

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 31 August 2016 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Education Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies –

Present: Cllr Karen Doran (Chair), Andrew Brough, Fiona Allen, Richard Allen, Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Andy Devenport, Katie McGhee, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth. **CEC Councillors:** Cllr Doran. **Police:** PC Scola (St Leonards). **Members of the public:** Michael Lister, Sam Waylen, Andreas Wilhelm. **Apologies:** Paul Beswick, David Liddle, PC Pennycook, PC Wotton; Cllrs Corbett, Key, Main.

3. Cllr Doran, substituting for Returning Officer Cllr Main, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the two new community councillors – Fiona Allen and Katie McGhee – and explained that she would preside over the election of an Executive and other positions of the new Tollcross Community Council.

3.a. Election of Executive –

Chair

Roger Colkett nominated Andrew Brough as Chair. This was seconded by Iain Black. There being no other nominations, Andrew Brough was duly elected Chair.

Secretary

Iain Black nominated Liz Summerfield as Secretary, who was happy to act as secretary for a few months in the first instance. This was seconded by Fiona Allen. There being no other nominations, Liz Summerfield was duly elected Secretary.

Treasurer

Andrew Brough intimated that Paul Beswick had indicated his willingness to stand as Treasurer, and nominated him for this position. This was seconded by Iain Black. There being no other nominations, Paul Beswick was duly elected Treasurer.

Cllr Doran then congratulated the newly elected members of the Executive and the newly appointed community councillors. As Chair of the City Centre Neighbourhood Partnership, she spoke about the important role that community councils have to play, particularly in relation to planning and licensing matters, but expressed disappointment in acknowledging the limited powers that they have. She then welcomed PC Scola to the meeting and invited him to present his report.

2. Police Matters –

Currently a community officer based at St Leonards, PC Scola presented crime figures for the period 28 August to 28 September for Ward 10, and gave a break-down of the total number of 96 recorded crimes. These included 8 reported house break-ins, 2 thefts, 5 thefts of cars, 14 bicycle thefts, 12 assaults, 5 breaches of the peace, and a few traffic offences. There were no drugs offences reported in the period.

He explained some of the circumstances surrounding the recorded figures, particularly in relation to an increase in assaults – mostly linked to alcohol. In relation to house break-ins, he emphasised the importance of residents keeping their property safe! He also spoke about the ways in which response officers and community officers police the ward and how

crimes are detected and handled, e.g. public behaviour issues at the Cavendish; how road traffic offences are dealt with, the work of the Search and Recovery Team and how they respond to thefts, and noisy parties in student flats, where the Police have power to seize noise-making appliances. Pc Scola announced that from October, there would be a new officer in Ward 10 – PC Christopher Harris.

There were questions from members about the Cavendish, and there followed a discussion about policing and licensing matters in general.

Chris McGregor enquired about a bicycle that had been padlocked for months to a fence at the Meadows.

Pc Scola advised that in the first instance she should contact her local councillor to ask for CEC to arrange to remove the item.

Action: Chris McGregor

Andy Devenport mentioned the sporadic traffic problem at Leven Terrace, when drivers take a short-cut in the wrong direction into Melville Drive, and the continuing problem of cyclists going the wrong way down the one-way Glengyle Terrace into the Meadows.

Ann Wigglesworth mentioned how the area at Thornybauk continues to be used for drinking in and as a public latrine.

Cllr Doran reported that this matter was being addressed by the CEC Safety Team and Police Scotland, and PC Scola advised that when such behaviour was being witnessed, the public should contact Police Scotland on 101 or report the matter to the Council.

Andrew Brough received a report from the Oxfords Police office for the Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart area, but there was nothing substantial to report.

Cllr Doran thanked PC Scola for his very detailed and thorough presentation.

6. Councillors' Comments –

Cllr Doran invited comments and questions from members.

Liz Summerfield spoke to the matter of dangerous road signs directing drivers to drive the wrong way up Grove Street. She had taken up this matter with Cllr Burns some months ago, but the problem continued. Cllr Doran said she would look into this.

ACTION: Cllr Doran

Fiona Allen reported on the matter of clumps of vegetation growing in gutters atop tenements, which if unchecked will pose a very serious danger to the public.

There followed a discussion about the lack of powers that TXCC and CEC have in regard to addressing this matter, as the onus is on owners to maintain their property and CEC cannot intervene unless this becomes an emergency safety issue, but it was felt that it was competent for TXCC to put pressure on CEC to explore gutter-cleaning perhaps through an information and awareness campaign. Cllr Doran referred to the recent workshop event hosted by the CCNP on 26 May 2016 at which tenemental living had been the subject.

ACTION: Fiona Allen to write to the Chair of the CCNP (Cllr Doran) to ask the CCNP to discuss these issues at a future meeting.

Also discussed was the matter of absentee landlords and how much of a problem they can be.

ACTION: TXCC to lobby its MSP to strengthen legislation concerning absentee landlords.

Roger Colkett asked about the gate to Princes' St Gardens at the foot of Johnston Terrace and the information about the locking of this gate on the CEC website. Cllr Doran intimated that this matter was being addressed.

Liz Summerfield spoke to the matter concerning confusion about the percentage of affordable housing units agreed to at the EDI site and at the King's Stables Road development.

ACTION: Cllr Doran to check on this and report back.

Cllr Gavin Corbett – in the absence of Cllr Corbett, Andrew Brough read a brief report that he had submitted.

1. The damaged wall at Gardner's Crescent has now been repaired.
2. The east-most side of the brewery site at Fountainbridge has now been sold off. The revised plans are for housing and no hotel.
3. Grove Garden 1 is staying at the same site meantime and has been expanded. Following some technical issues, the WikiHouse will still come to Tollcross Primary School.

4. Minutes and matter arising from minutes of meeting of 31 August –

Acceptance –

the minutes of the meeting of 31 August were accepted as correct.

Matters arising –

Local matters –

4.c.i. A-boards – this is still under examination.

5. Councillors' Reports –

5.a. Recycling bins – Liz Summerfield reported that while some, little, progress had been made concerning bins at McEwan Square and at Brandfield St, more had to be done, as the situation was still not satisfactory.

It was suggested that advice/information leaflets should be reintroduced to remind residents about rubbish disposal.

7. Licensing –

Roger Colkett informed the meeting that ward councillors did not automatically receive notification about licensing applications in their council wards, and it was noted with some consternation that there was no current requirement for the Licensing Board to inform ward councillors.

3.b. Allocation of positions on the new TXCC and representation on outside bodies –

Andrew Brough introduced this matter and invited applications of interest for these positions:

Planning –

Paul Beswick

Licensing –

Roger Colkett, with Iain Black deputising

Health –

Chris McGregor

Media monitoring and Meadows' Festival – Liz Summerfield

Fountainbridge Canalside Initiative –

Richard Allen

Neighbourhood Partnerships –

CCNP – Roger Colkett

SCNP – Andrew Brough

Civic Forum –
EOTDT –
Alcohol Focus Scotland –
Edinburgh Health Forum –
FOMBL –

SWNP – Andy Devenport
SCNP Safety Group – Ann Wigglesworth
Roger Colkett, Michael Lister
Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Michael Lister
Roger Colkett, Michael Lister
Roger Colkett, Chris McGregor
Iain Black

Note

There followed a lively discussion about various matters concerning FOMBL and the SCNP, and it was agreed to put the matter of FOMBL on the agenda for the October meeting.

5. Local matters –

a. Fire Museum Update –

Liz Summerfield gave an update on the fate of the Museum and the petition which had been delivered to the Scottish Parliament last week. Visitor figures during the Open Doors weekend were 3 478. While there were various rumours about the fate of the Museum, no announcement had yet been made.

b. Banking Resolution – following continuing difficulties with the Cooperative Bank, Andrew Brough spoke again to this ongoing matter.

He proposed that we adopt the proposal to remove the names of Angela Hull and Ann Wigglesworth as signatories to the bank account. This was seconded by Iain Black. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

7. Planning – in the absence of Paul Beswick, Andrew Brough reported that there were no new significant applications in the period, and reminded everyone about the PAN for the development of the old Royal Infirmary. This is to be held on Monday 24 October at 10 Crichton St, from 3-7pm, and urged all members to attend.

8. Licensing – Roger Colkett reported that there were three new variation applications in the period but felt that none ought to be objected to.

Roger Colkett reported on his attendance at and his contribution to the music licensing application hearing at the 26 September meeting of the City of Edinburgh Licensing Board and explained the byzantine nature of the entire process which had deliberately excluded community councils from the working group set up to consider this issue. He pointed out that the proposed change in wording from 'shall not be audible' to 'shall not be an audible nuisance' was too subjective a statement and as such was unsatisfactory.

It was noted that Licensing Board members who live in suburban parts of the city were perhaps not best placed to rule on noise issues that people living in city centre tenements were subjected to.

Andrew Brough asked it to be minuted that the TXCC wished to thank Roger for his involvement in this matter and for making a deputation to the Licensing Board at a meeting which had lasted all day.

8. Reports in addition to those written –

Andy Davenport gave a report on his attendance at the recent World Canals' Festival in Inverness.

AOCB –

i. Ann Wigglesworth mentioned the Gifford Park mural and asked for a discussion about the possibility to have a similar one done at Thornybauk.

ii. Roger Colkett asked for an item concerning a suggestion from a recent Alcohol Focus Scotland meeting about approaching candidates standing for CEC elections in May 2017 to ascertain what are their priorities for new licensing policy statements and the ways in which the City of Edinburgh Licensing Board can reflect the views of all stakeholders in the licensing process, to include not just political and economic considerations, as at present, but also health and social considerations.

The meeting close at 8.58pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 26 October 2016 at 7pm, Tollcross Community Centre

DRAFT