

Tollcross Community Council
Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 25 October 2017 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Andrew Brough (Chair and Secretary), Fiona Allen, Richard Allen, Paul Beswick, Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Michael Lister, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth. **Police:** none. **CEC Councillor:** Cllr Karen Doran. **Public:** Simon Armstrong, Liam Dickson, J J Mary Hatakka, Jose Noriega, Amanda Novak, Andreas Wilhelm. **Apologies:** Andy Devenport, Katie McGhee; David Liddle; Cllrs Miller, Mowat, Rankin.

The Chair welcomed everyone and declared the October ordinary meeting open.

2. Declaration of interests – none

3. Police Matters – there were no Police present.

4. Minutes and matters arising from meeting of 27 September 2017 –

Corrections:

1. Welcome and Apologies: Liz Summerfield was not present.

4. Matters arising: **4. Matter arising – Reports – FoMBL:** ‘Army in the Park’ event: add ‘various opinions were voiced on this matter, but there was no consensus about whether to support or object to this event and the matter did not go to a vote.’

5. Tollcross matters: a. 35 bus: For ‘Lothian Regional Buses’ read ‘Lothian Buses.’

Matter arising:

5. Tollcross matters –

a. 35 bus: The Chair had written to Lothian Buses and was awaiting a reply.

ACTION: Cllr Doran to chase up a reply from Lothian Buses.

e. Uber drivers: the Chair had written to the CEC Licensing Department and had circulated its response. [See Chair’s email of 23 October.]

The Minutes were then accepted as correct. This was proposed by Richard Allen and seconded by Andrew Brough.

5. Tollcross area matters –

a. Lower Gilmore Place: (Ref 17/04243/FUL): Paul Beswick spoke to the matter of the proposed development and was of the opinion that it was certainly worth challenging: the footprint was too big and left little space for public realm; the mass of the development with an additional sixth floor roof garden was unacceptable and completely contravenes the Fountainbridge Planning Brief and had been criticised by the Urban Design Panel. He added that it was important to remember that the south side of the canal was generally regarded as residential, with the north side accommodating business expansion, and that it was also important to keep the skyline on the south side. There then followed a general discussion about the issues involved, including a matter of concern from tenants of Dunedin-Canmore Housing Association. On the question of how the Planning Department appears only to summarise comments that are placed before the Planning Committee, it was suggested that objections should be made online via the Planning Portal and sent also by letter to the individual case officers.

Cllr Doran intimated that she would write to the Planning Department to object to the proposal, as well as to Dunedin-Canmore Housing Association for clarification.

ACTION: Paul Beswick to submit an objection to the CEC regarding this development and all Community Councillors to submit individual objections by Friday 3 November.

ACTION: Cllr Doran.

b. Tollcross Community Centre – Richard Allen, who sits on the Tollcross Community Centre Association, gave a very full report on the situation regarding the issues that the Centre is facing, not least physical repairs to and maintenance of the building. [See his report on the 6 September meeting of the Association, included with the Papers for the TXCC meeting of 27 September.] He stressed the unique nature of the Centre as it is the only Council-owned community facility within the Tollcross Community Council area, and for it to continue to function as a much-loved and well-used facility that serves many groups, it needs a firm commitment from the CEC. There followed an in-depth discussion of the various issues facing the Centre. The Tollcross Community Council is fully supportive of any of the actions necessary to keep the Centre running and does not wish to lose this facility.

ACTION: Cllr Doran to write to the CEC to seek a commitment from the Council to look after the fabric of the building.

ACTION: Following the 26 October meeting of the Tollcross Community Centre Association, Richard Allen to confer with the Chair to pursue these matters with the CEC.

c. Scottish Book Trust Fundraising – Liz Summerfield spoke to the matter of Book Week Scotland which runs from Monday 27 November to Sunday 3 December, and to the proposal of holding a book sale for fundraising for the Trust. It was suggested that the event could be held either in the Fountainbridge Public Library or in the Tollcross Community Education Centre and that she would be happy to liaise over the organisation of this event.

ACTION: Community Councillors wishing to participate in this event to email Liz Summerfield for more information.

d. Short-term lets – the Chair returned to the question of short-term lets and said that he was to have a meeting on 1st November about a proposed public meeting on 29 November, and that he would report back to the group. It was noted that such a public meeting on 29 November would clash with the ordinary November meeting of TXCC.

There was much discussion about the issue of short-term lets and how it effects the city centre and it was acknowledged that the problem requires a legislative response from the Scottish Parliament.

It was noted that there is to be a public community meeting to discuss concerns about commercial holiday letting. [**Monday 6 November at the Stockbridge Church, 7B Saxe Coburg Street, 7 - 9pm**, hosted by Sustainable Communities – Stockbridge.]

ACTION: Chair to report back.

e. Inclusion Scotland – Liz Summerfield spoke to the matter of TXCC having free institutional membership of this organisation. Fiona Allen proposed that TXCC join this organisation, with Andrew Brough seconding the proposal.

ACTION: Liz Summerfield to pursue joining this.

6. Councillor's Comments and Questions – Cllr Doran gave a report on her work in the immediate area of Tollcross, highlighting the Lower Gilmore Place proposed development and Thornybauk. She spoke to the matter of the CEC budget and the online consultation that will go live on Monday 30 October and urged people to take part. She would write to object to the proposed development of Lower Gilmore Place and would also write to Lothian Buses about the 35 bus service and to the Council about the Tollcross Community Education Centre.

There followed several questions to Cllr Doran:

Fiona Allen asked about reviving the CEC information leaflet/map concerning charity shops in the city and the types of fabric, in particular, that they are able to recycle, as well as other ways of disposing of surplus domestic fabrics in order to prevent un-necessary land-fill. She mentioned that duvets and pillows were always welcome by the Cat and Dog Home, and that the A & E department at the RIE was often looking for t-shirts and jogging-bottoms for patient admissions. It also transpired that the PDSA will take duvets and pillows. It was suggested that the Edinburgh Evening News might want to run a feature on this issue.

ACTION: Fiona Allen to pursue this matter.

ACTION: Cllr Doran to explore the possibility of CEC reviving its charity shops information leaflet/map.

Also discussed were the merits and demerits of bottle banks, with Cllr Doran suggesting that the questioner contact either Cllr David Key or Cllr Gavin Corbett to pursue the question of arranging to have a bottle bank installed at Brandfield St; scaffolding on Earl Grey Street which has recently been removed and any regulations regarding the erection of scaffolding and the attendant reduction of public footways; the limit on the size of vehicles that may apply for parking permits and which, because of their size, occupy more than one parking space. Also mentioned was the interesting phenomenon at Melvin Walk, where the recent removal of litter bins has resulted in the area being litter-free!

ACTION: Cllr Doran to follow up these questions.

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

1. The proposed student residence development at Russell Road has been withdrawn
2. Proposed change of use from retail to unlicensed restaurant at 22-24 Home Street – Objection on the grounds of over-provision
3. Proposed change of use from Bookmakers at 25 Lothian Road to restaurant – Granted
4. Proposed change of use from sauna to student accommodation at 91 Lothian Road – no material grounds to object
5. Proposed change of use at former retail unit at 114 Dundee St for new student amenity areas and accommodation – despite the policy of TXCC to protect retail units, no objection
6. Formalise current use of sandwich shop at 115 Fountainbridge (Certificate of Lawfulness (existing)) – Granted
7. Installation of micro-brewery, 4-6 Grassmarket – Granted
8. Pre-application notice –18 Morrison St (former Goods Yard, Haymarket) – 30 November – venue and time to be confirmed
9. Pre-application notice – former 159 Fountainbridge (Vastint/IKEA) – **Monday 6 November, Fountainbridge Public Library, 3.30 – 7.30pm**

8. Licensing –

Roger Colkett reported that there were no new applications in the period and explained why he had not submitted an objection to the application for the change of outdoor drinking facilities at Shakespeare's, 65 Lothian Road. There was confusion about the public entertainment licence at the former Museum of Fire and the Licensing Board was seeking to clarify this.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 29 November 2017 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Centre**