

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes Wednesday 24 November 2021 7.00 pm

BY ZOOM

1. Welcome and Apologies –

Present: Richard Allen (Chair), Paul Beswick (Treasurer), Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Donald Craig, Andy Devenport, Gillian Martin, Liz Summerfield (Engagement Secretary).
Ellie Roger (U of E for Stuart Tooley)
CEC Councilors: Cllr. Joanna Mowat
Apologies: Fiona Allen,

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

2. Police Matters

There had been no newsletter or correspondence this month.
RA felt there were issues in our area and contact was important. LS would contact them.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2021

There were no corrections

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

Matters Arising: The walkabout with the council officials was still at the planning stage and Cllr. Mowat would now chase this up.

4. Tollcross Matters

IT (Website and emails)

LS would liaise with Andy Follis so as to resolve outstanding issues.

Issues with University/Students

ER had no current issues but would take any concerns we had back to the University.

5. CEC councilors Comments and Questions

Cllr. Mowat had some disquiet about Plan 2030 where inner-city sites were being shown as potential housing sites. Viewpoint's sheltered housing site on Gillespie Crescent and some industrial sites were mentioned whilst the owners and operators of these sites were not consulted. In the former case, this led to some residents being concerned. She made the point that we should respond to the consultation with our concerns.

Cllr. Mowat informed us that sexual entertainment licenses were to be discussed at the next Licensing meeting and the choice of Canal Champion was coming up next week.

LS expressed concern that the pavement on Fountainbridge between Gardner's Crescent and Grove Street has been largely cordoned off for a month with little work going on. Similarly, the bus stop at WAR/Melvin Walk was closed by developers which was very inconvenient and the section closed off was used by site workers for parking. PB said a similar situation existed around the development on Gilmore Place and RC highlighted that developers had taken over Morrison St. for a year. Cllr. Mowat was concerned about the bus stop and would report our concern to officers but felt little enforcement was currently going on.

Cllr. Mowat informed us that the Council is preparing a report on engagement with and support for CCs. This was in response to a critical report stating that the Council was not doing enough in that area.

6. Planning

PB listed a few of the recent planning applications (all for our area had been circulated). PB highlighted the problem of converting front gardens to parking in the Conservation Area to which we have objected. One was rejected (61 Leamington) and one awaited a decision (14 Gilmore Place). He explained the plethora of applications for seating outside pubs and restaurants. There was another application on a brown field site for a hotel and office block (Haymarket Yards) whereas residents feel housing should be the priority. He expressed concern that Underbelly had built their Christmas market, ice rink and fairground despite not getting planning permission till it was finished and about to open.

7. Licensing

There were no new license applications coming up and RC expressed some concern at two aspects of the policy on gambling applications. Firstly, the board is encouraged to inform local CCs about applications and he feels that they should be required to do so. Secondly the policy states that there must be a register of gambling licenses but he has been unable to find one. The meeting agreed that RC should emphasize the first point to the board and Cllr. Mowat would check if there was a register.

8. AOCB

a) RA explained that the Flotilla of Lights on 20th November at Harrison Park had gone very well with 20 boats. He gave notice that the Development Trust was going ahead and the Canal Society AGM was coming up (29th November; 19.30).

AD exhorted all to complete the Canal Questionnaire, details had previously been circulated <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F3YXRCJ>

b) RA notified us of the coming Community Centre AGM and said they were very keen to get new people.

c) LS said she had been contacted by Living Rent about the difficulties for students finding affordable accommodation. The meeting agreed that we should invite Living Rent to talk to us at the next meeting in January.

The meeting was closed at 19.50 and the date of the next meeting is 26 January 2022

