

# *Colinton Community Council*

*here to represent you*

Minutes of the meeting of 9th June 2015

Venue: Colinton Bowling Club

## **Present**

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Nigel Rudd, Mike Scott, Bill Alexander, Catherine Lang, Colin Proctor, & Lorraine O'Shea (CVE),

Cllr Jason Rust, Breid Croal (Community Council Liaison Officer), Andrew Paterson (for Iain Gotts CAA), PC Simon Wotton, PC Rhona Smith & 8 members of the public

## **Apologies**

Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Alastair Murray, Iain Gotts (CAA), Cllr Elaine Aitken, Cllr Richard Lewis, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Ms Joanna Cherry QC MP,

## **Welcome by the Chair**

The Chair welcomed the audience and thanked Colinton Bowling Club for allowing us to use their premises.

## **Minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The minutes were approved. Proposed: TM, Seconded: MS.

## **Matters arising:**

The Chair announced that Office Bearers who had initially agreed to take on their roles on an "Interim" basis had agreed to continue until the AGM in May 2016. This was proposed by Catherine Lang, seconded by Bill Alexander. It was confirmed that the next Community Council Elections will be in October 2016.

## **Police Report**

PC Simon Wotton supplied a written summary and went on to provide detail to this report. There had been a low level of crime in the South West Edinburgh area over the past month. The success of Operation RAC in getting on top of crime in Edinburgh with the speeding up of DNA and Fingerprint results assisting arrests and prosecutions was mentioned. There was one house breaking in Redford Avenue and one report of assault which turned out not to require any Police action. A car theft also took place in Hailes Terrace. PC Wotton reported that the Bypass was the main site of road accidents with only four taking place during the reported period.

BA asked about the acronym SNT. PC Wotton explained that this stood for "*Safer Neighbourhood Team*" which was the old CPT or "*Community Policing Team*".

Another public question asked if culprits of a recent crime close to them had been caught. PC Wotton was not aware if there had been an arrest for that crime. Councillor Rust asked if there had been good feedback from the recent Business Security meeting. It was understood that this had been very helpful.

The meeting was informed that Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June is the date of the meeting to cover domestic crime prevention session in the Main Hall at Firrhill High School.

The Chair asked for an update on the Colinton Hair application for shutters in front of the shop. It was stated that they are apparently acceptable under planning policy.

A brief discussion followed as to whether it was appropriate for the Community Council to make a comment, but it was felt it was unnecessary at this stage.

### **Action Group Reports**

#### **Environment**

NR outlined the key points of his report. He added an explanation about the PNP E&T Action group meeting on the Edinburgh Living Landscapes initiative in an effort to reduce costs in maintaining parks and greenspaces, in particular the cost of grass cutting. He mentioned that there was an enthusiasm for “Friends” groups to take a greater interest in their local parks. He went on to say that about 50 parks had been adopted. The Secretary added that effectively CAA had adopted both Spylaw Park and Campbell Park so it might be a good idea if they officially adopted them. NR followed up on the Woodhall Road drainage issue. The Environment group are awaiting the result of the camera survey on the sewer system and that it was greatly encouraged by the Council Officers attitude to the issue and that they had a radical approach to the problem. NR also added that he had been prompted to visit Campbell Park where a tree had 2 metres of bark stripped from it. This had effectively killed the tree. NR stated that in all his years as an ecologist he had never seen anything like it.

#### **Community Safety**

AM was unable to attend but submitted his report. A point was raised over safety when walking along Woodhall Road past the City Bypass as the trees and bushes are obstructing the pavement and pedestrians have to walk on the road. This would be reported to the Council for action. ACTION: NR/BA

#### **Communications**

MS gave a brief overview of his report contained in Appendix 3. Technical problems with the Library screen have been overcome and staff at the Library have been very helpful. The recent Dell Directory will contain regular Community Council advertisements.

The third item mentioned was a half-page flier to send around the community. Now we have some funds he suggested that perhaps this might be taken forward.

The Chair mentioned a contact he had with a former colleague and had been told that it would be very expensive to poll the community.

The Secretary mentioned some documents from the Community Engagement Meeting for Community Councils. He would pass them on to MS and discuss these with the Communications group. He went on to say that it was necessary to obtain a breadth of view rather than just the opinion of the activists. CP suggested gathering more from other CCs.

### **Transport Roads and Pathways**

BA provided an update on the last meeting. He explained the situation with regards the NEPs fund and the two items submitted by the Community Council. He also mentioned that two more projects had been submitted by CAA and following a costing assessment all parties will be asked to provide a grading to each project based on criteria set by the Council.

### **Planning**

TM reported that there was little to say except that a site visit by members of the Development Management Sub-Committee was made on 4<sup>th</sup> June and the application goes to Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Jennifer Fleming's application (Colinton Hair Design) was mentioned in the Safety report and there was no requirement for Colinton CC to make any representation.

The Chair described the visit by the Development Management Sub-Committee members and mentioned the restrictions placed upon observers attending. It was necessary for him to inform the Planning Officer that trees which she stated had been removed were in fact still there and a false impression may have been made to the committee members.

A member of the public asked about excavation work at Bonaly and expressed concerns about the speed of cyclists. The former is to be investigated and the issue with cyclists is being looked at by the Police and Community Safety Action sub-group.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

There was nothing to report, however it was proposed that the Doctor's Surgery, the Dental Practice and the Pharmacy would be contacted in order to establish communications with Colinton CC

**ACTION Secretary (initially)**

### **Future Meetings Dates:**

The Secretary informed the meeting that dates for future meetings had been decided at an informal meeting. The dates would be set at the second Tuesday of the month omitting July and December and that there would be an AGM in May 2016. This would hopefully reduce the number of notice changes and to inform the community in advance. The Chair asked if the meeting found the facility acceptable and readily acceptable. There was a positive response.

### **AOCB**

The Secretary mentioned that a Catering Strategy is being launched by NHS Scotland. This would be placed in the Library folder and on the website. Councillor Lewis sent in a report which mentioned the opening of Custom House, a report from a group called Desire Lines, a survey on Colinton Mains Park and a fire at the Oxfgangs Path Council premises.

Future meetings include the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June and Bonaly Fair on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

A group of members from the Bonaly Rise Residents Association brought a development matter to the Community Council's attention. They are very concerned about an application, Ref. No. 15/02341/FUL at 29 Bonaly Rise for the addition of a second storey to a single storey house. The main discussion that followed was around the level of support or advice which might be given or even whether it was appropriate for the Community Council to involve itself in the resident's objections to this development as it did not appear to have an impact on Colinton in the broader context. Various planning issues were discussed and it was the feeling of the council that it should offer some help to the residents who attended the meeting. It was suggested that they seek legal advice regarding the Title Deeds and ensure that more than the required number of objections were made to the Planning Officer on material grounds in order to get the application to committee. The Chair suggested that a group composed of TM, LO, Chair and MS would be delegated to make a decision as to the response to Planning on this application. Proposed by TM. Seconded by CP. Catherine Lang declared an interest in the matter and did not vote. The proposal was approved unanimously. It was further proposed that TM and/or Chair and NR to attend the residents' meeting and report to the committee via the Secretary. Proposed by Chair. Seconded by BA.

The Chair pointed out that it was important that we are seen to take the correct approach with these issues.

**Date of next meetings: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at 7pm, venue to be confirmed**

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Reports will be available on the website and in the folder in Colinton Library