

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 28th October 2015 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Education Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Present: Andrew Brough (Secretary), Tim Puntis (Treasurer), Richard Allen, Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth. **Police:** PC Sacha Ponniah, St Leonards. **CEC Councillors:** Andrew Burns, Gavin Corbett.

MSP: Sarah Boyack. **Members of the public:** Mary Neilson, Andreas Wilhelm.

Apologies: Paul Beswick, Andy Devenport, Heather Goodare, David Liddle, Nick Munro, Chris Wigglesworth. Cllrs Howatt, Key, Main, Rankin. PC Simon Wotton, Oxfangs

In the absence of Paul Beswick, Tim Puntis chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. He reminded members to be succinct in their contributions and to speak through the Chair, and asked for any additional items for the agenda.

Additional Agenda items:

Ann Wigglesworth asked for a substitute to attend the Tollcross Community Centre AGM in her stead on 4 November, which matter was referred to AOCB.

2. Minutes 30 September 2015 – Acceptance & Matters arising:

The minutes of the meeting of 30 September were accepted with the following correction:

Item 3: safer cycling at Grove St, Fountainbridge and the Canal: for 'PC Ponniah' read 'PC Wotton'

Matters arising:

Item 5d: Community Councils – locally working together

Ann Wigglesworth asked to include Gorgie-Dalry Community Council. Liz Summerfield replied that she has included Gorgie-Dalry in previous mailshots. Andrew Brough briefly mentioned the difficulties encountered in finding suitable dates for setting up an initial meeting with neighbouring community councils to discuss shared concerns and priorities.

3. Police matters

PC Ponniah reported that in the two areas covered by St Leonards in the Tollcross/Meadows area there had in the first area, twelve reported incidents in October. These included one cycle theft; two drug offences; one theft by housebreaking; and two miscellaneous thefts. In the second area, there had been two recorded offences.

He also reported that Operation Austinburg was still in force and that despite the recent Sheriff Court forfeiture order under which New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) had been surrendered for destruction, the use of NPS in stairwells continued to be an issue.

Andrew Brough commended Police Scotland on their successful work in taking more than £50 000 worth of NPS off the local streets.

On the question of community safety and in light of recent pedal-cycle thefts and petty thefts in areas neighbouring Tollcross, PC Ponniah reported that Operation RAC was ongoing

and that he would bring crime prevention leaflets to the next meeting. He also reminded members of the availability of police surgeries in the area that offer advice on securing one's property.

ACTION: PC Ponniah

On the perennial question of cyclists on Glengyle, PC Ponniah updated the meeting with a brief report on his recent observations on Glengyle and suggested that education of cyclists is the best way forward.

ACTION: PC Ponniah to continue to monitor the situation

There followed a discussion about the Canal path and those who cycle too fast on what is a narrow shared path. Cllr Burns mentioned that once the Boroughmuir School is completed, it is planned to reconfigure Dundee St with additional provision for cyclists, so encouraging cyclists off the Canal and onto roads. Cllr Corbett suggested that there was not a quick win situation, but with better education and a refreshed Canal Code, some improvements were possible.

4. Speaker – Sarah Boyack, MSP

Sarah Boyack gave a presentation under three headings: policing; health issues; and housing and planning issues and explained her roles as both a List MSP for Lothian and as shadow cabinet member for environmental justice.

She talked briefly about the challenges faced by the Scottish Government: most notably the imbalance between national policing and community policing; the current problems faced by NHS Scotland; and the issues surrounding housing and planning. She acknowledged the affordability questions of both buying and renting and how these relate to the matter of social justice, and also spoke to wider issues of housing investment, party flats, statutory notices, tenemental properties, transport; farming and food issues; food affordability; land reform and how land is used in the city; and the imbalance between hotels, student accommodation and affordable housing.

There followed comments and questions from the floor which included the impact of current planning policy on the quality of life in local communities and the loss of small traders and local businesses; a dislocated sense of community and loss of local identity; and the gentrification of certain parts of the city; and the absurdity of what constitutes 'material objections' in the objections process.

On the question of planning legislation, Sarah Boyack argued that there was an urgent need to rebalance housing provision in the city. Cllrs Burns and Corbett also participated in the discussion: Cllr Burns argued that there was too much centralization in government and that for local authorities to flourish there needed to be more flexibility and freedom and greater autonomy.

5. Local Matters

a. Community Christmas event with TXCC, FCI and the Grove

Andrew Brough reported that he had lately received an invitation from the Fountainbridge Canal Initiative and the Grove to attend a meeting with them on 29 October to discuss

participation in a joint Christmas Community event on 12 December. Richard Allen pointed out that previous events had proved tremendously successful and that this new event would provide the opportunity to network and develop links with other community groups. Because of the late notification of this meeting, there was no other information available.

Roger Colkett asked the meeting to approve TXCC participation in principle, and this was agreed with no opposition, although Ann Wigglesworth, while not objecting to the proposal did voice that she was dubious about the matter, suggested that an apparently newly formed local action group (Tollcross Community Action Network) might be planning a similar event in conjunction with Tollcross Community Centre.

There being no actual opposition to the proposal that we participate in this event, it was also voted that we contribute £600 to the event.

ACTION: Andrew Brough and Richard Allen

b. Development of Events Space on Meadows

Liz Summerfield gave a short report on the recent CEC Culture and Sports Committee meeting, the outcome of which was to carry out further consultation to decide what action to recommend in the use of public parks. Liz suggested that because there had been little advance notification of the above meeting, she would be happy to circulate the consultation papers to TXCC members for information.

ACTION: Liz Summerfield

c. King's Stables Road Development PAN

Andrew Brough reported that the second PAN meeting with revised plans would take place on 29 October at the site between 12noon and 8pm, and urged as many members as possible to attend. He also referred to the proposals for a hotel at India Buildings, and although this is just outside our area of jurisdiction, he recommended that we lodge objections by 20 November.

ACTION: Ann Wigglesworth to circulate to all members the information from Wendy Heber about the revised plans

ACTION: all members to submit response to planning proposals for India Buildings & King's Stable Road

d. Roads Budget Awards

Andrew Brough reported on the funds awards, and pointed out that while TXCC nominations had not been successful, others had. The award would be spent on improvements to the resurfacing of Jawbone Walk and its surrounding area, with the Jawbone itself being restored to the site in 2016.

e. Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) – AGM 28/11 Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary/Treasurer/Edinburgh Partnership

Andrew Brough spoke to this matter. There were no nominations from the floor to stand for the any of the executive positions of EACC.

6. Councillors' Comments & Questions

Cllr Burns informed the meeting that currently the greater part of his Ward 9 correspondence has concerned planning applications in the area.

Cllr Burns reminded the meeting that the online budget consultation for 2016-17 (and into 2018-20) was now open (www.edinburgh.gov.uk/budget) and urged as many individual/organisational/institutional submissions as possible.

ACTION: all members to participate in the consultation

Cllr Corbett explained that he and his fellow-councillors for the Ward hope to take a collegiate approach to meetings and arrange to send at least one member to attend each of the TXCC meetings.

Cllr Corbett briefly reported on three matters:

1. The petition concerning the relocation of the Re-Union office
2. The importance of continuing support to ALP (Adult Learning Project) in the area
3. The desirability of 'mean-time' use of long-term unoccupied sites for community-based projects in the area

In the absence of Cllr Main, Andrew Brough read a short report that she had submitted.

It was reported that:

1. The illegal railings at 3 Panmure Place were under investigation, and likely to be removed.
2. Under the Roads Budget Awards, a bid for a disabled parking space at the King's Theatre has been successful.
3. The first phase of the removal of refuse bins is now complete.

7. Planning

a. Consultation – Draft Revised Student Housing Planning Guidance

In the absence of Paul Beswick, Andrew Brough reported that a Draft Revised Student Housing Planning Guidance was now open for consultation and that Paul Beswick would be responding to this in due course.

8. Licensing

Roger Colkett reported that there were no new liquor licensing applications in the area in the period, and one civic licensing application for a tattoo parlour, to which there was no objection.

He noted that two earlier licensing applications, previously held over by the Licensing Board, had since been approved:

1. Badabing at the Canal Basin
2. Wetherspoon's at the former Picture House, Lothian Road

Mary Neilson wondered that since Jimmy Chung's at Waverley Bridge had recently been taken over by Wetherspoon's, perhaps the same might happen to Chung's at Grindlay Street and asked for this matter to be kept in mind. Also, a Boxing Club at the foot of Spittal Street Lane was using a large motorised vehicle for advertising, and that this was unsightly.

9. Reports in addition to those written

Roger Colkett reported on a follow-up meeting to the September Living Streets Street Audit on 26 October which he had attended.

Richard Allen reported on EnergyHub which has newly issued shares. (See: www.edinburghsolar.coop)

10. AOCB

Tollcross Community Centre AGM, 4 November

Ann Wigglesworth asked for a substitute to attend the Tollcross Community Centre AGM in her stead on 4 November.

CEC Councillors, City Centre

It was noted, with regret, that again no Councillors from the City Centre Ward were present. The meeting closed at 9pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25 November at 7pm, Tollcross Community Centre

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