

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 25 May 2016 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Education Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies –

Present: Andrew Brough (Secretary), Tim Puntis (Treasurer), Richard Allen, Roger Colkett, Andy Devenport, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth.

Police: PC Ponniah, (St Leonards); PC Pennycook (Oxgangs), PC Wotton (Oxgangs). **CEC Councillors:** Cllr Gavin Corbett, Cllr Melanie Main. **Members of the public:** Mary Neilson, Andreas Wilhelm.

Apologies: Paul Beswick, Iain Black, Nick Munro, David Liddle; Cllrs Andrew Burns, Karen Doran, David Key, Joanna Mowat.

In the absence of the Chair, the Treasurer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Police Matters

The new ward officer for Ward 9 PC John Pennycook introduced himself and presented crime figures for April. In the area adjoining Tollcross, there had been two house break-ins in Dundee St and at Brandfield. These had involved ground-floor flats. PC Pennycook explained that an information campaign highlighting security issues relating to ground-floor properties was underway. There had been one minor assault in Dundee St; one road safety offence committed in Murdoch Terrace; and in West Tollcross one bicycle theft of an unlocked bicycle. He mentioned that the largest issues currently were 'youth issues' and those connected with night-life and the night-time economy which bring their own problems. He spoke to two on-going publicity campaigns: 'Your View Counts' (www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts) and the Air Weapons Amnesty.

PC Ponniah reported that in the part of Tollcross served by St Leonards, there was a new focus on anti-social behaviour in the last month, and he presented crime figures for the whole ward for March, only part of which related to Tollcross. These included one crime of violence, five crimes of indecency, 81 crimes of dishonesty, 28 house break-ins, eight motor-vehicle crimes, 16 common thefts, 30 acts of vandalism. He reported that compared to figures for the same period last year, crime figures were down, and that there were good solvency rates. Further to locality changes and community information, PC Ponniah referred to Inspector Graeme Nesbit's email on Community Updates (see his **email of 14 May 2016** previously circulated by the Secretary) and to the new twitter account @EdinPoISE

ACTION: all community councillors to take part in online survey at:
www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts

There were questions about police participation at the forthcoming Meadows' Festival – resources at present allow only for one day's participation; and questions about graffiti in the area and the possibility of inviting 'street artists' to create graffiti on a dedicated wall in the area. It was felt that this was more of a CEC than a Police Scotland issue.

ACTION: PC Ponniah to check with Inspector Nisbet about this.

Ann Wigglesworth wished to record her thanks to Police Scotland for reuniting her with her car keys.

3. Minutes and matter arising

The minutes of the meeting of 27 April 2015 were accepted as correct, with two corrections to be made:

1. Welcome and Apologies – Bob McAuley name was added.

2. Police Matters – ADD ‘PC Rust ... and to contact the school to see if they have any CCTV footage on the Grove Garden fire.’

Matters arising:

4. Local matters:

a. CCTV Resolution – David Liddle is still to contact Council Leader.

5. Councillor’s Comments – Roger Colkett reported that Councillor Burns Office was still to report back on some matters relating to street furniture and A-boards.

The minutes were then approved as correct. This was proposed by Andrew Brough and seconded by Roger Colkett.

4. Local matters –

a. Banking declaration

Tim Puntis spoke to the matter of the resolution required to be passed by Tollcross Community Council in order for the Cooperative Bank to change our account signatories. Andy Devenport proposed the motion which was seconded by Roger Colkett and the resolution required by the Cooperative Bank was duly passed unanimously.

b. Green Doors Project

Cllr Melanie Main spoke to the matter and gave some background to this project. She explained that project had its origins a few years ago in the availability of match-funding that had been on offer to traders in Tollcross to refresh their shop fronts, though none had taken up this offer. The idea had then been extended to help improve the safety of main doors in Home Street and the image of the street. With the imminent changes to the maintenance of stair-lighting in private stairs, it was felt that now would be a good time to take the Green Doors Project forward. It is hoped to set up a steering group to guide this local initiative which would be volunteer- and not councillor-led and to apply for funding to publicise the initiative.

As the steering group would require to have a bank account in the first instance for any possible funding awards, Cllr Main wondered if TXCC would be prepared to act as ‘bankers’ for this initiative and asked for their assent in principle.

It was agreed that TXCC would be happy to assent in principle.

c. Meadows’ Festival

This event will take place on 4 and 5 June 2016.

Andrew Brough asked if TXCC ought to have a presence at this event, and if so proposed it could share a stand with Southside Community Council, and this was agreed.

In order to ensure the stand was staffed on both days, volunteers were requested.

The following agreed to do a stint:

Richard Allen; Iain Black; Chris McGregor; Tim Puntis; Mary Neilson.

There followed a discussion about the staffing of the event and the types of information that could be made available, e.g. leaflets about ACE-IT, and the Fire Museum, etc.

It was also agreed to take part in this year’s Canal Festival on 18 June, sharing a stall with Marchmont Community Council.

ACTION: Tim Puntis to email councillors to sign up for a stint at the Meadows’ Festival.

d. Thornybauk and Gym Equipment

Ann Wigglesworth spoke to these two matters.

Thornybark – Ann had been in touch with Mike Shields about this area. New soil has already been laid and wild-flower seeds sown around the three trees, but more improvements to the borders would have to wait until next year. Trade Waste bins as well as graffiti needed to be removed, and Ann would continue to monitor the situation and would follow up with Kathy Evans.

ACTION: Ann Wigglesworth to follow this up.

Gym Equipment – Ann reported that she had made enquiries about a treadmill and a recumbent exercise bike, and that ground would have to be concreted prior to the installation of any equipment. There followed a discussion about perhaps more appropriate types of equipment for more than cardio-vascular exercises.

ACTION: Ann Wigglesworth to submit application to Tesco Green Bags scheme.

5. Councillors' Comments –

Cllr Melanie Main –

Cllr Main referred to the following:

a. Meadows Management Plan.

ACTION: This item to be placed on the Agenda of the June meeting of TXCC.

b. Circus Hub on the Meadows. They had asked for a further 2 days to be added to the time on the Meadows.

c. The decanting of school children to the overflow at Darroch and the forthcoming publication consultation about using these premises as an permanent annexe to James Gillespie's and Boroughmuir High School.

Cllr Gavin Corbett –

Cllr Corbett referred to the following:

a. The encouraging use of the outdoor gym at Fountain Green.

b. The recent EDI PAN at Akva had been disappointing in terms of detail and the vacuum that would result if the 'cultural quarter' were removed.

c. The recent petition re Re-Union premises at Canalside and dared to hope that Scottish Canals would come back with a slightly more positive response.

d. SWNP open space workshop and what to do to maintain community engagement in green spaces. Cllr Corbett felt that less formal models to foster community engagement in smaller parks would be more appropriate without the need of having to set up formal 'Friends of' groups.

e. Boroughmuir High School – projected completion by October 2016 with students entering in January 2016.

f. Tian-Tian, Dundee Street and the owner's home-made extension without planning permission, and the report to Licensing re fitness of owner to hold a licence.

There were various questions about the future of Viewforth and whether it would re-open fully, or be closed at certain times, and what would be the displacement effects, etc.; ground-heating system at the new school; graffiti in Grindlay Court and the possibility/desirability of inviting 'taggers' to create a themed mural on a dedicated wall.

ACTION: the question of graffiti and a dedicated wall to be returned to at a future meeting. (See also item 2 – Police matters)

6. Planning –

No reports. Andrew Brough intimated that the decision to grant planning permission at India Buildings had been passed today, 8-6 in favour of the hotel, and echoed Cllr Corbett's comments about the plans at the recent EDI Pan at Akva being not detailed enough.

7. Licensing –

Roger Colkett reported that there had been no liquor applications on the period.

However, there was concern over information about the recent Late Hours Catering survey and about which most TXCC councillors including he had not been informed.

ACTION: Secretary to contact Licensing sub-Committee (civic and miscellaneous licensing) at CEC to ensure that he as Secretary and Roger Colkett as licensing representative both receive notifications about all licensing matters in future and are included in regular, statutory mailings.

ACTION: all Community Councillors to participate in on-line consultation on late hours catering licence consultation before 30 May

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/late-hours-catering-licence-policy/consultation/intro/view>

Concorde – late hours licence application (extension).

Given the objections to this application from local residents, Roger was minded to object to this application.

ACTION: Roger Colkett to submit an objection from TXCC.

8. Reports in addition to those written –

Richard Allen reported briefly on his attendance at the recent FCI management committee and would report back to the June meeting with copies of plans for paving a section of the tow-path.

9. AOCB –

Ann Wigglesworth referred to the plume banners outside 'Hotter than Hell' on Home Street and how these were distracting to drivers and posed a danger to pedestrians.

ACTION – Ann Wigglesworth to write to CEC to object about these plume banners.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 29 June 2016 at 7pm, Tollcross Community Centre