

Tollcross Community Council

Minutes Wednesday 29 September 2021 7.00 pm

BY ZOOM

1. Welcome and Apologies –

Present: Fiona Allen, Richard Allen (Chair), Paul Beswick (Treasurer), Iain Black, Roger Colkett, Andy Devenport, Gillian Martin, Mustafizur Rahman, Liz Summerfield (Engagement Secretary), Ellie Roger (U of E for Stuart Tooley)
CEC Councillors: Cllrs Joanna Mowat and Claire Miller
Members of the public: Andy Follis, Jane Robinson
Apologies: None

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Ellie as a replacement for Stuart.

2. Police Matters

The Tollcross Community Newsletter (10.9.21) from the city centre policing team – E Division had been circulated to members. The report highlighted the police activity with the festival, the work now as the night-time economy is starting up after Covid and the students are returning and the ongoing work on thefts of and from vehicles. The meeting felt that this was a useful report and no questions were raised.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2021

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

Matters Arising: The walkabout with the council officials was still at the planning stage and a resolution of the safe crossing for Tollcross Primary School was now partly resolved by moving a Lollipop person. Rahman's apologies had not been reported on the minutes.

3. Tollcross Matters

RC had circulated notes on the EACC meeting. The main point was that the Edinburgh Partnership was working better with CCs and realized that more support was necessary for public engagement.

RA explained that the Community Centre was less restrictive on numbers meeting but time restrictions (4pm – 7 pm) precluded our usual meeting times.

RA described a petition from Gorgy Dalry CC against the Tynecastle development which we could sign. There was a discussion about whether these student residences really did free up accommodation for families.

RA pointed out that there seemed to be an increase in rat population or a change to their location habits. Cllr. Mowat pointed out there was information for the public about vermin on the Council website.

PB said he would take minutes for a while and see how that goes.

4. IT (Website and emails)

LS explained that we were still unable to use the website and emails and could not get help from Andrew Brough. She wondered if we should set up a new website.

PB would send her all the passwords and details; he suggested we might enlist IT help from a consultant.

LS would get some help and try to solve the problems.

AF pointed out how out of date the website now is and difficulty communicating with TXCC.

5. CEC Councillors

Cllr. Mowat said the LEZ consultation was now closed but there were concerns from residents on the boundary of the proposed zone. She was pleased with the resolution of the Lochrin School crossing.

Almost all members expressed concern at the poor operation of waste collection and recycling facilities. IB noted extra black bins were required. AD noted overfull bins were increasing. RC explained there was no method for recycling small electrical items. MR noted that businesses were filling communal bins. AD pointed out that Covid had stopped the Lyceum Theatre from recycling and all was going to landfill including electrical waste.

Cllr. Mowat explained that the service was poor due to Covid and non-delivery of the new lorries. That this item has been discussed at almost all meetings for many years suggests long term systemic problems.

Cllr Miller endorsed the points made and will follow up on a licensing issue (#455728)

6. Planning

PB listed a few of the recent planning applications (all for our area had been circulated). We have objected to the hot food take-away at the Board Game Café at Chucky Pend(8.9.21.). We have also objected to the conversion of a front garden and walls and railings to a parking place at 61 Leamington Terrace.

There was a discussion about the applications for Underbelly taking over East and West Princes St. Gardens for 11 weeks plus remediation for the Christmas festival (31 October to end of January). We have previously supported the Cockburn Association's policies about public spaces and soft ground remediation. The meeting deplored the commercialisation of this green space. We felt little point in objecting as the Council wants the Christmas Festival to go ahead.

7. Licensing

RC explained: a) (#455728) is for a market trader in West Tollcross (on the site of the demolished public lavatory). Assuming that the application states that the trader will be responsible for maintenance and cleaning of the site we will not object.

b) (#459539) is for a street trader in the Meadows. The applicant tendered for this area through the Council's Estates department and his was the successful bid. It appears, from Cllr. Miller's comments at our meeting and from the photograph sent to RC by Licensing, that the City Council has actively sought to have the small area concerned adopted in this way as the area is difficult to manage and neglected. RC propose that we should not object.

8. AOCB

ER explained that the University has now launched this year's community grants (<£5000) so if we know of good projects we should try and progress them.

The meeting was closed and a date of the next meeting is 27 October 2021