

DAVIDSON'S MAINS AND SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Committee Meeting on 13th September 2011
at Davidson's Mains Primary School

Chairman: Rod Alexander

Minutes: Jo Butt

Present: Jo Butt, Seonaidh Edgar, Gordon McGregor, Heather Macnaughton, Eunice Smith

In Attendance: Sgt Ian Watters, Lesley Abbott (Barnton Park Tennis Club),
Councillors Kate MacKenzie and Norman Work

Police Report and Tennis Club:

In order not to detain Sgt Watters and Mrs Abbott, this item was taken before the main agenda.

Sgt Watters gave an update on criminal activity in the area, which showed some reduction, and no reports of house-breaking, but two thefts from Tesco. Disturbances from youths at Tesco and in the Park have required police attendance. Tesco reported reduction in Community Police liaison – Sgt Watters will contact them.

Lesley Abbott reported on concerns about youths hanging about Barnton Park Tennis Club, especially at the hut – smoking and drinking, and causing apprehension amongst members, though no reported vandalism. Members had been disappointed in the police response. Sgt Watters agreed to put the Club in touch with police security advisors.

Police

1. Apologies: Mary Rose Caden, Jackie Chapman, Charlotte Cowe, Keith Hannay, Patricia McCulloch, Councillor George Grubb

2. Minutes of Last Meeting: Approved, with amendment of date from 10th May to 14th June 2011.

3. Matters Arising:

a) Lauriston Castle: Further vandalism reported. Grounds now closed 7.30pm.

b) The Green: Lights have been updated, with local approval. RA to enquire if bollards are still a contentious issue.

RA

c) Date for April 2012 Committee meeting: Carry forward.

CC

d) Car Parking in Park: Further discussion. JB has contacted Douglas Cruickshank, and this should be considered at the next Friends of DMP meeting on 28th Sept.

JB

e) Dog fouling in The Green: RA has replied to Gillian Johnston, West Neighbourhood Team. Concern about proposed size and site of notices.

RA

4. Correspondence: Letter of thanks from BBC for our help with Digital Switchover Scheme (14 people benefitted).

5. Reports:

a) Police: See above.

b) Treasurer: Balance in account - £4806.94

c) Friends of DMP: "Litter Summit" held at RHS on 20th May. Report by Margaret Laing has been circulated, with suggestions, including "Star Card" scheme. Decisions awaited. ES reported that many trees along E Barnton Av are affected by fungus, and may be lost. ES has identified rare fungus (only second sighting in Scotland).

d) Almond NP Environment Group: There may be local historical artefacts – the possibility of a Heritage Trail to be raised with Partnership. **ES**

e) DMSA Youth Group: The group is up and running. A senior youth worker has been appointed, and the council are taking over full management. Next meeting on Oct 4th, targeting P7. The residue of the account (transferred to Rannoch Centre) is to be used purely for benefit of local children. The committee congratulated Heather for all her efforts and success.

6. Almond Neighbourhood Partnership: Met on 16th August – discussed new Community Plan, to be published in 4 weeks. Many worthy aspirations, but no targets – subgroup will look at specific targets. No mention of traffic congestion in D Mains and Cramond. City Development to undertake traffic surveys.

7. Newsletter: To be produced in October.

8. Christmas lights: Switch on Fri 2nd Dec – confirmed with Council. Jackie to approach RHS re choir ("no choir – no event"!), then Jo to approach Tesco. **JC/JB**

9. Mackenzies: AV reported on representations and meetings (about anti-social noise front and back, and spill-outs) between herself and other residents, council officials, lawyers and representatives of the owners (Trust Inns). Discussions continue, with a forthcoming meeting with the current licensee. Thanks were expressed to Aileen for her efforts, and keeping the committee informed. **AV**

10. Tesco: There has been an increase in vandalism, with gangs of up to 40 youths gathering near the store in the evenings. There has been some stone throwing, and police are called at least 10 times per week. The manager has been assaulted, and there have been 8 – 10 arrests. Tesco now employs full time security from 12.30pm to 10pm. All loose packaging and trolleys have been cleared from the car park. The destroyed litter bin and concrete pillars at the entrance to the path cannot be replaced until an insurance claim has been settled. Path maintenance has been less regular, and will be addressed. Unauthorised parking (eg in "disabled" spaces) is not illegal, but we are encouraged to report to the manager, who will intervene.

11. Membership: RA has list of members, current and lapsed – to be targeted in the next newsletter. **RA**

12. Japanese Knotweed at Silverknowes Foreshore: The concern of a local resident was noted, and she has been given appropriate contact details. Himalayan Balsam is becoming a problem on Corstorphine Hill, and is now present in Davidson's Mains Park. Refer to Friends.

ES/JB

13. AOCB:

a) There is to be a meeting of the Biodiversity Network in October.

b) 19 Main Street: Further development plans have been submitted, and will be monitored.

CC/RA

c) Allotment development: A local resident has raised points about the proposed Lauriston Castle Allotment Development. She will be invited to attend the next meeting of the DMSA Committee.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11th October 2011 at Davidson's Mains Primary School at 6.45pm