

**Tollcross Community Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 28 March 2018 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Education Centre, 117 Fountainbridge**

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Andrew Brough (Chair and Secretary); Paul Beswick (Treasurer); Richard Allen, Iain Black, Roger Colkett; Andy Devenport; Michael Lister; Chris McGregor; Liz Summerfield; Ann Wigglesworth. **Police:** PC Bruce Burt; PC Lynsay Claxtin. **CEC Councillor:** Cllr Claire Miller. **Members of the public:** Janet Dick; Andreas Wilhelm. **Apologies:** Fiona Allen; David Liddle. Cllr. Mowat, Cllr. Rankin, Cllr. Doran.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the public business would end by 8.30pm to allow discussion of private business.

The Chair intimated that council officer Mags Campbell had died yesterday following a short illness and that she would be missed greatly. It was agreed to send condolences to her family via Sarah Burns at CEC.

ACTION: Chair

1. AOCB – none

2. Declaration of interests – none

3. Police matters – The Chair welcomed back PC Bruce Burt, who introduced his colleague PC Lynsay Claxtin. Given that the TXCC area is covered by several police stations, PC Burt had prepared a report that focussed more directly on the TXCC area itself and proceeded to deliver his report.

In the March period there had been three opportunistic house break-ins, where doors had been secured on yale locks only. PC Burt advised that mortice locks should also be used, even at night.

There had been seven thefts of pedal cycles, and one attempted theft; and the theft of a wallet from a licensed premise.

On Friday 16 March a Road Safety Initiative had taken place throughout the City Centre to address the issues of anti-social and dangerous cycling. Four fixed penalty notices had been issued for cycling on the pavement and ignoring no entry signs; two persons were reported for careless cycling; and fifteen warnings were issued for minor cycling offences. In relation to motor vehicles, there had been one motor vehicle seized; one driver charged with no insurance, no MOT, and no excise licence; one person was reported to the Fiscal's office after driving at 54mph in a 20mph zone; four warnings issued for exceeding the 20mph limit; two vehicle defect rectifications issued;

one HORT form issued; and twenty-eight other drivers had been warned after vehicle examinations had been carried out.

PC Claxtin also reported that Operation Cerimon focussing on anti-social youth behaviour was ongoing.

There were questions about fire safety issues surrounding the use of mortice locks at night – a quarter turn of a key in a mortice lock should not constitute a fire risk; the continued mis-use of Leven Terrace by cars and cyclists wilfully travelling in the wrong direction; and the signage and lines at Lauriston St into Lauriston Place (East and West) which need attention. This last matter had been mentioned to Cllr Mowat at a meeting several months ago.

ACTION: Cllr Miller to contact Cllr Mowat for an update on the road signs and line markings at Lauriston St.

4. Minutes of and matters arising from the meeting of 31 January 2018

Correction:

9. Planning –

Paul Beswick asked for 'student residence' to be added at item 9/b – 114 Dundee St

Matters arising:

[6. Minutes and matters arising from the meeting of 29 November 2017 a/AirBnB - the Chair had sent out an email about this]

7. Tollcross area matters – Commemorative tree and plaque – this matter was on the agenda for this evening's meeting

8. Councillor's Comments and questions: The Chair referred to the new rota and thanked Cllr Miller for her attendance.

Proposed by Andrew Brough and seconded by Richard Allen, the Minutes were then accepted as correct.

5. TXCC area matters –

a/ memorial for David Rintoul – Liz Summerfield reported that she had had difficulty in getting through to the appropriate Council department, but had now emailed to ask for a meeting to finalise arrangements, date of the unveiling, costs involved, monies promised from other bodies, etc.

Dates in May were proposed (4/5 May or 11/12 May) with the suggestion that a room at the Golf Tavern could be booked for after the unveiling (pay bar) and an invitation list drawn up, with speakers. The Chair thanked Liz Summerfield for all the work she has done in bringing this to fruition.

ACTION: Liz Summerfield to attend to this, in conjunction with the Chair.

b/ Data protection progression – the Chair circulated a compliance document for perusal. It was decided that instead of appointing a single Community Councillor to be responsible for data compliance, all Community Councillors would be jointly and severally responsible for the holding and deletion of records. On the question of objections from members of the public having their names recorded in minutes, this matter was taken on board. Also discussed was the possibility of setting up a Google Group for mailing within the TXCC group.

ACTION: Chair to register with the Data Commissioner.

c/ Local bin wraps – the Chair described the CEC initiative to introduce plastic bin wraps in the area around Tollcross and the Meadows and that it would run during April. Also discussed was the efficacy of bin sensors, as used in the Grassmarket, and that this was particularly effective.

d/ South East locality – the Chair explained that while localities have not yet replaced the Neighbourhood Partnerships and that any decision on this is still to be decided by the Council, some locality groups are now beginning to hold meetings. Currently, Community Councils are only able to attend in the capacity of members of the public, with no automatic right of audience, but that one solution is to send deputations from Community Councils when their voice can be heard.

There followed a wide discussion about fuller public participation in the work of the locality groups, the scheduling of meetings - daytime or evening, suitable and appropriate venues and the use of webcasts - and the composition of the S-E locality and the election of its Chair and Vice-Chair. It was felt that it was outrageous that the CEC had not yet taken a decision about the abolition of NPs before introducing localities. Cllr Miller explained the byzantine nature of current Neighbour Partnerships which is not only not clear to the public but is also not always clear to all CEC Councillors! NPs are subsidiaries of the Edinburgh Partnership which is not part of CEC, and at which there are many seats at the table - Police, NHS, Universities, CEC - and that it is a forum, not a decision-making body.

In the meantime, it was agreed that Roger Colkett might wish to attend the next SE locality meeting on 23 April as a member of the public, and that attendance at further meetings could be rotated among the TXCC members until such time as we may attend as possible members of the Locality when we would choose a permanent representative.

ACTION: Roger Colkett to contact Lesley Birrell of CEC on 0131 529 4240 for venue and time of meeting.

6. Councillor's Comments and Questions – Cllr Miller firstly reported on the continuing City Centre Neighbourhood Partnership and the forward work plans that she has been involved with in an endeavour to put some energy back in the CCNP. Further to the discussion in 5d/ above, she reminded the meeting that the CCNP was open to suggestions and invited matters of interest and concern from the public, eg such issues as drug use/misuse, rough-sleeping, that cut across different [statutory] services, and about which the CCNP can then send recommendations to other CEC Committees, again stressing that the CCNP was 'a forum for activity to be generated.' It was suggested by Cllr Miller that Chris McGregor might wish to submit any Health-related questions to her via email for discussion at CCNP meetings.

Cllr Miller reported on the two projects she was currently involved in. 1/ a short-term holiday lets working party, which she felt was heading in a good direction. She explained that existing powers in relation to licensing, etc, were being looked at as well as additional legal powers that may be required. 2/ the Central Edinburgh/City Centre Transformation working party, looking at transport and congestion; air quality; street design and management; environment; and public realm.

She also enquired about participation in the School crossing patrol survey, to which we have made a submission, and reported on the recent Housing and Economy Committee meeting at which the India Quay site had been discussed on the B-agenda in private, and at which serious consideration to a significant amount of social housing had been discussed. She also referred to the recently constituted Lower Gilmore Place Residents' Association.

On the cycling infrastructure projects, Cllr Miller reported that financial constraints had halted these for the time being, and at a recent meeting with Inspector Bob Innes the matter of anti-social cycling had been discussed. She suggested that if we could let her know about those particular areas or streets where such cycling was taking place, she would forward this information to the Active Travel Scheme.

ACTION - individual Community Councillors to contact Cllr Miller with such information.

One Community Councillor raised the matter of difficulties he had experienced with the Council Tax department in relation to an elderly neighbour currently in hospital care and now threatened with legal proceedings.

ACTION - Councillor to contact Cllr Miller with the details and she will take up the case.

Ann Wigglesworth wished to thank Cllr Miller for pushing through a solution to the situation at Thornybauk. The Chair also wished to congratulate Cllr Miller on having made such good progress on the matter.

ACTION - Anne Wigglesworth to contact Mike Shields direct to ask about tree guards at Thornybauk. (This failing, Andy Devenport suggested that FoMBL may be able to assist.)

Questions were asked about the progress on any implementation of recommendations from the Living Streets street audits at Tollcross and in the Old Town and on recent cycling reports. Cllr Miller said that the findings of the Living Streets reports should feed into CEC reports and that this would take time, but that she would be in touch with Paul Lawrence to see what recommendations might be implemented.

ACTION - Cllr Miller

7. Planning – Paul Beswick reported on the following:

1. Ref 16/04400/FUL – erection of student housing (104 studios in a 7-storey development within an incredibly small space) at 22 Haymarket Yards. GRANTED.

2. Change of use – Class 3 (restaurant) to Class 4 (office) at Lister Square

3. Change of use – Class 1 to Class 3 at 167 Bruntsfield Place

4. Ref 18/00722/FUL – Lower Gilmore Place – an OBJECTION has been submitted. (Lower Gilmore Place Residents' Association wish to keep in touch with TXCC)

It was noted that ten expressions of support for this development have been submitted via the CEC Planning Portal from individuals who do not live within the immediate – or even within the neighbouring – area.

5. Change of use - Class 3 (restaurant) to Class 11 (gym) at 3 Union Path

6. Ref 18/00523/FUL – demolition of existing buildings and erection of purpose-built student accommodation at 179A and 179B Canongate – OBJECT

7. Ref 18/00851/PAN – demolition of existing retail store (SCOTMID) and erection of purpose-built student accommodation at 236 Gorgie Road – OBJECT

8. Change of use – Class 3 (restaurant) to Class 4 (business) at Conference Square

9. Ref 18/00922/FUL – Change of use from Class 4 (office) to Class 7 (Hotel) at 152 Morrison St – OBJECTION

10. Ref 18/01088/FUL – Improvements to the surfacing/entry to the grassed area and erection of a golfing starter's hut at 30 Wrights' Houses – OBJECTION.

8. Licensing – Roger Colkett reported on the application from Citrus in Grindlay St to adopt the new amplified music policy and for an extension (all week) to late hours licence.

ACTION - RC to submit an OBJECTION

On a related matter, Roger Colkett proposed approaching the Licensing Board to ask to be allowed to receive a copy of all future applications to help assist in commenting on such applications.

ACTION: Roger Colkett to write to Andrew Mitchell and to cc Cllr Miller into the request

END OF PUBLIC BUSINESS