

**Tollcross Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 8 April 2015 at 7pm**  
**Tollcross Community Education Centre 117 Fountainbridge**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Paul Beswick (Chair), Tim Puntis (Treasurer), Heather Goodare, Chris McGregor, Roger Colkett, Liz Summerfield, Andrew Devenport, Andrew Brough, Iain Black, Michael Lister.

**Apologies:** Ann Wigglesworth, David Liddle. Cllrs Rankin, Key, Mowat, Corbett. Marco Biagi MSP.

**City of Edinburgh Councillors:** none

**MSPs:** none

**Police:** PCs Leon Malinowski and Simon Wooton.

**Public:** Andrea Shaw, Richard Allen.

**2. Minutes of Meeting on 11 March 2105:** the Minutes were accepted as correct.

**Matters arising:**

**Meadows Public Conveniences:** Andy Devenport reported that new public toilets were being built at Saughton Park, while toilets at the Meadows were currently closed. Heather Goodare has been in touch with Cllr Melanie Main, who said a political decision was being awaited.

**ACTION: PB to contact CEC Councillors**

**Waste and Recycling:** Tim Puntis reported ongoing problems in Lochrin Place with public urination, etc, and the accumulation of general rubbish there.

**ACTION: TP to follow this up with CEC.**

**3. Police matters:** PB welcomed PC Malinowski to his first meeting, who reported that Operation Cometus was still running locally, in tandem with Operation RAC across the division. With competing pressure on limited resources, Community Officers were finding it difficult to patrol local beats. Bicycle thefts in the immediate area were still high, and the question of cyclists was raised, again. A lively discussion ensued.

**4. Planning:** PB listed three new applications:

1. Lothian House – Semple Street/Fountainbridge– permission to demolish and build the eyesore has been granted, and this will result in the loss of low-cost stores and the building itself
2. Grindlay Street – application to convert coffee shop into a studio flat
3. Fountainbridge North – developers have applied **(i)** to vary/amend Condition (3) in relation to 70% active commercial frontage and **(ii)** to remove Section 7 in respect of restriction on numbers of children using play area.

**PB has contacted CEC for clarification in relation to point (i) and has asked for an extension to the date by which the Community Council must respond. He also explained that Marco Biagi MSP had planned to attend to speak to this evening's meeting about student/affordable housing, but was unable to.**

There followed an extensive discussion about student housing, affordable housing, CEC land sales, CEC Strategic Plan, CEC Planning Dept staffing cuts, and the Appeals system. RC suggested the need for the Council to adopt a restrictive policy in the matter of growing transient populations.

**ACTION: Community Councillors to continue to write individually to CEC Councillors (and MSPs) to keep up the pressure to change planning guidelines and policy which favours the local community and not the developers, using, *mutatis mutandi*, the template that Marco Biagi has circulated.**

**5. Councillors' Comments and Questions:** there being no Councillors present, Roger Colkett asked: **(i)** why the roadworks at Lauriston Place had been carried out overnight between 8pm and 6am, instead of between 8am and 6pm. The arrangement put contractors' interests before those of residents' and created a great deal of noise and disturbance ; and **(ii)** during the repairs to a collapsed sewer at High Riggs, a mature tree had been chopped down, and a man-hole cover paved over. Who was responsible for this and why was there no community engagement prior to the repairs' being carried out?

**6. Licensing:** Roger Colkett reported that there were no new alcohol licensing applications, but a civic licence application for a second-hand dealer at 72 West Port, currently a second-hand book dealer.

**ACTION: RC to email CEC for further information about the nature of the change of use.**

## **7. Events**

**(i) Tree Lights:** It was generally felt that the lights ceremony being the sole remaining community event organised and offered by the Community Council, it would be good to continue this event, however a coordinator and small team would need to be appointed. Various options surrounding the continuation or non-continuation of this event were discussed. No-one volunteered to coordinate this event.

**ACTION:**

**(ii) Meadows Festival Stall:** Andy Devenport explained that he had produced a paper about this, with costs to be in the region of £600-700. Given the time-sensitive issues involved, he would circulate this paper electronically for members to participate in an email discussion.

**ACTION: AD to circulate paper, with final costings, to members. Responses to be returned to AD within a week of receipt of his paper.**

**(iii) Canal Festival Stall:** not discussed, but covered in (ii) above

**8. Discussion: Minutes Secretary:** Further to Andrew Brough's paper and Paul Beswick's written response to it, it was agreed that a paid minutes secretary be sought.

**ACTION: AW to contact Volunteer Centre.**

**9. Health and Social Care Update:** Heather Goodare explained the serious democratic deficit implicit in patient/user/carer/advocate representation on the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board which is responsible for integrating national policy on health and social care, and highlighted the need for Community Councils to have a voice on this Board.

**ACTION: RC to contact EACC with a proposal for the EIJB to appoint a health and well-being representative from within the Community Council framework.**

**10. Reports:** Andrew Brough had attended the CC Training Session on 18 March; Roger Colkett had attended the EACC discussions of 16 and 26 March.

**11. AOCB:** None

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 7pm, Tollcross Community Centre**