

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 27 January 2016 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Education Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Paul Beswick (Chair), Andrew Brough (Secretary), Tim Puntis (Treasurer), Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Andy Devenport, Heather Goodare, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth. **Police:** PC Jamie Baillie. **CEC Councillors:** Gavin Corbett, Joanna Mowat. **Members of the public:** Simon Byrom, Wendy Hebard, David Liddle, Mary Neilson, Sheila Nicol, Tom Nicol, Maggie Scobbie, Neil Simpson. **Apologies:** Richard Allen, Nick Munro, Chris Wigglesworth. Cllrs Burns, Howatt, Key, Main, Rankin. PC Sacha Ponniah, St Leonards, PC Simon Wotton, Oxfangs. Sarah Boyack, MSP

Paul Beswick welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2016 and asked for any additional items for the Agenda.

- a. David Liddle – CCTV
- b. Ann Wigglesworth – South Asian Women’s Group
- c. Iain Black – recycling bins

2. Police matters –

PC Jamie Baillie from the Wester Hailes office introduced himself and gave a break-down of crime figures from 1st December 2015. He explained that in relation to other areas in the city, the figures were not a cause for pessimism. There had been 8 shoplifting offences, 1 detected, 7 outstanding; 18 reports of thefts; 1 allegation of rape (falsely alleged); 11 reports of house break-ins, with 1 having been detected; 1 account of fraud; 7 bail offences; several thefts of push-bikes, concerning which he was of the view that the resurrection of the Bike Register would help recovery and identification; 4 sexual offences relating to the internet/social media which were now in the court system. He also mentioned public order issues surrounding licensed premises in the area, where there continued to be assaults linked to alcohol consumption, and that licenses were constantly under scrutiny by the police.

In response to questions about alcohol and driving offences, PC Baillie said that there had been no recorded incidents over the Christmas period in the immediate area; on the question of the monitoring of the new 20MPH system particularly at night, PC Baillie explained that resources were insufficient to allow this to be monitored.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 25 November 2015 – Acceptance & Matters arising – the minutes of the meeting of 25 November were accepted, subject to one correction:

“**Item 8 – Licensing** – Roger Colkett reported that there were no substantive new applications, but only applications relating to change in off-licence opening hours to allow access for children to such premises” to read: “**Licensing** – Roger Colkett reported that there were no substantive new applications, but only applications relating to change in off-licence opening hours or to allow access for children to such premises.”

4. Car Parking – the presentation by Alan Cran on CEC changes to Sunday/evening parking charges had to be postponed.

There followed a general discussion on the consultation process and the perceived lack of publicity surrounding the consultation; it was felt that the proposed changes were mean and punitive, especially on Sundays, and constituted a niggardly tax.

Cllr Mowat explained that the report of the consultation will be presented to the Transport and Environment Committee in mid-March, and that any changes will be subject to a statutory consultation process.

ACTION: Cllr Mowat to email all Community Councils with further information about this, once it becomes available.

5: Local matters

a. Funding application to SCNP – Andrew Brough explained that the application had been turned down. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to submit a re-positioned application.

ACTION: Paul Beswick and Andy Devenport to liaise over a fresh application for submission prior to the 14 March meeting of SCNP.

b. Future of Edinburgh Canal Society – Andy Devenport outlined the current situation in which the ECS found itself and the uncertain future it faces.

ACTION: Gavin Corbett and Andy Devenport to arrange a meeting to discuss the issues and options, with the possible involvement of FCI.

c. Closure of Lauriston Fire Museum – Liz Summerfield summarised her report (see her previously circulated email of 26 January 2016). Following discussion of various issues, it was decided that the Chair and Secretary should write to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and to the City of Edinburgh Council to express the concern of the TXCC about the future of the Museum.

ACTION: Paul Beswick and Andrew Brought to write to SFRS and CEC.

d. Winterfest – Andrew Brough reported on the great success of the Winterfest which had attracted between 300-400 visitors and had been attended by all of the Community Councillors. As the site will not be available next Winter, it was wondered whether it would be better for TXCC to concentrate its efforts on the 2016 Meadows' Festival and/or the Canalside Festival (provisional date 18 June).

ACTION: to be discussed at a future meeting.

e. Street Audit – Roger Colkett reported that John Berry of CEC had not responded satisfactorily to the report submitted by David Hunter who had carried out the street audit on behalf of Living Streets. Cllr Mowat suggested that Roger write to both John Berry and to the new Director of Place, Paul Lawrence at CEC.

ACTION: Roger Colkett to write to John Berry and Paul Lawrence.

f. Sounding Board – it was noted that Richard Allen had circulated a paper about this initiative.

g. Edinburgh Equalities and Rights Network – Tim Puntis gave a short presentation about the network and its intersectional nature, and was nominated to represent TXCC at this forum.

6. Councillors' Comments & Questions – both Cllrs Corbett and Mowat reported briefly on planning and development matters on the various Fountainbridge sites, and there followed a lively, discussion on a range of concerns, including the mix (and absence of mix) of housing; the general questions of quality and uniformity of design; the hamstringing of the Council when faced with the guiding principle of the Scottish Government and its

‘presumption in favour of development’; the current imbalance in the planning system; irresponsible landlord behaviour; the new management system as it relates to letting (as opposed to a new system of housing planning and development); the area masterplans which profess a commitment to the social end of things, but which never deliver; community empowerment and planning; and the importance of community councils to establish links to discuss planning issues in particular.

In response to the suggestion from Simon Byrom that community councils establish such links, Liz Summerfield pointed out that she had been making approaches to neighbouring community councils and other local groups to this end, but that difficulties had emerged where community councils may be interested in participating in joint discussions, this had not been translated into action.

7. Planning – Paul Beswick updated the meeting on the following:

a. Proposed students residence, Dundee Street (Victor Paris) – objection has been submitted on behalf of TXCC.

b. Sky Parks site at 150 Morrison Street (including Chuckie Pend and Festival Square, Application 09/01314/FUL) – permission granted.

c. Student Residences at Buccleuch Street – permission granted.

d. Railings/garden at 3 Panmure Place – a CEC decision about the application to convert the pavement into a garden is still to be made, but it is presumed that the Council will not approve this.

e. King’s Stables Road (Application 15/05715/FUL) – the deadline for submitting objections has been extended to 8 February, and all community councillors have been urged to submit their objections via the CEC portal or to the official handling the application: elaine.watson@edinburgh.gov.uk – Objection to Planning (King's Stables Road) 15/05715/FUL. Members of the Old Town Community Council and the Old Town Development Trust spoke to the matters of this application and the implications for the local area were this application to be successful. Wendy Hebard asked for it to be minuted that she was very grateful to Paul Beswick for his draft letter of objection on behalf of TXCC and welcomed the support of TXCC.

f. Hotel at 194 Fountainbridge (Application 13/01405/FUL) – permission granted for this 181-bed hotel.

8. Licensing – nothing controversial to report.

9. Reports in addition to those written – none

10 AOCB –

Given the need to close the meeting by 9pm, it was agreed to hold over David Liddle’s item on CCTV and Iain Black’s item on recycling bins until the next meeting.

Ann Wigglesworth mentioned the impending withdrawal of CEC funding from the South Asian Women’s Group and was advised by Cllr Corbett to write to the Council to ask if they might be able to provide the Group with some detailed information about their decision and to suggest other possible sources of funding.

ACTION: Ann Wigglesworth to liaise with Paul Beswick and Andrew Brough over the drafting of a letter to CEC.

Heather Goodare – following the intimation of Heather’s decision to stand down as a community councillor, Paul Beswick took the opportunity to pay tribute to Heather for the important contributions that she has made to the TXCC over many years. In particular, he mentioned the work that Heather has done in relation to Health, the Meadows and to Environmental issues (not least including bicycles and bins!) and he held up Heather as a remarkably good example of local activism. Paul thanked Heather for her attendance at meetings and for her support as a community councillor, and looked forward to welcoming her at future community council meetings as a member of the public.

Heather graciously replied by thanking Paul for his kind words and reminding the meeting that the Edinburgh Health Forum, which she chairs, is looking for funding and the use of a room for their bi-monthly meetings, and that if anyone on the Community Council could assist with suggestions about these matters, then please to contact her.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 24 February 2016 at 7pm, Tollcross Community Centre

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