

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes Wednesday 26 January 2022 7.00 pm

BY ZOOM

1. Welcome and Apologies –

Present: Richard Allen (Chair), Paul Beswick (Treasurer), Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Gillian Martin, Liz Summerfield (Engagement Secretary).
Stuart Tooley for U of E
CEC Councilors: Cllr. Joanna Mowat
Members of the Public: James Eadie, Andy Follis, Valerie Walker
Apologies: Fiona Allen, Donald Craig, Cllr. Claire Miller

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
There were no declarations of interests.

2. Police Matters

There had been no newsletter or correspondence this month. LS pointed out that we have had nothing from the Police since October.
RA felt there were issues in our area and contact was important. LS would monitor any contacts.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021

There were no corrections

That the minutes were a true record was proposed by Iain Black and seconded by Paul Beswick and agreed as a true record by the meeting.

Matters Arising: The proposed Tollcross walkabout: Cllr. Mowat explained that little happened during Covid and there had been changes to departments. Cllr. Mowat would now chase this up.

4. Tollcross Matters

IT (Website, Google Group, Twitter and emails)

A discussion of IT problems ensued.

LS said that Google group was now OK and Twitter had problems and needed to be worked on.
Not familiar with the website programme.

RA – we need more engagement and to generate more interest and get more people on the CC.

GM – we need to be clearer about local concerns and show more structure about what we do.

PB – will send a previous list of our activities to RA who felt we need to publicise what we do.

VW – felt Facebook was a good method to communicate and other CCs seem to have accounts.

It was difficult to find out about TXCC.

RC – agreed we need more publicity.

AF – has started on the website with holding messages and did publicise this meeting. A

permanent ZOOM link would help so the same link would be there for all meetings. Felt the website structure was complex and we could probably do with a specialist.

RA – we should put out feelers for some IT help. Also, he would get a permanent ZOOM link. The next meeting should address the issue of more publicity.

5. CEC councilors Comments and Questions

Cllr. Mowat explained that CEC had been quiet due to the Christmas recess. She explained that the LEZ was coming up in hardly changed form at tomorrow's Transport Committee and still not to be enforced until 2024. She also still had qualms about the lack of consultation on the recycling hubs and felt the Council should be working more closely with Living Streets and the community.

The TRO for the George St. to Meadows cycleway is due to be published and the CC should check to see if we had concerns.

AF asked, what is the procedure for reporting snagging issues with road works (Lothian Road) and Cllr. Mowat said she could pass on concerns if we let her know.

6. Planning

PB listed a few of the recent planning applications (all for our area had been circulated).

- Festival Square is to be fairly filled by temporary buildings to host an arts festival for 6 months; another example of commercialization of public space.
- Two more large student residences proposed at 4B Newington Place and Westfield Road.
- Another garden parking proposal in Viewforth Square to which we have objected; the third similar objection recently.
- A gym has been approved in the old Bank of Scotland premises in Earl Grey Street.
- Lister Square's pub is applying to become a restaurant, bar and take-away.
- A colony flat in Dalry has applied to be a short term let.
- We objected to planning applications for two outside seating areas(rooms) outside restaurants in Cockburn Street(yet to hear the result). The Council has refused 3 others in Cockburn St., 3 in High Street, 1 in Victoria St. and 1 on North Bridge.
- The conversion of Electron Wheels to a Chinese restaurant and take-away in Tollcross has been refused.

PB explained about the complaint to planning about our representations not appearing on the CEC portal. The meeting agreed that there should be more recognition.

We are an interested party in the query about planning permission for the refreshment hut built by the west playpark on the meadows and will hear the result.

GM – there are some other commercial outlets on the meadows; how is that decided? Toilets have been removed from the Meadows but signs to them remain.

Cllr. Mowat explained that there were cost implications for the toilets.

7. Licensing

RC has put in an objection to the application for a substantial increase in licensing hours for the pub, Home (previously Cuckoo's Nest and Bentley's) by the Kings' Theatre; stressing overprovision and loss of residential amenity.

RC asked what had happened to the Licensing Forum. Cllr. Mowat said all seemed in abeyance during Covid but she would enquire.

Cllr. Mowat explained that there was still some argument about how many licenses for sexual entertainment venues should be granted, if any. Zero might have legal consequences. This was to be determined in February.

8. AOCB

IB asked about the progress of rebuilding the gas explosion-damaged tenement next to Tollcross School. Several years seem to have passed.

RA - Thought that surveying was ongoing and the building itself was structurally sound

The meeting was closed at 20.05 and the date of the next meeting is 23 February 2022