

Tollcross Community Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday 27 June 2018 at 7.30pm
Tollcross Community Education Centre
117 Fountainbridge

1. Welcome

Present: Fiona Allen, Richard Allen, Paul Beswick (Treasurer), Iain Black, Andrew Brough (Chair & Secretary), Roger Colkett, Chris McGregor, Liz Summerfield, Ann Wigglesworth

Police: PC John Pennycook

CEC Councillors: Cllr Doran was scheduled to attend, but did not attend or send her apologies

Members of the public: Michael Lister, Dr James Sinfield, Andreas Wilhelm

Apologies: none

The Chair welcomed everyone to the June ordinary meeting.

2. Declaration of interests – none

3. Police Matters – The Chair welcomed back PC Pennycook to the meeting, who proceeded to give a brief report on crime figures in the immediate area, explaining that he had not received any reports from colleagues at either the St Leonards or the West End offices.

There had been a house break-in at Rosemount Buildings through an open window, and an attempted theft from the bike shed at Canal Walk. There had been one road safety issue at Gilmore Place where a vehicle had failed to stop after an accident; and the theft of a new bicycle from a roof rack. The bicycle minus its back wheel had been recovered. Graffiti of a racist nature had appeared at Rosemount Buildings, and the Police were working in conjunction with Dunedin-Canmore to deal with this.

Ongoing were 'Cycle Safe Week' (with a feature day at Fountainpark on Friday 29 June) as well as a 'close-pass' operation to encourage drivers to allow more room for cyclists to pass, and bike-marking on the Canal. Operation Aftermath – a drugs initiative – had been successful while Operation Agora, using decoy bikes to detect thefts, was in progress.

Andy Devenport asked about the success of the programme on the Canal, suggesting that many cyclists had poor attitudes towards pedestrians. PC Pennycook said the use of shared spaces and how to manage them required a massive education process, which had begun and was ongoing. PC Pennycook also said that in relation to passing room for cyclists, Lothian Buses now take their drivers out on bikes to see things from the perspective of cyclists.

Liz Summerfield referred to the spate of break-ins to cars in the Morningside area. PC Pennycook said that while that was not part of his beat, he was able to say that if particular areas are experiencing crime, then Police Scotland will try to target these areas with additional patrols.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 30 May 2018 –
Corrections – none

Matters arising –

6. Councillor's Comments & Questions – the Chair wished to thank Cllr Rankin for the responses he had supplied to queries raised at the May meeting.

Acceptance – proposed by Fiona Allen and seconded by Ann Wigglesworth, the minutes were then accepted as correct.

5. Tollcross CC area matters –

a. EICC Hotel and deputation to full Council meeting, 28 June – Richard Allen intimated that he would attend the full Council meeting to reiterate what had already been submitted to the Housing and Economy Committee meeting on 7 June. He also updated on the Vastint development, saying that building would start in September, and that the district heating proposal was looking promising.

The meeting wished Richard well at his deputation.

b. Canal Festival – Ann Wigglesworth reported on the Canal Festival and circulated a brief document, which was discussed. On the question of more dropped curbs, Ann would contact the Council where additional ones were needed, and she also reported that Naomi Waite of Inclusion Scotland would be happy to come to speak to TXCC about the work of her organisation.

ACTION – Ann Wigglesworth

c. Thornybauk – Ann Wigglesworth gave an update, saying that she was pleased with what had been discussed at the group meeting on 20 June and that she was hopeful about improvements to the area.

6. Councillor's Comments and Questions – none. Cllr Doran who was scheduled to attend neither attended nor sent her apologies. This, and the subject of the rota as well as the question of recording apologies from councillors not scheduled to attend, were also discussed. It was agreed not to record apologies from councillors not scheduled to attend.

It was felt that the no-shows of certain councillors were both tiresome and insulting, and that this was asked to be minuted. It was suggested that the rota system had been designed to allow councillors who were scheduled to attend, but could not, to contact a substitute councillor from the rota, but that there had never been any evidence of this at the meetings of TXCC.

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

Ref 18/02249/FUL – 159 Fountainbridge, Vastint application withdrawn and resubmitted with a new reference number

Ref 17/04459/FUL – proposed change of use from sauna to student accommodation, 91 Lothian Road – Granted

Ref 18/02343/FUL – change of use from bank to restaurant/bar, 8 Morningside Road – leave to Merchiston CC

Ref 18/02479/FUL – former Boroughmuir School – leave for Merchiston CC

Ref 18/02464/FUL – pod hotel at 13 Lister Square – No objection

Ref 17/01972/FUL – creation of 60-seater restaurant, 4/8 Lady Lawson St – application withdrawn

The Sick Kids' application is now in and it appears to be fairly uncontentious. It was suggested that we contact Southside CC if any discussions about this are required.

On the question of the narrowness of the grounds upon which objections to planning applications can be made and the apparently newly formulated and adopted criterion of 'economic benefit' that is being used by CEC – it would seem – to push applications through, it was noted with some anger and frustration that had a City of Edinburgh Councillor been present at the meeting, they could have been asked to comment on and perhaps explain these matters.

In the absence of such a Councillor, it was suggested that either Paul Beswick or Roger Colkett might wish to write to Cllr Doran or to other Ward 11 Councillors asking for an explanation about the 'economic benefit' criterion.

ACTION – Paul Beswick and Roger Colkett to confer about whether to write to Cllr Doran.

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

9. AOCB –

Andy Devenport gave a brief update on Scottish Canals.

On the question of the co-option of new members, the Chair advised that this would require an EGM to be called, and that he would look into this for the August meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm

**There is no July meeting
Next meeting is on Wednesday 29 August 2018 at 7pm
Tollcross Community Education Centre**