

# TRINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING OF 11 MARCH 2013

### PRESENT

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

Also - Councillor Allan Jackson; Inspector Mark Rennie (Lothian and Borders Police), Mark Bannon (Environmental Warden North Edinburgh Team), Shona Cormack (North Edinburgh Street Work) and local resident Mel Macleod.

Apologies for absence - Mark Liddle, Mike Wallace Lesley-Anne Weir; Mark Lazarowicz MP ; Councillors Steve Cardownie, Cammy Day, and Vicki Redpath.

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF 14 FEBRUARY 2012

1. Draft minutes of the February meeting would be circulated for approval at the April meeting.

#### MATTERS ARISING

2. Updates and matters arising from previous minutes are included below.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3. The Chairman reported on meetings and activities in which he had been involved during the past month.(details of the discussions and outcomes are reported below). The new TCC Facebook page was attracting a good response from local residents in terms of support for the site and comments on individual items.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

4. The Treasurer reported that the current account balance was £604.15 p.

#### PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

5. Tricia Brindle reported that there had been no significant new applications.

#### 10 South Trinity Road

6. There were continuing concerns about the safety of a proposed entrance to the narrow lane which was used by cars.

#### Primary School Extensions

7. The new extensions to Wardie and Trinity Primary Schools had been approved subject to approval of the surface materials and details for both projects and to "turning" the Trinity Primary School building to overlook the playground. This was a disappointing outcome because although Council reports claimed that comments and suggestions had been taken into account, in practice these had made no significant difference.

#### 114 Newhaven Road

8. The Chairman reported that he had reminded a senior planning official about the delay in resolving whether a planning application for change of use would be required, and would continue to pursue a response on this matter.

### Telecommunication Installations

9. Tricia Brindle had alerted the Planning Department that one of the new BT roadside boxes, in Stirling Road unnecessarily obstructed the pavement. A big new mast for mobile phones was to be installed in Inverleith Row and might reduce the pressure for a new mobile mast sites in Trinity.

### Trinity Park

10. There was some concern about the excessive lighting of the site during construction, and continuing unease about safeguarding of trees (though some uncertainty as to the precise terms of planning approval in relation to trees on the site).

## FORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

### Trinity Walkabout 2013

11. The walkabout for 2013 would take place on Saturday 20 April from 10 am to noon. It had been agreed that this would look at problems of the East Trinity Road a bleak Craighall Road junction, Starbank Park, and the realignment and pedestrian safety of Lower Granton Road/Trinity Crescent. Other sites could still be included if time and distance permitted. The event would be publicised by both NELO and TCC.

### Neighbourhood Environment Programme

12. Proposals had been invited for projects to be funded by NELO under the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP). It was agreed that TCC should pursue the possibility of funding for improvements and repair of the Fountain in Starbank Park; safety rail for pedestrians in Laverockbank road, and improvements of the footpath between Trinity Academy and Newhaven Road.

13. Shona Cormack (Street Work) hoped that priority could also be given to improvement of the all-weather facilities in Victoria Park. Repairs were needed to the basketball court which was fitted with potholes, and it would help young people to have longer hours of lighting in the evenings. TCC agreed that more investment in the all-weather pitches of Victoria Park should be supported.

### Review of Neighbourhood Partnerships

14. CEC was conducting a review of its neighbourhood partnerships with a survey by e-mail link and also workshops. One view was that the neighbourhood partnerships should either be boosted to be more effective or closed altogether. At the moment there was an unsatisfactory balance between Council oversight of strategy for services across the city and community involvement in decisions on priorities for a particular area. The Chairman would continue to take part in discussions and consultations on this issue.

## REVIEW OF LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

15. The Chairman invited the meeting to consider what view should be submitted on behalf of TCC in response to the CEC review of Local Transport strategy. Members agreed that the response should highlight, in particular, the scope for improving ticketing arrangements for bus services, the importance of maintaining bus services at present levels, and the desirability of physical calming measures when 20 mph zones were extended. The importance of measures to ensure adequacy of parking for residents and safety in streets with schools should also be mentioned.

## CRIME AND POLICING

16. Inspector Mark Rennie explained to the meeting what could be expected when the new Scottish Police force-Police Scotland-took over from Lothian and Borders Police on 1 April. There would be a new structure at national level with the Scottish Police Authority replacing joint police boards and an independent commission to review major incidents and complaints against the police. There would be fewer senior officers, pooling of specialists, and centralised procurement but more support for remoter police units.

17. There should be no obvious difference, however, in policing of the streets from the point of takeover. The new police strategy for Scotland focused on keeping people safe and this would mean larger numbers and a more visible presence of police officers to head off or curb drink related disturbances. It was also planned to have a "Campaign against Violence" and for road traffic units to give attention to local roads and not just major roads.

18. For Forth Ward the main priorities for policing would be to target housebreaking, violence, and anti-social behaviour. Illegal drugs would be another target but were not considered to be a significant problem in Trinity at present. In Inverleith Ward another priority would be road safety. In order to improve local involvement of the public, there would be closer links with schools and neighbourhood watches, more use of social networks and the Internet by the Safe Neighbourhood Team. There is also to be a new general contact phone number -101-for non-emergency calls separate from the 999 emergency number, and regular reports in *North Edinburgh News*.

19. In discussion, it was noted that there were no plans to have community support officers on the same lines as in England and there would continue to be Special Constables in Scotland. Recent problems in the area had been a spate of breaking into business premises, and theft of dogs. Inspector Rennie acknowledged that there were problems of pedestrian safety on the walkways and favoured a central line to keep pedestrians and cyclists apart as well as more use of lights and warning bells by cyclists. It was also suggested that alerts and other information about crime and policing activity could be given to Trinity residents in *Trinity Spotlight*.

20. The Chairman thanked Inspector Rennie for his contribution to the meeting and invited him to attend future meeting in a few months' time when the new organisation had settled into place. Meantime, it was hoped that the regular reports on crime and police activity in the Trinity area would be continued as these were regarded as very valuable by members and local residents.

#### AMENITIES

21. Mark Bannon, the team leader at North Edinburgh Local Office, attended the meeting to explain the activities of environmental wardens and to answer questions. Leaflets which included contact details were handed around to members and others attending the meeting.

22. The frequency and intensity of patrols was limited by having only a total of six environmental wardens for North Edinburgh (Inverleith as well as Forth Wards). The wardens had to patrol in pairs and this meant that there was usually one patrol per day per ward. The presence of environmental wardens was highly visible with red and yellow vests and this did have some deterrent effect on littering, graffiti and dog fouling. The environmental wardens had limited powers to impose fixed penalties but in some cases would refer a problem to the police for action. Patrols were intended to be proactive in dealing with offences but complaints and calls could be made by telephone by members of the public to a central call centre for the city.

23. Mark Bannon acknowledged that dog fouling was particular concern in the Trinity area although the extent of fouling was not as great as in some other areas. Patrols were now targeting locations where the problem occurred most often. Spot checks could be undertaken by environmental wardens in plainclothes. The previous practice had been to report offenders to the Procurator Fiscal and the extent of problems was monitored and reviewed monthly. In the future, it was intended to issue fixed penalty notices of £60 without warning but, Mark Bannon acknowledged, there was no record kept of whether or not fixed penalties were paid by offenders.

24. For littering, wardens were focusing their activity on problem times such as school breaks. For children under 16, wardens could do no more than report the offenders to their schools. But liaison with schools was helping children to become more responsible and less of a problem. Fixed penalties were issued more frequently and in the period April 2012 to January 2013 there had been a total of 465 fixed penalty notices across Forth and Inverleith wards. The North Edinburgh team had also dealt with instances of fly tipping, nuisance from skips, and an abandoned trailer.

25. The Chairman thanked Mark Bannon for his contribution to the meeting and hope that there would be productive liaison between TCC and the environmental wardens in the coming months.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26. The next meeting would be held at 7 pm on Monday 8 April 2013 at 7pm in St Serfs Church Hall, Clark Road.

Approved 10 June 2013