

West End Community Council
2nd December 2014 61 Ashfield Melville Street Edinburgh 7.30 pm

Minutes of Meeting
7.30 pm Meeting starts

Present Gordon Renton Secretary, Jock Miller Chair, I. Thom , A. Weddell, R. O'Riordan. M. Baur, Colin Johnston, Ian Robertson,

Apologies. Marc Biagio, Karen Doran, Jim Cunnie, Dr Herbert, Alexander Hamilton

In attendance Police Officers (West End Community Police), Joanna Mowat
Councilor, Katie Swann CEC, Cameron Buchanan MSP Lothian

Matters arising smartwater information to be send to secretary.

Minutes of meeting 4th November approved.

Police Report

Crime decreased but housebreaking on the increase. Advised public to keep from view valuables in unattended houses and to keep basement areas clear. Basements and student flats seem to be the targets. Discussion followed about bars on windows. Cars are now targets for criminals but thieves looking for keys. Cyclists with no lights discussed, £60 fine applicable. Drink drive checks to be increased from Friday 5th December.

Correspondence : Hope street information received but no time scale given for completion. Licensing information received concerning information from chief medical officer on health and links to alcohol availability. Diagio to sponsor racing cars in Princes Street Gardens notice given on very short notice. Gordon Renton replied in a personal capacity only as no discussion possible. Princes Street Gardens was seen as an inappropriate venue and commercial exploitation was proposed as a breach of trust from the original purpose for which the gardens were gifted to the city. It was felt that the Cockburn Society should be copied into our objections as we felt one week was to short for comment.

Correspondence received on balance the budget. Website was found difficult to use for balance the budget survey.

Katie Swann Report.

Money available for small to larger projects to involve or improve the dialogue with the community. West End CC notice board again causing problems due to health and safety concerns.

Back to presentation Community Partnership to change from answering questions and investigating concerns to move to a more proactive involvement from the public and to foster a feeling that the city centre is a common ownership issue and solutions are invited as part of that dialogue.

Cameron Buchanan MSP report

Issues coming up are air guns and their licencing, Taxis, Entertainment licences,

Councillor Mowat Report. Dedicated Student housing coming up for discussion, HMO numbers not seen as a problem by the council, Transport for Edinburgh meeting next week. Question raised about Torphichen Street proposed building being moved forward. Martha Baur raised concerns expressed vociferously by a large number of local residents. Modifications to the community council objections were to be made to reflect the overwhelming concerns about moving the building nearer the road. Notifications had not been made properly to local residents in this planning application and to Belford Road. Question asked about black bins in

Glencairn Crescent mixed collection facilities. Travelogue Hotel has three bins on the pavement fines are applicable outside collection window. Discussion followed about inefficiencies of council supervision of contracted out work.

Treasurer £752.25p

Planning Isabel Thom

Neighbourhood communication between Haymarket Development and the residents of the colonies are in progress.

Torphichen Street modifications to be made in respect of detrimental effect of moving the building forward to the street.
Cow at the Rutland hotel first refused then on appeal reinstated.
Mixed opinions on its suitability.

Discussion followed about The Development at Douglas house development.
Comments were invited by Friday 5th December.

Treasurer £752.25p

Jock Miller :Communications

Gordon Renton asked about using bcc as opposed to using cc it had been called stupidity by the chair. Gordon Renton asked for a retraction. None was given. Gordon Renton stated that a duty of care is incumbent on the secretary to respect all email addresses and of lay members. Katie Swann kindly stepped into the heated discussion to offer clarification. Data protection issues are now much more widely acknowledged and the council will have guidelines which will be followed. Ian Robertson offered that a solution could be discussed on line.

Constitution to be signed but all correspondence to be forwarded to the chair.

Licencing A Wededell. Nothing to report.

Meeting closes 9.35 pm
next meeting 6th January