

West End Community Council

4th November 2014 61 Ashfield Melville Street Edinburgh 7.30 pm

Minutes of Meeting

7.30 pm Meeting starts

Welcome to Douglas McGregor and Ian McPhail.

Present Gordon Wylie Acting Chair Gordon Renton Secretary, I. Thom , A. Weddell, R. O'Riordan.

M. Baur, Colin Johnston, Ian Robertson, James Cunnie, A. Hamilton, D. McGregor, Dr W.J. Herbert

Apologies. Marc Biaji,, Karen Doran, Joanna Mowat

In attendance Sgt. Bob Mason (West End Community Police), Councillor Alasdair Rankin, Ian McPhail CEC environment infrastructure officer.

Minutes of meeting 7th October approved.

Police Report Sgt Bob Mason

Crime decreased but house breaking on the increase due to darker weather. Advised public to take care of valuables in houses unattended. Smart water technology being used to help detect crime information to be sent to secretary. Cameras being used by doormen in licence d premises are found useful to police in determining guilt and making evenings safer. Gordon Renton asked about what attitude the police have over the proliferation of late night drinking in respect to representation to the licencing board on the 13th November where police input will heard. Mr. Mason could not comment on the general thrust of police attitude. Colin Johnson asked about pubs built under residential properties never used to be allowed but now is. Gordon Wylie said the change in licencing was to reflect European attitudes to a more relaxed drinking regime but it did not suit the northern hemispheres relationship with drink. Jim Cunnie asked about unruly behaviour of football fans at platform 5 shouting and swearing upsetting normal customers it was felt the bar platform 5 ( opposite Haymarket Station) was being swamped by excess and unruly crowds at certain times. Police will attend to reported incidents. Question about fly posting on car windscreens not relevant.

Report Ian McPhail. CEC Environment infrastructure.

Martha Baur had done a preliminary walk about with Mr. McPhail and discussed triangle at W. Maitland Street Coates Place Torphichen Street. Landscaping approved and bespoke planters to be installed seen as positive improvement by the council. Dr. Herbert had petitioned for this improvement.

Trees in Torphichen Street also seen as positive but recent planning application may

scupper development of extra trees.

Fiona Rankin of Edinburgh World Heritage Trust to plant 34 trees in Atholl/ Coates Crescent as a start and other plans to landscape the area seen as essential. A sympathetic and high quality fix of the space is wanted and budgeted for.

Colin Johnson asked why were trees cut down at Rutland Place. Answer the trees were not thriving due to shade. Trying to cut down on tables and chairs in public spaces seen as positive with no semi permanent structures. A boards will be addressed and perhaps the end is near for these cluttering distractions.

Ghillie Dhui refused tables and chairs outside their premises met with approval by all members.

Gordon Renton asked whether camouflage could be used to hide large metal boxes on the W. Maitland Street triangle also a visual cue to the rouge lamppost.

Dr Herbert suggested hanging baskets on the entrance into the West End or on buildings. Perhaps hanging baskets on lampposts but difficult or impossible on private buildings. Mr. Cunnie asked about Dewar Place gap site which is falling apart and dangerous wished to see landscaping of this site. Mr Cunnie asked about Torphichen Street Planning. Question should have been put to Councillor. Mr Cunnie had misunderstood Mr McPhail's role. Alasdair Rankin took note of Mr Cunnies concern. Gordon Wylie asked about Gladstone Statue in Coates Crescent explanation required of its relevance. First suggested by Dr. Herbert. Isabel Thom asked about Melville Statue bit of a problem and was seen to be better returned to its former roundabout status.

No Neighbourhood partnership report.

Councillor Rankin Report.

Council budget seen as the main challenge and what has to be cut by £67m by next April. Cost savings on IT systems, shared buildings, energy efficiency. Main areas of savings will be staff costs. New enforcement service has been running since April to replace discredited statutory repairs system and seen as a way to continue repair and maintenance of housing stock. A Weddell asked why staff numbers are not mentioned in department budgets was this deliberate? Answer No. Mr Weddell asked about false answers given about repairs. Isabel Thom asked about power saving measures and if they were being considered. Dr Herbert raised an issue of inefficient paperwork.

Gordon Renton asked about replacing setts with tar and raised objection to tarring of existing setts and actually saving money in the longer term. Alexander Hamilton asked about access to Hope Street but it may have been passed recently.

Question asked about minutes approval. Answer yes approved.

Treasurer £786.26p

Torphichen Street Planning application raised by Gordon Renton and discussion ensued about problems arising from the plan. No consultation other than weekly list was given to WECC but it was raised by residents in Torphichen Street.

Confusion over who is to contact planning Gordon Renton was proposed but he refused saying he did not have the expertise and would always defer to Isabel and her excellent expertise. Isabel had prepared notes and had not been given the chance to speak to the plan which she had already prepared.

#### Planning Isabel Thom

Some success in our previous representations the cow on the wall is to go. Meeting of development management sub committee on Wednesday 5th November . 16 Grove street to be refused. House opposite to be accepted. Donaldson School in planning process of change to luxury flats.

#### Transport and Environment

Rory O'Roidan discussion of bins next meeting problem at Travelodge hotel Eglington Crescent.

Taxi rank problem seen at Haymarket Terrace disagreement on solution.

#### Licensing A. Weddell

Gordon Renton asked that concern on number of licences be addressed by convenor as representation on behalf of WECC members at meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November City Chambers.

Alexander Hamilton to discuss art trail next month as time running out this time.

Meeting closes 9.30 pm

next meeting 2nd December

