

# TRINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2 SEPTEMBER 2013

### PRESENT

TCC members -Richard Scott (Chairman), Janet Ruddiman (Vice- Chair), Alyson Cameron (Treasurer), Tom Kelly (Secretary), Patricia Brindle, Stewart Fowlie, Elizabeth Grant, Ina Kruk, Mark Liddle, Bunty Lind, Tim Parker, Betty Shorthose, Rod Shearer, and Clive Preston (Tree Warden).

Also - Councillors Allan Jackson and Vicki Redpath; and local residents Neil Adams, Moira Brown, Andrew Leslie, Clifford Lutton, Janet McArthur, Bill Rodger and R. Swanson.

Apologies for absence - Mike Wallace and Lesley Anne Weir; Mark Lazarowicz MP; Malcolm Chisholm MSP; Councillor Cammy Day; and Police Scotland.

### **Abbreviations used in Minutes**

**CEC** - City of Edinburgh Council

**Cllr** - CEC Councillor

**FNP** – Forth Neighbourhood Partnership

**member(s)** – member(s) of Trinity Community Council

**NELO** – North Edinburgh Local Office of CEC

**TCC** – Trinity Community Council

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. The minutes of the meeting on 10 June were formally approved on the proposal of Betty Shorthose seconded by Alyson Cameron.

### MATTERS ARISING

2. Updates and matters arising from previous minutes are included in the relevant item below.

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

3. The Chairman noted that this was the last meeting of the present membership of TCC. He was grateful for the contributions and support of members and particularly office-bearers and representatives in dealing with so many local issues and raising the profile of TCC.
4. The Secretary reminded the meeting that nominations were now open for elected members, and that nominating bodies had to seek re-registration, by 26 September. Cllr Jackson (Returning Officer for the TCC election) reminded the meeting that if there were 12 or fewer nominations for elected members (but more than six nominations), these individuals would automatically become members. If, however, there were more than 12 nominations there would be an electronic and postal ballot of residents. The first meeting of the new membership of TCC would be convened on Monday 14 October, as previously scheduled, unless a ballot was required.
4. For nominated members, the Secretary said that it was possible that the TCC quota would be fully used up if Holy Cross RC Church and Wardie Primary Parents' Association chose to register as local interest groups. It

was not yet known how effective publicity had been locally and across the city but it was hoped that all interested individuals and groups would have the chance to consider nomination.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

5. The Treasurer reported that the current balance in the bank account was £192.51p after payment for the page insert in *Trinity Spotlight*. The CEC grant for 2013-14 had not yet been paid but a small increase was expected after a change in the CEC method of calculation. Administrative expenses had yet to be paid for most of 2013. Members approved a small grant of £30 to assist expenses of a meeting of the Dudley Neighbourhood Watch.

#### PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

##### 144 Newhaven Road

6. No date had yet been given for consideration of the new application for a three-year licence for second hand car dealing to be considered by the CEC Licensing Sub Committee. The Chairman expected TCC to be invited to make oral representations when the case came before the Licensing Sub Committee.
7. Tricia Brindle reported that objections had been submitted on behalf of TCC, and accepted as material by the Planning Department, to the planning application to erect a new house in the rear of the garden at 144 Newhaven Road. It was not yet known when the application would be considered by the Development Sub Committee. Meantime, a separate application for approval to remove some trees from the garden had been approved by CEC.
8. The Chairman had met officer of the Planning Department to discuss the CEC decision (in a letter of 24 August) that car dealing from the back garden did not constitute a change of use for which planning permission was required. This was based on evidence of low activity seen on 11 visits by planning officer (no more than 4 vehicles on any one occasion, some of which had been said to be used by members of the owner's family). No evidence had been taken from local residents. However, an assurance was given that enforcement action might still be taken if the level of activity escalated. The Freedom of Information request to see what evidence had been considered had been refused and TCC agreed that an appeal against this decision should be made to the Information Commissioner.
9. Members discussed the possibility of seeking media publicity for concerns about CEC's handling of the various aspects of this case. Some of the local residents had indicated that they felt that publicity could be counter-productive, and on this basis TCC concluded that it would not seek media publicity.

##### Other planning issues

10. Patricia Brindle reported that there were no major planning applications

#### CEC STRATEGY "TREES IN THE CITY"

11. CEC had launched a consultation "Trees in the City" setting out its strategy for protecting and enhancing trees and woodland within the city boundary. CEC invited views on its 41 draft policies and proposed actions for the next five years. Members felt that the document mainly repeated good intentions of a general kind and it seemed doubtful, in light of previous experience of inadequate protection of trees on the sites of Trinity Park and St Columba's Hospice, that these would be effective in achieving better protection for established trees.

12. There was a continuing local problem with overhanging and overgrown trees and shrubbery which obstructed pavements and pathways in Trinity. It was noted that the consultative document suggested that the Council would "undertake" remedial action to provide adequate clearance (Policy 17).

13. The Chairman would submit a response in general terms on behalf of TCC and invited members to respond individually to the pro forma questionnaire and to encourage others to do so.

#### STARBANK PARK

14. The Chairman reported that there was now some progress on establishing a "Friends of Starbank Park" group. One local resident was interested in taking a lead. TCC would help and publicise such a group but it would be a separate entity and not a subcommittee of TCC.

15. CEC NELO had put forward two options for refurbishment of the Fountain base. The Chairman confirmed that reinstatement of a working fountain was not on offer for financial reasons. There had been a good response to proposals on TCC's Facebook page. Those who commented favoured Option B which would plant small conifers, together with an obelisk. Members were concerned that choosing an option now should not preclude full reinstatement at a later date. However, there was no immediate prospect of full reinstatement and it was desirable to have some interim improvement of this area of the Park.

16. TCC agreed to support Option B for temporary reinstatement and to urge NELO to consider the possibility of a sculpture rather than plain obelisk, in conjunction with North Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop. It was thought that the original plaque for the Fountain still existed and, if so, might be reinstated as part of the improvements. There should also be some celebration in 2014 of the centenary of the erection of the Fountain.

#### ROADS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES

17. Cllr Jackson reported that the new pedestrian crossing of Granton Road at the junction with Ferry Road would be installed by Christmas, and that work to straighten the junction at Lower Granton Road, Trinity Road and Trinity Crescent were scheduled to take place in October. Members welcomed these developments.

18. CEC was going shortly to canvas views of local residents on possible options for reducing the congestion in East Trinity Road west of at its junction with Craighall Road. There were also plans to install a "tracking camera". Temporary traffic lights had been installed for cabling work by BT which had given some relief. Decisions on a permanent solution, however, were not expected until CEC could assess the effect on traffic in the wider area of the realignment of Lower Granton Road.

19. It was noted that Cargil Terrace had been resurfaced but that there was very limited cash available for other road resurfacing projects. A wall in Afton Terrace had been damaged in an accident but was being replaced.

#### CRIME AND POLICING

20. Police Scotland were again unable to send a representative to the meeting because of absences and shift patterns. Members agreed that this was unsatisfactory in view of previous assurances and that further efforts should be made to get regular attendance at TCC meetings.

21. The Secretary had been given a summary report for June and most of July. There had been 70 recorded offences of which 22 had been solved and enquiries were expected to clear up more of the remainder. Few of the

offences were major ones. Two persons had been apprehended in connection with theft and dangerous riding of motorcycles. Unfortunately Drylaw police would not be allowed in the future to give crime statistics for their area because of new arrangements for the whole of Edinburgh.

22. Resident concern was reported about break-ins to garden sheds and thefts of motorcycles. It was also reported that Police had failed to respond to a suspicious incident in Boswall Road

#### OTHER AMENITY ISSUES

23. Members were concerned about the unpleasant and dangerous condition of sections of the walkways in the area. There continued to be problems of litter, broken glass, dog dirt and speeding cyclists. One section had been inundated by a drainage overflow. It was understood that the blocked sewer had now been cleared. TCC agreed that it should continue to pursue action by CEC to improve the other points of concern.

24. Tim Parker reported that there was no news yet about the proposed improvements of the tennis court area in Victoria Park despite reminders to CEC officers.

#### LOCAL EVENTS

25. Despite windy and cold weather, the Trinity Community Gala in Lomond Park on 31 August- 1 September had been well supported by local residents. It was noted with regret that the Newhaven Autumn Festival had been cancelled because of lack of financial support. The grant of £200 previously approved by TCC would not now be required.

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26. The first meeting after the election of Trinity Community Council would be held on Monday 14 October at 7 pm in St Serfs Church Hall, Clark Road.

October 2013