

# West End Community Council Minute

**7:30pm on the 5th of November 2019** at the Scottish Arts Club, 24 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, EH1 2BW

Present: Cllr Alastair Rankin, (in the Chair), Dr Leonora McAndrew, Gordon M Wyllie, David Duncan, Isabel Thom, Marta Baur, Colin Johnston, Gordon Renton, Simon Holledge (New Town & Broughton Community Council Engagement Officer), Patrick Keady (Old Town Community Council) and Alex Milne.

## Discussion

## Action

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from or on behalf of Ian Robertson, Deidre Brock MP, Ruth Davidson MSP, Cllr. Karen Doran, Cllr. Claire Miller, Cllr. Gavin Barrie, Cllr. Hal Osler, Cllr. Iain Whyte, Cllr. Max Mitchell. Siobhan Mannion (Police Scotland).

### 2. Community Council elections

This was the first meeting of the new Community Council and Returning Officer Cllr. Rankin reported that the following persons had been elected, viz Ms Marta Baur, Dr Leonora J H McAndrew, Mrs Isabel Thom, Colin Johnston, Gordon Renton and Ian Robertson.

Under the supervision of the Returning Officer, posts were filled as follows: -

Chair – Gordon Wyllie  
Vice Chair – Ian Robertson  
Secretary – David Duncan  
Planning – Isabel Thom  
Treasurer – Vacant  
Community Engagement Officer – Ian Robertson was proposed

On taking the Chair Dr Wyllie thanked Cllr. Rankin for all his support and work as Returning Officer. And the others present for their attendance.

Alex Milne was co-opted to become a Community Councillor.

### 3. Minute of meeting held on the 1st of October 2019

The Minute from the last meeting of the Community Council was approved.

### 4. Matters arising

Marta Baur brought up West Princes Street Garden .

The visiting members of neighbouring Community Councils mentioned the Quaich Project which aims to renew certain facilities in the Garden involving a Design competition won in 2017 by New York based Architect, wHY. The Quaich Project would encourage the West End Community Council to become involved in this, to contribute opinions, and to become a 'stakeholder'. Feedback can be given via the website, [quaichproject.com](http://quaichproject.com).

Cllr. Rankin noted that most of the revenue generated from using Princes Street Garden for commercial purposes (i.e the German 'Christmas' market) goes back into the Common Good fund, anything on top of this goes into the general council fund. The Community Council did not support commercial use of the garden.

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Gordon Renton noted that Edinburgh was a wonderful place to live and the environment should be protected. Controls over development should be increased. He noted that having a 'café society' city was not a place where he wanted to live. He also reaffirmed his desire that the City Council implement a tourist tax.

## **5. Police Report**

In the absence of any members of the Police, there was no report.

## **6. Financial report**

The position was believed to be substantially unchanged since the time of the last report.

## **7. Planning report**

Isabel Thom spoke to and was thanked for her planning report. As part of this Mrs Thom stated there is an ongoing consultation regarding the city cycle lane scheme.

## **8. AGM**

The category B listing of the Castle Street car park was brought up with some disapproval from the Community Council. Cllr Rankin noted that the City Council had other provisional plans for the site, purposes more aligned with reducing congestion in the city centre.

Gordon Renton brought up again the matter of excessive business parking permits being granted in the City Centre.

Community Council induction sessions are taking place on the following dates:

Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, City Chambers, 10am until 12:30pm

Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, City Chambers, 6pm until 8:45pm

## **9. Date of next meeting**

3rd of December

**This was all the business**