

Tollcross Community Council
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 27 September 2017 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Andrew Brough (Chair and Secretary), Fiona Allen, Richard Allen, Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Andy Devenport, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth. **Police:** none (see below). **CEC Councillor:** none. **Public:** David Liddle, Mary Neilson, Andreas Wilhelm. **Apologies:** Paul Beswick, Katie McGhee, Liz Summerfield; Cllrs Doran, Miller and Mowat.

The Chair declared the September ordinary meeting open, and welcomed Mary Neilson as an honoured guest.

2. Declaration of interests – none

3. Police Matters –

There was no representative from Police Scotland present, however, an email was received by the Chair later that evening explaining the Police absence:

Sir,

Hope all is well. I was due to attend the Tollcross CC meeting tonight, I was walking up and made it as far as the Tesco Express at Fountainbridge, where I stumbled upon an ongoing incident, unfortunately I had to arrest two persons and due to the amount of incidents ongoing in the city there were no officers available to take over. I can only apologise for being unable to attend and I didn't have a phone number to let you know. I will email you at the weekend with the relevant information and hopefully you can pass it on to the members.

PC 11993 Liam Coleman, Community Policing Team West End Police Station.

4. Minutes and matters arising from meeting of 30 August 2017 –

Correction:

'Cllr Miller (standing in for Cllr Doran)' should simply read 'Cllr Miller'.

Matter arising:

4. Matters arising – Reports – FOMBL – Andy Devenport reported that the HSBC UK City Ride Edinburgh on 3 September had gone reasonably well, but noted that there was an increase in litter on the Meadows. He mentioned the upcoming 'Army in the Park' event on the Meadows on 28 and 29 September.

5. Tollcross matters –

a. 35 bus – following Lothian Regional Bus decision to 'rebrand' the 35-bus service, without any apparent public consultation, and to massively increase the cost of travel to the Airport, it was decided to write to LRB to ask how this will affect people working at the Airport and to explain why no public consultation had taken place. It was also requested that at the next TXCC meeting the CEC Councillor in attendance be asked to contact CEC/LRB for updated figures on operating costs of both trams and buses and to establish if there is any element of cross-subsidy involved.

ACTION: Chair

b. Cleaner Streets – the Chair reported on the recent initiative undertaken by some residents in Upper Gilmore Place to clean their own street. After some discussion, it was agreed to note this initiative with interest, but the general feeling was that this was no substitute for the CEC carrying out their statutory duty to clean our streets.

There followed a wider discussion about the need for more and better bins to be sited in the Tollcross area; the need to restore the Rapid Response teams; the removal of charges for special uplifts to prevent dumping of larger items in the streets; the question of enforcement and the role of environmental wardens; and the infrequency of uplift of paper recycling facilities in the area.

c. Andy Wightman meeting (AirBnB and short-lets) – following a detailed discussion about the pros and cons of hosting such a meeting in the Tollcross area, it was decided that the Chair should write to Mr Wightman for clarification under various heads before committing ourselves to hosting such an event.

ACTION: Chair

d. Lauriston Street/Lauriston Place – because some drivers are exiting (and in some cases trying to enter) Lauriston Street in the wrong lanes, signage and road markings at this junction need to be improved, and the Chair is to write to all four CEC councillors to ask for improvements.

ACTION: Chair

e. Uber drivers – unconnected with Transport for London's recent decision to deny Uber's application to renew its private hire licence in London, the matter of instances of poor driving on the part of Uber drivers in various parts of Edinburgh was discussed. It was decided that TXCC would support an investigation into how Uber operates in Edinburgh if the CEC has plans to review its renewal of Uber applications.

6. Councillor's Comments and Questions –

Despite the decision of ward councillors to operate a rota system for attending TXCC meetings, it was noted with regret that the Councillor scheduled to attend the September meeting – Cllr. Rankin – was absent and had not submitted apologies.

Further to Cllr Miller's involvement with the Thornybauk site, the Chair invited members to take part on a site visit and would inform Cllr Miller of their interest. Richard Allen, Iain Black, Michael Lister and Ann Wigglesworth expressed an interest in taking part.

ACTION: Chair

Richard Allen informed the group that a meeting of the Planning Sounding Board would be held on Thursday 28 September in the Diamond Jubilee Room, City Chambers at 2pm.

7. Planning –

According to the most recent CEC Planning Bulletin (11 September 2017), there were no new applications relevant to the TXCC area (Ward B11 – City Centre) or any planning decisions made.

8. Licensing –

Roger Colkett reported that both applications mentioned in the August meeting had been approved; that he would object on behalf of TXCC to the change of outdoor drinking facilities at Shakespeare's, 65 Lothian Road; and that he had written to CEC about the application at the former Museum of Fire, and was awaiting a response.

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 25 October 2017 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre**