

**Tollcross Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 7pm**  
**Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge**

**1. Welcome and Apologies –**

**Present:** Andrew Brough (Chair), Liz Summerfield (Secretary); Fiona Allen, Richard Allen, Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Andy Devenport, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Ann Wigglesworth. **CEC Councillor:** Cllr Joanna Mowat. **Police:** PC Bruce Burt and PC Susan Parnell (City Centre); PC Fraser and PC Mackay (St Leonards); PC Kirstie Mauchline and PC Gareth Doran (Oxgangs). **Members of the public:** Dr Colin Cooper, Danny Hignett, David Liddle, Francis Valentine, Andreas Wilhelm. **MSP:** Ruth Davidson, with Daniel Guild in attendance. **Apologies:** Paul Beswick, Heather Goodare, Katie McGhee, Cllrs Burns, Corbett, Key, Main.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Police Scotland to present their reports.

**2. Declaration of interests – none**

**3. Police Matters –** in a break from the normal practice of detailing crime figures for the various beats that fall within the Tollcross Community Council area, the officers spoke more broadly to the recently introduced new policing model and gave a short account of the successes so far, reporting that in the West End area new speed guns are being used to enforce the new 20MPH limit. (The West End includes a small number of streets within the Tollcross Community Council area.) From feedback from members of the public it is reported that confidence has increased with more police on the beat.

In the lead-up to Bonfire Night, Police Scotland had undertaken preventive work in conjunction with CEC and the Fire Service, and this year's events had gone off without any incidents reported in the area.

Police Scotland have plans to introduce a Safer Needle campaign and it is hoped that there will be a national phone-line set up to address this issue; road safety programmes have been undertaken, particularly at nurseries and schools, with 200 free bike lights and 400 reflective strips having been distributed; and tenement security remains an issue. The recent anti-social behaviour initiative – Operation Eliminate – will remain in force until 5 December and a new initiative intended to reduce the number of house break-ins will come into force in the lead up to Christmas period.

To contact Police Scotland in non-emergencies, the number to ring is 101. Contact can also be made by email – [EdinburghCPTFountainbridgeCraiglockhart@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:EdinburghCPTFountainbridgeCraiglockhart@scotland.pnn.police.uk). Police Scotland can also be followed on Twitter@PoliceScotland or locally @EdinburghPolice.

**4. Ruth Davidson, MSP –**

Ruth Davidson gave a short presentation about her work and her involvement with local issues, much of it concerned with city council-related matters, particularly anti-social behaviour and planning and licensing issues. She described the nature of her constituency – a very mixed one – and talked about the importance of preserving the built heritage of Edinburgh and looking after the UNESCO status of the city.

Questions were asked about planning legislation and HMO's in the area and the need for better regulatory legislation in respect of the latter, although the MSP did point out that there are no Housing Bills imminent. The serious problem about absentee (and rogue) landlords in the city was also raised, as well as the related matter of the deterioration of private- and council-owned buildings

and whether there was an overlap of responsibility between the Scottish Parliament and local councils in respect of enforcement. Also discussed was the vexed matter of stair-lighting and the issues that are now beginning to emerge as a result of the recent changes.

[For some helpful information about some of the stair-lighting issues, see:

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3953/city\\_of\\_edinburgh\\_council](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3953/city_of_edinburgh_council) – Minutes of City of Edinburgh Council (full) meeting, Thursday, 2nd June 2016: Council Questions – Item 5.4, Question No 4: by Councillor Mowat for answer by the Vice-Convener of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee at a meeting of the Council on 2 June 2016: Stair Lighting]

## **5. Minutes and matters arising from meeting of 26 October –**

### **Corrections –**

#### **Item 5. Local matters –**

**a. Proposed hotel on EDI site** – ‘Edinburgh Development Board’ should read ‘Edinburgh Canal Development Partnership Board.’

#### **Matters arising –**

#### **Item 5. Local matters –**

**a. Proposed hotel on EDI site** – Andy Devenport reported that setts were to be replaced by paving stones in early 2017.

**b. Length of events in the Meadows** – the Chair reported that Southside Community Council had recently passed a resolution to adopt the TXCC policy to limit all commercial events on the Meadows to a maximum of 15 days (and to rest the ground every three years from commercial events), and hoped to be able to effect this change through the Neighbourhood Partnership.

**d. Proposed notification of standard lease for use by HMO landlords** – Fiona Allen asked about how landlords might be required to remind tenants about conditions relating to tenemental and communal living and if the CEC could pursue this.

**ACTION – Fiona Allen to draft letter for Chair of TXCC to send to Convenor of Regulatory Committee of CEC, with copies to all local councillors.**

**ACTION – Cllr Joanna Mowat to take this up with the Neighbourhood Partnership.**

#### **Item 6. Councillors’ Comments –**

**Cllr Main – Trade waste** – see Cllr Main’s report to this evening’s meeting (Item 7.)

**Acceptance** – the minutes of the meeting of 26 October were then accepted as correct, this being proposed by Chris McGregor and seconded by Richard Allen.

## **6. Local matters –**

**a. Christmas Party** – after some discussion whether to have a social gathering pre- or post-Christmas, it was decided to hold a soirée at Akva on Monday 12 December, from 7pm. (White tie; national and military decorations optional.)

**b. Membership of Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links (FOMBL)** – Iain Black spoke to the matter of membership of FOMBL. Following some discussion, Richard Allen proposed that we take out associate membership at the cost of £10 pa. This was seconded by Andrew Brough and carried unanimously.

## **7. Councillors’ Comments –**

**Cllr Mowat** – Cllr Mowat reported on the changes to Council ward boundaries across Scotland which have now been agreed, following Ministers’ decisions on recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission, and that the new City Centre ward (with four councillors) would take in the greater part of Tollcross. Cllr Mowat also reported on how the ongoing transformation of CEC services was beginning to show results, with departments taking shape and beginning to settle

in. On the question of a litter-picking event in conjunction with FOMBL, Cllr Mowat welcomed the notion and would be happy to join in.

On the questions of stair-lighting, maintenance responsibilities of absentee landlords and rogue landlords, Cllr Mowat suggested that she might be able to take up these matters with Gordon Lindhurst, MSP.

**ACTION – Cllr Mowat to approach Gordon Lindhurst to see if he might be able to assist.**

**Cllr Main** – in the absence of Cllr Main, the Chair read a report which she had submitted (summarised below):

Cllr Main reported that she had done a drive around with Waste and Cleansing Manager, Gareth Barwel for the whole ward a couple of weeks ago.

**Tollcross recycling and refuse** – Tollcross turned out to be fairly clear of overflowing bins, but Councillor Main had some photographs from previous days to hand and raised some specific issues.

Exemptions to keeping a trade bin indoors: if there is a large green readable sticker on a bin about A-4 size, stating it has an exemption, then it does have one. If not, there is no exemption and it has to go inside. **If this is being flouted, please report to CEC and copy in Cllr Main.**

**Lochrin Place** – distribution and capacities of bins and recycling along the street to be reviewed so that the right recycling bins are near residents; those bins not needed are to be removed instead of being clustered at the entrance to the street of the main road where they are used for the wrong reasons.

**Thornybark** – CAV to remove bins from CEC Property. On her visit, Cllr Main identified that where they are storing their bins is council-owned land and she had spoken to the manager Mark Cameron who advised that he was unaware that bins could not be stored on this area and that they have nowhere to store bins. Therefore Cllr Main was arranging an onsite visit with him to ensure that the bins are removed. There were also two Council trade waste bins on this land full of various waste and Cllr Main has arranged for these to be removed.

**Recycling on pavement opposite Thornybark** – paper recycling bin is old and will be replaced with a standard one that is emptied twice a week; use of recycling clothing bin and others to be re-evaluated; bins can't be emptied because of traffic parking on single yellow line, so double yellow to be considered.

**Barclay Terrace** – residents have complained about overflowing bins and fly-tipping and have asked that the bins be removed from Barclay Terrace, particularly outside no 9. There are five landfill bins on Wright's Houses that do not appear to serve any homes. A reassessment of the needs of residents will be done: there are only three stairs in the upper part of the block; Student Coop have their bins inside; the Golf Tavern have been instructed to put their bins inside the premises and have no problem in doing so.

**Golf Tavern** – Cllr Main had met with new owners G1 Group, including the Board chairman and Area Manager of Golf Tavern, and invited Jimmy Robertson from Bruntsfield Short Hole Golf Course to join them. In his words – 'it's still early days but what a breath of fresh air the new owners appear to be'. There are two new managers of the pub who are removing the 14 bins on the street and intending to refurbish the upstairs room. They wish to support the Golf Club and Course and are open to ideas to make the pub more accessible and friendly for locals.

**Cllr Corbett** – in the absence of Cllr Corbett, the Chair read a report which he had submitted (summarised below):

**Fountainbridge brewery site** – the most recent meeting of the steering group was last week and a note has been circulated. There is still quite a lot in flux – including details of the housing part of the site; funding for district heating; cultural uses; and final funding partner.

**Temporary road closures** – there is a good deal of disquiet about temporary road closures and traffic signage from Angle Park Terrace right along to Semple Street and Ponton Street, with the worst area being next to the new school and next to the new hotel. Cllr Corbett had visited with the local roads officer to identify all the failings of signage and temporary provisions, and an ultimatum has been issued to the contractors.

**Boroughmuir High School** – Cllr Corbett attended a meeting at Boroughmuir High School two weeks ago and agreed to bring forward a meeting with residents and officers on the case for restricting access over Viewforth Bridge once the school is opened in August 2017.

**Canal towpath** – the towpath closure is causing some adverse comment, and Cllr Corbett has written to Scottish Canals asking that the advertised programme dates are kept to.

**8. Planning** – In the absence of Paul Beswick, Andrew Brough read a short update that Paul had submitted:

**16/04711/FUL** – change of use from shop to financial or professional services, 23 Brougham St – Granted.

**16/04385/FUL** – change of use from retail to café, 30 Home St) – Granted.

**9. Licensing** – Roger Colkett reported that there were no new licensing applications in the period, but that he was concerned that the notification about a consultation on renewal of HMO licensing had been sent to landlords, but not to community councils and that community councils ought to be consulted.

**ACTION** – Cllr Mowat to enquire into this, and individual community councillors to write to their local councillors to ask that community councils be included in the consultation.

**10. Reports other than those written** – Chris McGregor reported on the Edinburgh Health Forum meeting on 24 November. Chris informed the meeting that both the Chair and Secretary of the EHF had announced their intention to stand down and that the future of this group was not certain.

As a result of the imminent changes in responsibility for Health and Social Care provision, it is likely that Community Councils will find themselves more closely involved in contributing to the planning and monitoring of health and social care, and so this subject will be returned to at further meetings.

**10. AOCB** – on the question of accessibility, one member of the public asked about the possibility of having a BSL interpreter at meetings of TXCC. This suggestion was noted.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

**THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25 January 2017 at 7pm, Tollcross Community Centre**