: St Mark's, St Peter's, St Columba's, St Patrick's, Sacred Heart and the Chaplaincy of St Albert.

Masses in the City have been rearranged to accommodate the shortage of Priests.

In St Mark's Church, new windows have been installed in the Hall and a new security door fitted. Lighting has been upgraded, both in the Hall and Church as well as a fire alarm system.

Father Michael was created a Canon at a service in the Cathedral on 15th December. Members agreed to sending a card congratulating him on his new appointment.

Action: Chair to action.

Development Sites (FG)

Oxgangs Path Development Site

This refers to the sale of land previously occupied by the Social Work Department and the Church of Scotland, to Aldi for the development of a new store and the lack of progress regarding the sale. An update was given by Cllr Aitken in her report

Oxgangs Green Development Site

This refers to the sale of land previously occupied by the Hunters Tryst PS. This derelict land was re-advertised early last year and the closing date for tenders is well past. FG seeking confirmation that the land will be used for social housing. An update was given by Cllr Aitken in her report and it was confirmed the developer is proposing to build social housing.

Dangerous Dogs

See previous minute. An update was given on the situation involving a resident in the area who uses his dog as a weapon, intimidating his neighbours and others in the community. A "Dog Control Notice" had been served on the owner and there had been no notifiable incidents since that action had been taken.

Action: Continue to monitor the situation.

Medical Centre

The Chair reported on a meeting that took place the previous week. The proposed medical centre is back on the agenda and the boundary issues have been resolved. There is a potential shortfall of £500,000, which will hopefully be covered by the Scottish Government. (This shortfall is for the whole bundle and not just the Firrhill Medical Centre.) Construction is expected to start some time in 2016 and take approximately 18 months to complete.

Oxgangs Gala

The Chair reported she is in the midst of doing the paperwork but with one of the key members having suffered a family bereavement and her own current immobility, things are on hold till the end of Feb.

Community Council Election Arrangements

The Chair reported on a presentation she attended earlier today at the city Chambers on the proposed protocol for community council election. This is a follow-on from the previous review of The Edinburgh Scheme for Community Councils including the Model Constitution and Standing Orders carried out during 2013.

With the next triennial community council elections scheduled to take place this year during September/October, a draft protocol has been developed. Today's presentation was to provide community councils with an opportunity find out more about the protocol and ask questions on the content.

Firrhill Walkabout: 7th January 2015 (JN)

I attended this walkabout with 4 council officers and in general the area was in good order and there was little to report. Noted the following items.

Firrhill Drive: Gulley Cleaning – wet leaves on pavement causing a slip hazard

Litter – to clear up the litter that has gathered behind the open spaces behind the communal refuse sites

Trees – to check the stays on the young trees behind No. 2 Firrhill Drive

Firrhill Cres: Braid Burn – to clear tree/bush cuttings piled at the bridge.

Just to record some good service – The day before I saw the bin at the bridge was overflowing with refuse spread around the base, including bags of dog poo. Phoned the Task Force and asked if they could clear it before the schools went back the following day and it was done.

10 Oxgangs Street (Walkabout item 26 Nov 2015) (JN)

A recent fire at the rear of the premises where the external storage cupboards and bin store are located has damaged the roof over the storage unit and the place is now open to the elements.

An opinion was expressed that the simplest solution was to demolish the units. Do not consider this to be a reasonable proposal as it would mean the cupboards were no longer available to tenants for storage of prams, bikes, etc. Their condition indicate they have not been used for storage purposes for some time but the permanent loss of this amenity to future tenants/owners should be avoided.

Many of the stairs in Oxgangs Street do have security gates at the back of their buildings to prevent vandalism and theft from their storage areas. The problem here is the lack of security and the apparent failure of tenants to unite to resolve the problem. Raised for awareness purposes.

Action: Noted

SWAB Meeting 15th Oct 2015: NEP 1054 – Firrhill Drive, fencing (JN)

I asked if the cost of gates had been included in the original estimate and if residents had been consulted? Informed the gate cost had been requested, however a number of residents have mobility issues and one tenant requires access for a motorised electric vehicle, thus gates not installed.

Weekly Planning Lists

3/11: Application for a driveway in Colinton Mains Grove – granted 11/1

14/12: Application for an extension to the side of the property

Also granted a previous application for an extension to the rear of the property

Former Hunter's Tryst Primary School, 4 Oxfangs Green (JN)

Received the following from Graeme McGartland, Acting Principal Project Manager, Estates Services.

Preferred bidder status has been awarded to Hopefield Partnership who are presently preparing a planning application for a residential development. Their bid, which is subject to receiving planning permission, is based on the development of 79 units and they are in the process of working up a planning application having undertaken some initial site investigation works.

There are a couple of small points relating to the preservation of the springheads on the site, and the access to, which still need to be finalised. He should be meeting the purchaser over the next week or so and will ask for an update on timescales which he will forward to me.

Treasurer's Report

Details of transactions carried out since our last meeting are:

- £140 to Secretary, reimbursement for cost of internet connection (2yrs) and printer ink
- £24 to Juniper Green Parish Church for hire of hall to accommodate SWCF meeting
- £389.64 to Oxfangs Library 25th Anniversary as agreed at our October meeting

Balance remaining £4,539.80

Correspondence

A list of correspondence is attached as Appendix 1

A.O.C.B.

Hope Triangle: Tree Planting

Arranged for the 17th February between 11.00am and 1.00pm. The Hope Triangle Health Action Group looking for support on the day.

Health Fair

To be organised by the Pentland Neighbourhood Partnership. Details to follow.

Election Hustings

The Chair proposed the Community Council organise an election hustings and this was generally agreed.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **22nd February at 7.00 pm.**

Venue: Board Room in the Oxfangs Care Offices, 12 Firrhill Neuk.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

This minute is DRAFT till approved by the Community Council at the next meeting.

Correspondence List

FIRRHILL CC CORRESPONDENCE STILL RELEVANT UP TO 22 JANUARY 2016

By e-mail, forwarded to members where possible; items in bold of particular interest.

- 1 Graeme McGartland, Estates Services in response to J Napier's query re developments at ex Hunters Tryst PS site [JN will report at FCC meeting on 25.01.16]
- 2 EACC Sec: meeting on 11 Feb, 7 pm, City Chambers: business + meeting with Paul Lawrence, new Exec Director for "Place" [RSVP required for catering]
- 3 Message from Oxgangs Ave resident re disputed enclosed area of land in front of Nos 18, 20 & 22. [Forwarded to Cllrs Aitken and Rust: Jason knows about it and will action.]
- 4 Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards 2016: recognises projects that have had a positive impact in a local community. Also Civic Champion Award to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to their local heritage and/or civic society. Nominations deadline 31 Jan. For more info: www.myplaceawards.org.uk/ or Tel John Pelan 0141 221 1466.
- 5 TRO/15/54A DPPP for proposed disabled parking bay at 36/38 Oxgangs Rd North
- 6 3 RIFLES: invitation to attend community event at Dreghorn Barracks on 26 Jan at 8 am (for breakfast before meeting) [H Levy will attend]
- 7 Community Councils Elections, Sept/Oct 2016: draft Protocol produced by CEC Election Team re arrangements [HL attending meeting giving more info, 25 Jan, 2-4 pm]
- 8 'Edinburgh Playing Out' Public Meeting, 9 Feb, 7.30 pm, City Chambers: trying to reclaim city streets for children to play outside and all ages to get to know their neighbours – increase sense of community; involves closing streets on a regular basis to through traffic. 'Playing Out' weekend being arranged for 9/10 April.
- 9 Review of Children's Hospital Services in Lothian: review team visiting area and focus groups being held on 10/11 Feb. See website and online survey at RCPCH.
- 10 Inspector Duthie: increase in break-ins and stolen cars in the area; security advice includes not having your name/address on keys; not having house and car keys on same ring; not leaving key on inside of door or other obvious place [poster displayed on notice board in Oxgangs Library].
- 11 Council Budget: Edinburgh's Budget Challenge feedback, and how this has affected many of CEC's Proposals for the £950m Budget. Info: www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget, and a summary will be sent to all residents along with details of 2016/17 council tax.
- 12 Licensing Forum: draft minutes + recommendations to Board from meeting on 1.12.15.
- 13 Scott Neill: 20 mph initiative facts and FAQs in creating a 'Better Safer Edinburgh': www.edinburgh.gov.uk/20mph

14 CCs Development & Support Programme session still to be held: Workshop on 'How to Apply for a Grant', 28 Jan, 6-8.30 pm - + additional session on 'What Needs Planning Permission?', 28 Feb, 6-8.30 pm, both in City Chambers.

15 Fairer Scotland (Scot Gov): answers to Q & A session for CCs held in Sept '15 to help inform a Social Justice Action Plan. See www.fairer.scot

16 Sarah Boyack MSP e-newsletter, including climate change issues and planning updates.

17 Pauline Valentine: enquiry re current plans to install on-street communal recycling bins and where they would be sited in Oxfords Central [PV may update at FCC meeting]

18 Cllr Andrew Burns: Council Leader's Report, including Tram Project update and proposal for cycle link between Roseburn and Leith Walk.

19 TRO/14/56: proposed waiting/loading restrictions at top of Oxfords Green. For info see www.edinburgh.gov.uk/trafficorders

20 TRO/15/61: proposed waiting/loading restrictions: Oxfords Rd North and Firrhill Cresc (adjacent to Oxfords & St Mark's Primary Schools) – see above web address

21 Jim Napier to Craig Dunlop informing him of tidying-up exercise by himself and Peggy Wright in front of Pavilion – but not able to finish, and some weeds (eg dandelions) now too deep-rooted to pull out.

22 Craig Dunlop: thanks to JN & PW; he will now organise for bags of weeds to be removed and team will tackle remaining clear-up + put down bark chippings to assist in weed suppression. [e-mail on 17.11.15, but this work has still not been done]

23 Mark Borthwick, Housing & Regeneration, CEC re Carr Gomm Scotland taking over lease of HRA land adjacent to 12 Firrhill Crescent for 'growing and recreation'. Areas of garden and drying poles used by residents of 3/5/7 Firrhill Loan will be respected.

24 Mark Borthwick re application to buy small piece of HRA land to add to the bottom of their garden by owners of 76 Oxfords Bank. [FCC members who looked at this had no issues with it]

25 Sarah Boyack MSP e-newsletter including comments on benefits of new cycle ramp at Waverley Station + the fact that access is needed for taxi users with mobility problems. [I replied to point out that taxi users at rank on Market Street still have to drag suitcases up or down two flights of stairs at that side of the station, where there is no escalator yet.]

For more information on any of the above, please contact Firrhill Community Council Secretary: peggy.wright@live.co.uk Tel: 0131 531 9796