

TRINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING OF 21 MAY 2012

PRESENT

TCC members Richard Scott (Chairman) Janet Ruddiman (Vice- Chair), Alyson Cameron, (Treasurer), Tom Kelly (Secretary), Tricia Brindle, Stuart Fowlie, Liz Grant, Ken Jobling, Ina Kruk, Mark Liddle, Bunty Lind, Tim Parker, Betty Shorthose, Mike Wallace, Lesley-Anne Weir, and Clive Preston (Tree Warden)

also: Malcolm Chisholm MSP; Cllrs Cammy Day, Allan Jackson, and Vicki Redpath; Helen Blackburn (Salvation Army); and local residents: John Scott, and Rod Shearer.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mar a k Lazarowicz MP and Councillor Steve Cardownie.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 16 APRIL 2012

1. Adoption of the minutes of the April meeting was proposed by Alyson Cameron and seconded by Betty Shorthose and approved by the meeting.

Action – Secretary to arrange posting of approved minutes with appendix on website

MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION LIST

2. Members noted the update of Action Points agreed and ongoing from previous meetings.

St Columba's Hospice

3. Concern was noted as to why the application for the temporary removal of part of the wall was listed building consent rather than a planning application in view of the impact in relation to the conservation area.

Term of Appointment

4. The Secretary had been advised by CEC (who had consulted their lawyers) that the postponement of elections until October 2013 was “within the terms” of the Edinburgh scheme for its community councils. The Secretary confirmed that neither the term nor the expiry date appointments of TCC members had been minuted when they were made in October 2009. Although it was unsatisfactory that the CEC power to postpone elections was not explicit, this was unlikely to be challenged at law. It was clear that elections for a community council had to be initiated by CEC.

5. TCC agreed that the term and expiry date of members' appointments should be explicit from the outset of each appointment and election cycle. This might require a clarificatory amendment of the Edinburgh scheme for Community Councils before the next elections of members in October 2013.

Action – Secretary to convey TCC views to CEC

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

6. Richard Scott took the chair after his election as chairman at the AGM. The meeting thanked the retiring Chairman, Ken Jobling, for his contribution and hard work and welcomed his agreement to continue as an ordinary member of TCC. Richard Scott said that he hoped all members would stay on TCC until the new elections in October 2013.

7. Over the coming meetings, he would like TCC to take stock of how it did business and communicated with residents. As regards TCC business, he would like to consider the schedule of meetings over the year, use of alternative venues in other parts of TCC area, and the structure of the agenda to get a focus on major or more strategic issues. As regards communication, it was important to widen involvement with TCC particularly from younger people and school students, and he would want to look at publicity, including a possible logo for TCC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

8. Richard Scott (as retiring Treasurer) reported that there had 4 applications for grant support. TCC approved contributions of £10 for membership of Forth Estuary Forum, £30 for meeting expenses of Dudley Neighbourhood Watch, £300 to Trinity Academy towards fees for sports affiliations and tournaments, and £100 to Victoria Primary School for the Newhaven Gala on 2 June. There had been clerical expenses of £24 for printing additional survey forms.

SURVEY OF LOCAL RESIDENTS

9. Richard Scott had collated responses from written forms and entries on the website for the survey of residents. Numerically, the main issues of concern were dog fouling and litter and road safety and traffic management and only half of responses also commented on community safety and planning.

10. TCC agreed that stricter enforcement and clarification of the role of environmental wardens might reduce some of the problems with dog fouling and litter. A campaign such as "let's clean up Trinity" could be tried using the model already used in the Boswall area. More litter bins had been provided in Victoria Park in response to representations about the problem of litter dropped by school pupils, but more bins were also required on the route to the Asda superstore.. Action to prevent fouling of playing fields or games pitches was also needed. Specific concern also emerged about the neglect of Starbank Park.

11. On traffic and roads, there were persistent concerns about bottlenecks at the junction between East Trinity Road and Craighall Road, and the S-bend and traffic lights on the sea front road at the junction of Lower Granton Road/Trinity Crescent with Trinity Road. Various ideas for improvement were suggested but there was no unanimity as to solutions. It was important to encourage CEC to address these problems and come up with workable, long-term solutions. Councillors confirmed that there would be discussions on the traffic problems in the coming weeks.

12. On community safety there were continuing concerns about the spate of burglaries and about vandalism and anti-social behaviour. It was hoped that there would be more visible patrols by police and more effective use of CCTV. On planning, residents continued to be concerned about developments in the Western Harbour, Trinity Park, and mobile masts. These issues had been -or would be-pursued by TCC in its normal business.

13. TCC agreed that the findings of the survey should be more widely publicised initially on the TCC website and in the next entry for *Trinity Spotlight*. The meeting thanked Richard Scott and Mike Wallace for the work they had done on the survey.

Action – publicise results of the survey in Trinity Spotlight and on TCC website

PLANNING MATTERS

14. There were no major new applications in the preceding month. CEC had approved an application for a guesthouse - Garfield, 267 Ferry Road - to offer dinner to non-residents. The National Grid appeal against refusal of consent to demolish the Granton gasometer had been rejected. It was not known what would now be done with the gasometer.

15. Changes were in prospect to previously announced plans for Leith Docks and the Western Harbour. Expected developments were on hold because of the recession and change of ownership of Forth Ports Authority (FPA). The new owners of FPA seemed more likely to concentrate on industrial and commercial uses. It now seemed less likely that desirable developments such as temporary greening, parks and open spaces, and more resident-friendly housing would proceed.

ROADS AND TRAFFIC

16. Some of the long-term issues had been discussed under the previous item (*survey of local residents – paragraph 10 above*). Members indicated concern about the tidying up of road works for the now abandoned extension of the tram route along the Shore. There was still no news of what form of exit would be put in place from the ramp of the walkway in South Trinity Road.

CRIME AND POLICING

17. There was no police attendance or written report available for this meeting. TCC agreed to request a written report on occurrences in the preceding months for circulation after the meeting. TCC noted that there had been further burglaries in Netherby Road.

Action – obtain and circulate police report for previous month (copy appended to these minutes)

AMENITIES

18. Members agreed to request an update from NELO on action promised to improve Victoria Park and the Dudleys area.

Action – obtain NELO update on action points for Victoria Park and the Dudleys.

FORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

19. The role of Forth Neighbourhood Partnership was to be reconsidered by the new CEC administration. Newly elected Councillors would be discussing with the Manager of NELO, Peter Strong, how best to achieve community involvement.

20. The Children, Young Person and Families Action Group had met on 9 May. There was active interest in links between voluntary organisations and the schools, and better communication and alerts of emerging problems in the area. There had been several meetings of Action Groups. Various grants had been decided by the Clean Green and Safe Action Group. In other Action Groups - in particular, Physical Regeneration, and Health and Social Care - discussion was dominated by professionals focusing on relatively technical issues.

OTHER BUSINESS

21. The meeting discussed possibilities for more effective and rapid action on local issues such as clean-up of the walkways, persistent traffic problems, and environmental improvements by the new Council administration. Councillors confirmed that they would be having discussions with various interests in the coming weeks.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

22. The next meeting would be held at 7 pm on Monday 18 June 2012 in St Serfs Church Hall, Clark Road.

Approved at meeting on Monday 18 June 2012

Appendix

Police Report for Trinity Area in period 17 April to 18 May 2012

Housebreakings / Attempted housebreakings:

There were eight reported housebreakings and 3 attempted housebreakings since the last Trinity Council meeting. The majority of these crimes involved smashing windows to gain entry. Most occurred overnight or in the late evening but there have been a couple that have occurred during daylight hours. One of these incidents has been solved and a report sent to the procurator fiscal. Enquiries are ongoing into the other incidents.

Theft of Motor Vehicles

Across the Forth ward there has been an increase in reported theft of motorbikes and motor scooters. Anyone who owns such a vehicle would be advised to take every precaution possible in relation to security and if possible store it out of sight. Police are following positive lines of enquiry relating to these thefts.

Vandalism

There were eight reported vandalisms, which appear to be random and mindless acts of vandalism to motor vehicles. Unfortunately, there are no positive lines of enquiry at this stage.

General

There have been a few reports of youths gathering in Trinity Park and now that the weather has improved this is likely to increase. Green Open Spaces will be highlighted as a potential priority via the Clean Green and Safe group as this is likely to continue throughout the summer months.

Lothian and Borders Police

26 May 2012