

Present

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Mike Scott, Nigel Rudd, Sarah Stone Bill Alexander, Alastair Murray, Lorraine O'Shea (CVE), Cllr Jason Rust, Major Alex Price(3 RIFLES), & 5 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Elaine Aitken, Cllr Richard Lewis, Colin Proctor, Gordon Macdonald MSP, & Joanna Cherry QC MP.

Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Major Alex Price of 3 RIFLES.

Declarations of Interest

David Bewsey declared a financial interest in AOCB item a), and Dr Houston and Lorraine O'Shea declared an interest in item 7.

Police Report

PC Sonja Kaiser-Ferris outlined the crime related issues during the past month. She reported that there had been eleven break-ins in the area but also that there had been a number of arrests made and stolen content recovered. She went on to say that these thefts were perpetrated by teenagers who had stolen high value cars and usually drive them at high speed. She advised that if a member of the public should see one of these cars with several young passengers, sometimes wearing balaclavas, they should immediately call the Police on 999. PC Kaiser-Ferris also said that no assaults or hate crimes were reported in the past month.

It was also announced that Sgt George Richardson was being replaced by Sgt William Telford and that that the position in regard to PC Vinnie Blair was still uncertain.

Cllr Rust suggested the possibility that another Crime Prevention meeting might be held. The Secretary suggested that the upcoming Health Fair on Saturday 7th May might be an opportunity to combine health and welfare issues with crime prevention and he would follow up on this.

ACTION: SECRETARY

Minutes of the meeting of 9th February 2016 and matters arising:

The minutes were approved. Proposed: MS, seconded: BA

The Chair, followed up on a resident's comments made at the last meeting with regard to poor responses by the Council's Contact Centre when trying to report missed waste collections. He said he had been in touch with the Contact Centre regarding the poor responses in January and that they had now addressed many of the concerns raised and their response time had been much improved. It was stated that the community council has an ongoing dialogue with Waste Management and would take up any resident's concerns.

Update on 8 Bridge Road:

TM mentioned that he and the Chair had held a useful meeting in Glasgow with Kilpatrick Property Ltd (KP) who are currently working to purify the Matters in Conditions which had been applied by the Reporter in granting the appeal. The purpose of the meeting was to look at the main issues of concern such as building presentation and landscaping. In turn KP are still in discussion with their proposed tenants, the Co-op, and reported they are making good progress. TM went on to say that KP's willingness to maintain a dialogue was very positive.

Action Group Reports – Matters Arising

The Chair informed the members that he and Nigel Rudd had attended a meeting between Council Roads Officers, Colinton Community Conservation Trust (CCCT) and Colinton Amenity Association (CAA) with regard to placement of artwork panels depicting Colinton's history. It is proposed that Duncan Campbell of CCCT make a short presentation at the next meeting.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary mentioned the Dementia Awareness week and the series of events around the Colinton Health Fair. He also mentioned that while the Transformation programme had started it was an ongoing process and could take some time for any benefits to be realised.

Community Safety

AM had nothing to add to his report which was now on the website.

Communications

There was nothing to add to MS's report and no questions.

Environment

Waste Management questions.

The Chair suggested that the key issues have been addressed. BA asked if the Environment group were satisfied with the responses from Waste Management. The Secretary suggested that if any issues arose, they would be addressed with Waste Management officials as part of an ongoing dialogue.

Roads & Pavements

BA mentioned the recent Walkabout with a CEC Roads Technician and that several issues had been noted. These were the hole in the road at the foot of Cuddies Lane on Spylaw Street, defects in the pavement on the north side of Spylaw Street outside Waddell's Garage and the footway between the Dentist and the Broad Steps. There followed a review of pavements and roads including drainage at the foot of Woodhall Road, the road surface at the foot of Westgarth Avenue and footways on Redford Road. BA also mentioned the Council's supported bus services such as Dial-a-Bus and concern over continuing funding for these services and asked if everyone was aware of the subsidised buses running around the City (18 & 20) and the prospect of a reduction in subsidy.

GN suggested the hole in Spylaw Street needed to be properly dealt with and the Chair agreed that the matter should be properly followed through to a satisfactory conclusion.

Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEPs) 2016/17

The Chair suggested that his proposed changes to the current system were best left as that might create issues for other CCs within the Pentlands. BA commented that it was only the second year that the current process had been running and that it should not be changed but be reviewed after the current projects have been processed. The Chair went on to outline the suggestions being put forward to the members for a formal decision on which should be put forward.

These were:

- **Campbell Park** A new path from Woodfield Avenue to Campbell Park Play Park
- **Woodhall Road** Upgrade pavement between Campbell Park Drive & Woodfield Avenue
- **Redford Road** Upgrade pavement on west side between Cottage Homes and Colinton Road
- **Bridge Road** Upgrade pavement between the Dentist and Broad Steps
- **Bonaly Drive** Resurface section of road between Bonaly Grove and Bonaly Avenue.
(possible capital project)
- **Woodfield Park** Upgrade pavements (possible capital project)

There was a full discussion on all suggestions and it was agreed that this list would be put forward.

Woodfield Park Drainage issues

At this point the Chair handed the meeting to the Vice Chair. Action to clear one culvert has been successful. A report on the situation with regard the second culvert is awaited. The Vice Chair suggested we await the full report while keeping a watching brief.

AOCB

- a) The cost of the website (£200) was discussed by the Treasurer. It was agreed that while the minimal charge for the site is acceptable a note should be placed on the website suggesting that quotations for alternative costs would be considered. TM asked the members to extend their grateful thanks for the work the Secretary has done on the website. The Secretary also requested that his expenses for printing (£43.05) be approved. GN proposed, NR Seconded. Lastly the Treasurer sought permission to appoint Mr George Middlemiss to examine the accounts. This was agreed. **ACTION: SECRETARY**
- b) LO announced that Art in the Park will be held on Sunday 4th September 2016 with Sunday 11th September 2016 as a reserve date. LO invited the Community Council as well as other community groups to attend this event.
- c) MS also informed that the Pentlands Book Festival is on at the same time as Scottish Book Week, 21st to 27th November 2016. MS to meet the committee next Tuesday (15th) @ 2pm and sought the approval of the members. This was approved.
MS proposed that Colinton CC join with Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green CCs to hold a Pentlands Hustings which will be held on Tuesday 3rd May at a location, as yet unspecified, but will be announced soon. This was approved.

- d) Tunnel Lighting: The Chair has explored upgrading of lighting in the Spylaw Bank Road tunnel with the Lighting Dept. and has written to the Director of Place seeking funds for this project.
- e) TM mentioned the receipt of a dossier from an anonymous individual containing all the representations by the public to the planning application for 8 Bridge Road. TM suggested that as this information was already in the public domain and that it was not the business of the Community Council to take any action.

Public Questions

It was mentioned that some of the community did not have access to the internet and they didn't visit the Library. What could be done? The Secretary suggested that we would need to raise a substantial amount to fund our own noticeboards. MS stated that there was a box in the Library with question slips which so far had not been used to pass a message to the CC and all documents were in a folder there too.

Date of next meetings: Tuesday 12th April 2016 at 7pm, at Colinton Bowling Club

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm and the Chair thanked the Bowling Club for use of the hall.

Reports are available on the website and in the folder in the Library.

23 March 2016