

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 30 March 2016 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Education Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Paul Beswick (Chair), Andrew Brough (Secretary), Tim Puntis (Treasurer), Richard Allen, Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth. **Police:** PC Dave Birtles. **CEC Councillor:** Cllr Andrew Burns. **Members of the public:** David Liddle, Mary Neilson, Andreas Wilhelm. **Apologies:** Andy Devenport, Nick Munro. Cllrs Gavin Corbett, David Key, Melanie Main, Alasdair Rankin. Sarah Boyack.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for additional items for the agenda. (See item 9).

2. Police Matters – PC Dave Birtles from the Oxfgangs office introduced himself and gave a breakdown of recent figures: 3 road-safety issues in the period, including one drink-driving offence; 3 bicycle and 1 motorbike thefts; no hate crimes reported; and anti-social behaviour regarding rough sleepers in the Harrison Park area.

Paul Beswick enquired about bus-lanes and was informed that these now allow motor-cycles access at all times. Mary Neilson enquired about an assault at Bread Street. As this is an ongoing investigation, there was no information available. Liz Summerfield enquired about a recent alleged stabbing at Fountainbridge, but no information about this matter was available. Liz Summerfield expressed her concerns about the number of arson attacks at the Grove Community Garden. PC Birtles replied that the investigation into the most recent attack on a mobile home was ongoing and that he would seek to provide an update on this.

ACTION – PC Birtles to update Secretary on arson attack on mobile home.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 24 February 2016 – Acceptance & Matters arising – the minutes of the meeting of 24 February were accepted as correct, subject to the correction the date of the last meeting, of ‘yurts’ to ‘yards’ in item 5.f. and the addition of the written question that went forward to the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership regarding Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Group item 5.g.

Matters arising –

5.c. Recycling bins – Iain Black noted that most of the business premises on Brougham Place still have trade waste bins permanently on the pavement and had previously reported this matter to the Environmental Wardens.

ACTION – Iain Black to contact CEC again and to copy Cllr Burns into the email.

Tim Puntis enquired about glass recycling bins and whether they should be permanently on the pavements outside the 4-hour collection slot. He reported that at times when the CEC website had been not available for notifying the Council about refuse collection concerns, he had followed Cllr Burns’ earlier advice to contact ward councillors directly, but he had had no response from them. Cllr Burns informed the meeting that ward councillors had 10 working days to respond to such matters and asked for community councillors to copy him in to any future correspondence.

4. Local matters –

a. MABLAG – Paul Beswick announced that Chris Wigglesworth had stood down as TXCC representative on this advisory group and there followed a general discussion about the desirability to appoint a new representative to this group and to ensure the survival of MABLAG. Iain Black was proposed by Paul Beswick to be the new representative, and this was seconded by Andrew Brough.

It was decided to invite Iain Black to the next Executive meeting of TXCC to discuss issues before the next MABLAG meeting (provisional date 16 May) with a view to strengthening links between other Community Councils which sit on MABLAG and to involve other stakeholders more widely.

b. Ward 9 Neighbourhood Environmental Projects – there was the possibility of submitting two projects under this scheme, and after a good discussion it was agreed to put forward the proposal to widen and improve the north pavement of Lower Gilmore Place. Cllr Burns intimated that he was in support of this proposal.

ACTION – Andrew Brough to put forward this proposal.

c. Volunteers – Liz Summerfield asked for volunteers for the Spring Fling event at the Eric Liddell Centre on Saturday 9 April, from 11am to 4pm, and Andrew Brough for the South Centra£ Decides event on Saturday 30 April at the Methodist Church Hall, Nicolson Square 11am to 3pm.

David Liddle and Mary Neilson volunteered to attend the Spring Fling event; Richard Allen, Iain Black, Andrew Brough, Michael Lister and Tim Puntis volunteered to attend the South Centra£ event.

d. Review of A-boards – Roger Colkett spoke to the continuing vexed matter of A-boards. He had made enquiries of the Council, but instead of there being hard and fast rules it would appear that there are only guidelines and recommendations re use. There followed a wider discussion about the Living Streets' recent Street Audit and the Council's (lack of) response to it. Also discussed were the matters of 'street furniture' and flags and banners, as well as A-boards planted on pavements, especially near the King's Theatre and at the Lister Buildings on Lauriston Place; the parlous amount of clutter on Gillespie Crescent and into Gillespie Place; the excessive narrowing (and in some cases complete suspension) of pavements by builders during building works; the ongoing shambles at Morrison Street; the pavements at Ponton Street almost entirely blocked by temporary road-works signs; and the possible use of Road Safety regulations to enforce builders to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

In response, Cllr Burns suggested that all community councillors should individually contact their ward councillors with these specifics.

ACTION – all TXCC Community Councillors to contact their ward councillors.

e. Two possible funding projects – Ann Wigglesworth spoke to the separate projects of gym equipment for the Meadows and a gardening proposal at Thornybauk.

While the gym equipment proposal was well-received, it was felt that given the high costs involved, an approach might be made to other neighbouring Community Councils to see if they would consider a joint application for funding for this project.

It was not entirely clear what area was being referred to in this gardening project at Thornybauk, so Ann Wigglesworth was asked to draft a proposal for discussion at the April meeting with precise details of what is planned, location, extent, costings, etc.

ACTION – Ann Wigglesworth to draft a paper.

5. Councillors' Comments and Questions –

Cllr Burns –

Cllr Burns reported on four matters in brief:

1. Correspondence – as before, planning issues dominate his mail-bag.

2. Boroughmuir High School – the opening has been officially postponed until January 2017. While this is frustrating and disappointing, given his own experience with Tynecastle, Cllr Burns was positive about the effectiveness of a move over the Christmas break. He added that he had also received a good deal of correspondence about queries about pedestrian movement in the Dundee Street area once the school is open.

ACTION – Cllr Burns to forward copies of such correspondence to Andrew Brough for information.

3. Gaelic-Medium Education – Cllr Burns gave an update about maximum capacity at James Gillespie's and that a paper would be put forward to the Education Committee in due course.

4. Chancellor's City Regions deal – Cllr Burns spoke briefly to this matter and was of the view that this deal provided a good way of developing projects early.

Questions:

Mis-use of Zone 4 Parking permits –

Chris McGregor asked about the apparent mis-use of Zone 4 Parking permits in the area and was advised to email Cllr Burns about this.

ACTION – Chris McGregor to email Cllr Burns.

Car-parking at the pedestrianised parts of High Riggs/Riego Street – Roger Colkett mentioned the problem with recent car-parking at the pedestrianised parts of High Riggs/Riego Street.

ACTION – Cllr Burns to attend to this via parking wardens.

Recycling at Princes' Court, High Riggs – Roger Colkett asked about mixed recycling bins in this area and queried the wrong or mis-leading labelling of some of these bins.

ACTION – Roger Colkett to contact CEC for clarification about this matter.

Cllr Gavin Corbett –

In his absence, Andrew Brough read Cllr Corbett's brief report:

1. Cllr Corbett had had a meeting with Andy Devenport re the Fountainbridge Canal Society and was following up the issues of the boathouse and land with Scottish Canals, as well as the question of public engagement with the SWNP.

2. Cllr Corbett had had a meeting with Scottish Canals on the responsible use of the tow-path.

3. Friends of Gardners' Crescent has now wound up.

4. Grove Community Garden is on the look-out for a new home, it is not thought that the new home will be in Fountainbridge.

6. Planning – Paul Beswick updated the meeting on yet more student accommodation at Murieston Place; a new application to build a further block of flats at Horne Terrace; the application to make amendments to existing consent at Morrison Street.

7. Licensing – Roger Colkett reported on one new application for a bar-restaurant at 93 Lothian Road, formerly Bottoms Up.
No objections.

8. Reports in addition to those written – none.

9. A O C B

CCTV – David Liddle spoke briefly to the matter of CCTV and advised that he would put forward a paper at the April meeting.

On the question on CEC staff-training in terrorist recognition/terrorism awareness, there was no information, but it was pointed out that neither had there been any change on security status.

Communications sub-group – Tim Puntis reported that the flags were now being made and would possibly be ready for the Spring Fling event.

Cycleway at Lochrin Place – Ann Wigglesworth asked about the cycleway and was informed that work was underway.

Grindlay Street area – Mary Neilson reported that there had been recent graffiti in the area; the problem to replace setts was ongoing; and there had been a build-up of uncollected rubbish in the street for a period of more than five weeks.

Scottish Water – Roger Colkett reported that there continued to be two water mains leaks in the area – at Central Hall and at Lauriston Place. The response from Scottish Water appeared to be to put up signs...

AGM 2016 – Andrew Brough informed the meeting that the AGM would take place on 25 May.

Paul Beswick closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 27 April 2016 at 7pm. Tollcross Community Centre