

Tollcross Community Council
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 26 October 2016 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies -

Present: Paul Beswick (Treasurer), Andrew Brough (Chair), Liz Summerfield (Secretary); Richard Allen, Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Andy Devenport, Michael Lister, Katie McGhee, Chris McGregor, Ann Wigglesworth. **CEC Councillor:** Cllr Melanie Main. **Police:** PC John Pennycook. **Members of the public:** J.J. Mary Hatakka, Andreas Wilhelm. **Apologies:** Fiona Allen; Cllrs Burns, Corbett, Key.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests - The Chair spoke to the desirability of the need for members to declare at the outset of each meeting any interests in agenda items under discussion. This suggestion was accepted as good practice. In relation to FOMBL, Andy Devenport, Roger Colkett and Chris McGregor declared interests; Meadows' Festival - Andy Devenport and Liz Summerfield; Museum of Fire - Liz Summerfield; FCI - Richard Allen.

The Chair then invited PC Pennycook to present his report.

3. Police Matters - PC Pennycook announced that the new policing model had now been introduced and that this would provide greater stability and better continuity of personnel for community policing. He then provided a resume of Ward 9 crime figures. Operation Half Beak had taken place during September in the Fountainbridge part of the ward and that this had focussed on detecting drug-dealing and anti-social behaviour. This 'disruption and dispersal' operation had included 'vertical controls' (ie policing up and down tenements) and while it was felt it had made something of a difference, an impact review was still to be carried out and the results of this would be reported in due course. PC Pennycook then presented figures for September - these included 3 break-ins; 3 minor assaults; 2 road safety offences; 3 thefts of motor cycles, 1 car and 3 bicycle thefts; 1 hate-crime via Facebook that was under investigation. P C Pennycook also explained that there had been police visits to a number of local business premises recently, aimed at crime prevention, and leaflets and advice had been dispensed.

Andy Devenport asked PC Pennycook about the on-going problem of cyclists speeding on the Canalside cycle-path and their general disregard for pedestrians, and there followed a discussion about these issues. Acknowledging this as a difficult problem, the meeting felt that a solution to tackle this anti-social behaviour might be in better cyclist education.

4. Minutes and matter arising from meeting of 28 September -

Matters arising -

Corrections:

Item 1. Welcome and Apologies: Cllr Burns's apologies to be added.

Item 3.a. Election of Executive - Liz Summerfield intimated that she was happy to act as Secretary in the longer term.

Acceptance - the minutes of the meeting of 28 September were then accepted as correct.

5. Local matters -

a. Proposed hotel on EDI site – Richard Allen spoke to this matter and explained that there was no new or further information about this development, and that any information from EDI had been obscure. He was to attend an Sounding Board meeting on 16 November and was asked by the Chair to register our displeasure at the lack of clarity regarding the intention of EDI in relation to the hotel proposal. It was noted that Ann Wigglesworth would attend the same meeting in place of Paul Beswick. It was also noted that Andy Devenport would attend a meeting of the Edinburgh Development Board as a delegate from the Edinburgh Canal Society and that he would report back.

ACTION: Richard Allen

b. Length of events in the Meadows – Andrew Brough gave some background to this perennially vexed and contentious issue and invited members to give their thoughts on the subject. There followed a lengthy and spirited discussion about the many substantial matters that relate to this matter. These included: the environmental issues regarding drainage and damage to already compacted ground, pre-event treatment of grass and post-event re-seeding; the use of public space for private profit; restricted public access to public space during the summer months; the number of events currently being held on the Meadows and possible variations on lengths of events; income-generation from large events and any direct benefits to the Meadows through specific targeted spending (if applicable); the importance of keeping up pressure on the Council to review its position on large events; the question of changing previous policy of TXCC on large events or adopting a new policy; the need for the ground to be given space to rest at various times, and so on...

After this lengthy discussion, the Chair summarised the various options, and Katie McGhee proposed that TXCC adopt the policy of limiting all commercial events to a maximum of 15 days and to rest the ground every three years from commercial events, thus leaving it fallow for one year in four. This was seconded by Andrew Brough and adopted unanimously.

ACTION: Andrew Brough

c. Museum of Fire – Liz Summerfield updated the meeting on the fate of the Museum. She had received a communication that morning from the Museum intimating that it would close to the public on Friday 28 October, with the building to be vacated by 16 December, and that staff were now in the process of packing up exhibits.

After expressions of regret from the meeting, Roger Colkett moved that TXCC note that it was appalled to see the closure of the Museum of Fire and for it to be moved out of the area, and this was carried unanimously.

d. Proposed notification of standard lease for use by HMO landlords – in the absence of Fiona Allen, this item is to be held over until a later meeting. Richard Allen noted that there were currently 8 HMO applications in Lauriston Gardens alone.

6. Councillors' Comments – Cllr Main updated the meeting on possible solutions to the on-going problem relating to trade waste and that she had been invited to carry out a site visit with CEC officials. This visit she would make with Iain Black in attendance. She also reminded the meeting that Community Councils were not entirely powerless in this matter and could take part in the forthcoming Council consultation about local services, particularly in relation to

planning permission for bins for business waste, and the requirement for the Council to enforce its own policies.

ACTION: Cllr Main and Iain Black

Cllr Main also mentioned that a new cycle-route was to be built linking the Meadows to Castle Terrace, via Lauriston Pl and Lady Lawson St, and that this was scheduled to open in 2017/18.

On the question of the apparent suspension of the building of the cycle-route from the Canal through Home St/Tarvit St to the Meadows, she said that she would look into this.

ACTION: Cllr Main

In the absence of Cllr Corbett, Liz Summerfield read a short report from him in which he referred to the forthcoming ward boundary changes, which would result in even less of Tollcross falling within his ward; the on-going disquiet about poor road signage in the Fountainbridge area; and the demolition of the last remnant of the *Palais de Danse*, which the developers were unwilling to retain.

7. Planning – Paul Beswick reported that there had been delays recently in receiving papers from the Planning Department (see his email of 19 October, circulated to all members) and observed that of late there was an increasing number of applications for change of use of premises in the area.

In relation to the old Boroughmuir School application, although this was outwith our community council area, he would continue to liaise with members of Merchiston Community Council.

Further to the two recent PANS (old Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh – University of Edinburgh – 16/04490/PAN and at Q26 and Q27, 1 Lauriston Place – 16/04412/PAN) Paul Beswick would contact the developers of the first project and comment on the look of the current plans. In relation to the second project, there would be no objection from TXCC, as we are always in favour of housing.

ACTION: Paul Beswick

8. Licensing – Roger Colkett reported that there was nothing new in the period and that the application from Concorde for a late hours licence had been not granted.

9. Reports in addition to those written – none

10. AOCB – The Chair intimated that Richard Allen would act as a Community Councillor at TXCC while also being the current representative of FCI under the Local Interest Groups at TXCC.

The Chair moved that Michael Lister be co-opted again for a further period, with an interest in the built environment. This was accepted unanimously.

The Chair reminded members that Ruth Davidson MSP would be speaking at the November meeting, with the Treasurer saying that such meetings with local politicians were always beneficial.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 7pm, Tollcross
Community Centre**