

**Tollcross Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 28 June 2017 at 7pm**  
**Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Andrew Brough (Chair and Secretary), Paul Beswick (Treasurer); Fiona Allen, Richard Allen, Iain Black, Andrew Brough, Roger Colkett, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth. **Police:** PS Bob Mason, (West End). **CEC Councillors:** none. **Visitors:** Duncan Hendry, Chief Executive, King's Theatre; Ross McKenzie Parent Council, Tollcross Primary School. **Apologies:** David Liddle, Katie McGhee; Cllr Miller.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the June ordinary meeting.

**2. Declaration of interests – none**

**3. Police Matters –**

Sgt Mason began his presentation by reminding the meeting that he would be concentrating on themes and trends rather than on raw figures. He reported that while in terms of house break-ins, there was no identifiable trend, there has recently been a number of reports of tv thefts in the area. He also mentioned the seasonal classic of summer thefts involving the use of implements from unlocked garden sheds to gain access to properties, and said that Police Scotland were putting out messages on Facebook and Twitter to remind the public about shed safety. Bicycle thefts are a constant, and Sgt Mason advised marking cycles in luminous colours and using two locks rather than one. At this time of year, there is always a number of opportunistic thefts of wallets, purses and mobile phones from cafés and restaurants and he advised greater vigilance. Any crimes of violence in the area in the period appear not to have an impact on the wider community, being related to the night-time economy of bars and clubs and do not constitute a worrying trend. In terms of bars and pubs, there appears to be a move towards more lounge-bar establishments which are more costly and this would seem to deter anti-social behaviour. On the question of anti-social behaviour, Sgt Mason referred to recent issues at Brandfield Street. Operation Penitent is addressing on-street drug-dealing and several drug warrants have been executed. Members of the public who witness on-street drug-dealing should contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or phone 101.

On the issue of begging and rough-sleeping, Sgt Mason explained that those involved are always treated as vulnerable people and are directed towards various agencies and services that can provide help and assistance. On the question of begging by nationals from European Economic Area countries, Sgt Mason explained that the terms of the Lisbon Treaty do not allow this.

Questions were asked about traffic going down the wrong way on Leven Terrace and about increased policing on the Meadows during the Festivals. Sgt Mason noted the former issue and said that Operation Summer City would provide more officers to ensure public safety during the Festivals.

**4. Minutes and matters arising from meeting of 31 May 2017 –**

**Correction:**

**5. Local matters – Memorial to David Rintoul –** ‘first Chair’ should read ‘a Chair’.

**Matters arising:**

**5. Local matters – Memorial to David Rintoul –** Liz Summerfield intimated that she had attended the funeral of David Rintoul that had taken place last week, and that in relation to arranging a suitable spot for a memorial tree, she is to have a meeting with Mike Shields on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

**6. Councillors’ Comments and Questions –** Roger Colkett informed the meeting that he was still to report back on the matter of road occupation decisions and suspected breach of road occupation permits.

The Minutes were then proposed by Richard Allen and seconded by Andrew Brough as being an accurate account of the 31 May meeting.

## **5. Local matters –**

**a. Refurbishment of the King's Theatre** – Duncan Hendry, Chief Executive, King's Theatre, gave a presentation on the plans for a major development of the theatre which has a target start date of September 2021 for completion in the Spring of 2023. A capital-intensive project, projected to cost between £23-£25 million, with funding from the Theatre's own resources (£5million) and money agreed from CEC (£5million), an application for Heritage Lottery funding is to be submitted and a public fund-raising campaign is to begin in the Autumn of 2018.

Following Duncan Hendry's presentation, it was agreed unanimously to welcome this major development. The Chair invited Mr Hendry to return to TXCC to report on progress.

**b. Tollcross Primary School crossing** – Ross McKenzie, Parent Council, Tollcross Primary School, gave a presentation regarding the current unsatisfactory situation at the main entrance to the school, which is now situated on Ponton St. With a significantly increased pupil roll from development at Quatermile, poor facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, and there being no crossing patrol on that side, it has become apparent that a proper crossing to and from the School is essential. To this end, the Parent Council is seeking support to apply for funding from the Neighbourhood Environment Programme and in principle support from TXCC and the full engagement of City Centre (Ward 11) Councillors to take this matter forward. It was unanimously agreed to support this major initiative.

**ACTION – Andrew Brough to write to our four Ward 11 Councillors to express the full support of TXCC for this initiative and to invite them to do likewise.**

**c. Grassmarket Stall** – the newly re-constituted Old Town Community Council is taking a stall at the Saturday Market in the Grassmarket on 1<sup>st</sup> July from 10am to introduce itself and its councillors to local residents. Given that TXCC has a few streets that come within the generally designated Old Town area, we have been invited to take part in this very informal 'meet and greet' event. Iain Black and Michael Lister have agreed to spend a couple of hours meeting and greeting any Tollcross residents who might venture down to the Grassmarket. Any other TXCC councillors are welcome to take part in this informal event.

## **d. Public issues raised during June –**

**i. AirBNB** – The Chair reported that he continues to receive comments from local residents about this issue and said that he was in the process of arranging a meeting with Andy Wightman MSP and Southside Community Council.

**ii. Public right of way at Quatermile** – the Chair reported that there was a move to open a public thoroughfare from the Quatermile development onto the Meadows. It was recognised that this was a difficult issue with conflicting wants and interests, but Paul Beswick reminded the meeting that it had been a long-standing position of TXCC to support permeability through developments, and, that while this particular matter relates to private land, it was important to remain vigilant about all issues relating to public realm in general.

**6. Councillors' Comments and Questions** – it was noted with regret that no CEC Councillors were present, and that none had sent apologies except Cllr Miller.

It was also noted with regret that the new committee structure of CEC has resulted in the loss of the Petitions and the Fire and Police Oversight Committees, and that at the present time information regarding all Councillors' areas of responsibility and their memberships of committees, etc, was yet to be fully updated on the CEC website.

**7. Planning** – Paul Beswick reported on the following:

**Ref/17/0503/PAN – 4-22 Lower Gilmore Place** – this event had taken place on 14 June. The exhibition boards were not particularly informative and it was agreed to wait until the full planning application has been submitted before making comments

**Ref/17/02120/PAN – Teviot Row House** – this event had taken place on 27 June

**Ref/17/02104/ADV – Signage, Bobsleigh Repair Shop, 4-8 Lochrin Buildings** – No objection

**Ref/17/02194/FUL – Alterations to shop frontage, 4-8 Lochrin Buildings**– No objection

**Ref/17/02100/PAN – Viewforth Church** – residential development with associated landscaping and parking at 4-22 Lower Gilmore Place

**Ref/17/02227/PPP – 2 Dewar Place** – PPP for two hotels

**Ref/17/01535/FUL** – Change of use former Lothian and Borders Fire Station (Museum of Fire) – Granted

**Ref/15/0616/LBC – Surgical Hospital, former RIE** – LBC has been approved, but there is no mention of the Gatehouse (see Minutes of Meeting of TXCC, 31 May, item 6, Councillors' Comments and Questions)

**Ref/17/01150/FUL – Student Halls of Residence, University of Edinburgh, 1 Riego St** – Granted

**Ref/17/01109/PAN – Vastint, land to west of Edinburgh Quay at former 159 Fountainbridge** – this event took place on 19 May

**Ref/16/00700/FUL – Hotel, Dewar Place** – Granted.

**8. Licensing** – Roger Colkett reported that there were no new applications in the period.

#### **9. AOCB –**

Andrew Brough congratulated Andy Devenport on his election as the new Chair of FoMBL and welcomed the appointment of Iain Black as a Trustee and as the official TXCC representative on FoMBL.

Fiona Allen asked for our concern about the Napier University Bainfield Halls of Residence having the same cladding as the Grenfell Tower block in London to be minuted.

Roger Colkett suggested that at our next meeting – in August – we consider priorities for the coming year. This was agreed unanimously.

**ACTION –all Community Councillors to prepare items for this discussion in August.**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 30 August 2017 at 7pm  
Tollcross Community Centre**