

West End Community Council Minute

7:30pm on the 4th of February 2020 at 61 Ashfield, 51 Melville Street, EH3 7HL

Present: Dr Gordon M Wyllie (Chair), Ian Robertson (Vice-Chair), David Duncan (Secretary), Alex Milne (Treasurer) Isabel Thom (Planning), Cllr Alastair Rankin, PC Leigh Dingsdale (Police Scotland), Community Councillors Dr Leonora McAndrew, Colin Johnston, Martha Baur and members of the public Alessia Basile, Eilidh Ashton and Sarah Carswell.

Discussion

Action

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from or on behalf of Cllr. Hal Osler and Gordon Renton.

2. Minute of meeting held on the 7th of January 2020

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

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer and an Engagement Officer

Community Councillor Alex Milne was thanked for his acceptance of the WECC Treasurer role.

Vice Chair Ian Robertson was also thanked for taking up the role of Community Engagement Officer.

5. Police report

PC Leigh Dingsdale (Police Scotland) reported that January has been a quiet month in relation to the number of crimes reported.

The local Police station expressed a wish to host 'surgery sessions' for members of the public to drop in to raise concerns with the West End Policing Team. They are seeking a suitable venue for this to take place. Isabel Thom suggested a possible venue as the local medical practice in the grounds of the St Mary's Cathedral.

6. Short-term Lets

Cllr. Alasdair Rankin reported that draft legislation is moving through the Scottish Parliament, which will seek to impose controls and regulations on landlords operating short-term lets in Edinburgh.

7. The "Quaich" project and use of Princes Street Gardens

Isabel Thom reported from her meeting regarding the Quaich project that a webcast of the meeting has been published on the Edinburgh Council website. The business case concerning the usage of the gardens put forward at this meeting was found to be insubstantial. Resulting in the discussion being deferred until the next meeting in two month's time.

The restoration of the Ross bandstand and reinstatement of greenery to the garden has also been welcomed.

Comments regarding the aforementioned business case can be made to the City

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8. South East Locality

There were no developments regarding the South East Locality.

9. Councillors' report

The matter of the burning of commemorative public benches was brought up. The issue had been brought to the attention of Chairmen Gordon Wyllie by a local resident. Cllr. Alastair Rankin reported an internal investigation was taking place within the Council into the matter. He made it clear that the matter was being treated as a disciplinary investigation. The subject is to be discussed at a Council meeting taking place on Thursday the 6th of February.

Cllr. Alasdair Rankin also mentioned that there had been a large number of complaints from residents about the impact and size of the German 'Christmas' Market. The cost of undoing the deleterious impact of the market on the garden will be borne by the event organiser Underbelly.

Cllr. Alasdair Rankin spoke about the City Councils budget, which will be finalised and released soon. The budget will cover the next 3 years. Over this period the Council will be seeking to save £100million in terms of budget spending.

10. Finance and Planning reports

Treasurer Alex Milne reported that the paperwork was being processed by the bank in order for him to gain access to the account. The balance in the Community Councils favour remained unchanged at £1140.00.

Isabel Thom spoke to and was thanked for her usual detailed and comprehensive planning report. She noted that the Haymarket development will not feature any public toilets.

11. AOCB

There was no further business brought up.

12. Dates of next meetings

3rd March, 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June, 7th July, 4th August, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December

This was all the business