

West End Community Council

Minute of Meeting

7:30pm on the 6th of April 2021 on the ZOOM video platform

Present: Dr Gordon M Wyllie (Chair), Ian Robertson (Vice-Chair), David Duncan (Secretary), Isabel Thom (Planning), Alex Milne (Treasurer), Martha Baur, Leonora McAndrew Gordon Renton, Paul Hancock, City Cllr Joanna Mowat and local residents David Hewitson, Ian Woollen, David MacIntyre, Christine Wiggins, Jenny Clarke, James Benbow, Darcy Black, Fraser Stevenson and Rachel Alexander.

Discussion	Action
<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received on behalf of City Councillors Hal Osler and Karen Doran and local resident Linda Cunningham.</p>	
<p>2. Minute of meeting held on the 2nd of February 2021</p> <p>The Minute of the meeting held on 2 March was agreed to be substantially correct, subject to noting the following points raised by Mrs Thom, and subject thereto the Minute was approved:-</p> <p>(i) Item 9 Communications - website and noticeboard Para. 4: Isabel Thom had been speaking to her daughter, Morag, who was a director of the small business IT Consultancy that had recommended Urwin Digital as the web designer for the existing website. Recommendations regarding domain registration, e-mail etc. were not all acted on. She had some reservations over the current proposals, e.g. e-mail storage capacity, etc. Storage capacity was clarified by Mr Black.</p> <p>(ii) Item 11 Planning Report (a) Para.1: line 2: Melgund House should read Meldrum House. line 3: should read The Centre for the Moving Image</p> <p>(b) Para 6: line 1: delete "an alcohol venue" and insert " a Private Members Club with accommodation". line 4: should read "club" and instead of "hotel".</p> <p>(c) Para 9: line 2: delete "leaving the City Centre" and insert "by-passing the Haymarket junction"</p>	
<p>3. Matters arising</p> <p>(a) Slippery pavements – There was nothing further to report, either from Cllr Jo Mowat or from Paul Hancock’s contact with the designers</p> <p>(b) Street Lighting - The lampost missing from the list of those needing attention has been identified and all 12 now fixed, thanks to Cllrs Jo Mowat and Karen</p>	



<p>Doran for this. Some of the lighting timers in William Street require adjusted as brought to the Council's attention by Paul Hancock.</p> <p>(c) Public toilets - A report is awaited and Cllr Mowat hopes it will be available for next Community Council meeting. Part of the refreshed Public Toilet strategy is due to be published around the 17th of April. Paul Hancock wondered whether legal situation had yet been clarified; Cllr Jo Mowat will liase with Cllr Karen Doran on the matter.</p>	
<p>4. Police Matters</p> <p>Circulated by Paul Hancock prior to meeting and attached to this Minute, there is a report in Appendix 1. Key points from the report were as follows;</p> <p>(a) Buses being hit with bricks in certain suburban areas, also large gatherings of youngsters on the Meadows - community policing team repurposed</p> <p>(b) Re-opening issue re city centre including licensing</p> <p>(c) Local resident Fraser Stevenson has set up a new Neighbourhood Watch which has been registered. Mr Stevenson will send out an email to inform scheme participants of these.</p> <p>Isabel Thom said that Douglas Crescent has had a scheme for several years and she had chaired it, before handing over to another resident who has since passed away, and the scheme is no longer active though there are still signs on some lampposts in the area.</p>	
<p>5. Traffic issues</p> <p>Darcey Black of Douglas Crescent referred to increased levels of traffic moving east to west and vice versa. He went on to state that the volume and speed of this road traffic was an issue.</p> <p>This development is something that Mr Black has been monitoring of late. Most cars from travelling through the West End area turn up Magdala Crescent or the following street in order to avoid the Haymarket junction which is controlled by traffic lights.</p> <p>During rush hour times it was reported that approximately 180 cars are taking this route per hour, whereas there are normally roughly 80 cars per hour out with rush hour. An increase in commercial vehicles had also been seen.</p>	
<p>6. Councillor's Report</p> <p>Cllr Jo Mowat reported on;</p> <p>(a) Sunday parking charges coming into effect as of the 11th of April. Ringo app users need to log out and in again in order to correct a billing fault in the app in relation to the Sunday charges.</p> <p>(b) Licensed trade - Covid restrictions are to be relaxed from the 26th April.</p>	



<p>Ian Woollen referred to noise issues – Cllr Jo Mowat advised that people affected should use any effective route of complaint, and any problems should be referred to neighbourhood Councillors. Concern was also expressed over a loss of local community Police who have been very good on covid issues such as social distancing and the illegality of on-street drinking.</p> <p>Cllr Jo Mowat went on to say that any licensed premises opening would need to also open their toilet facilities. This brought about a discussion in which a number those present reported witnessing public urination in the West End area. Unfortunately due to the nature of the offence it is often difficult to prevent or prosecute those committing it. Further CCTV cameras in public spaces may help deter this from occurring in future.</p> <p>Licensing Standards Officers would be interested to hear of any issues.</p>	
<p>7. Finance Report</p> <p>Treasurer Alex Milne advised during the meeting that the balance in the Community Council's favour stood at £1155.</p>	
<p>8. Planning Report</p> <p>Isabel Thom delivered the Planning Report and was thanked for this.</p> <p>It was noted with regards to Meldrum House that permission was granted</p> <p>Paul Hancock referred to a couple of issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Public land at the end of the Dean Path in the Dean Village being turned into office space- sold to neighbouring property to enable this to happen. # The conversion of 6 Torphichen Place to single studios - could be over-development, and insufficient range of accommodation, possibly being turned into a B & B. # Isabel Thom referred to a potential roof terrace at 21 Lyndoch Place <p>There was nothing further to report regarding Rosebery House. David Hewitson wondered if any action could be taken – Paul Hancock said developers were aware that more work was required. Ian Woollen said Historic Environment Scotland had 2 reports condemning the development, thrown out by the City Planning Department.</p>	
<p>9. Communications Report</p> <p>The Communications Report was spoken to by Paul Hancock In the report Mr Hancock noted issues regarding engaging younger local residents and older people in local developments.</p> <p>Work on the new West End Community Council website under way with a draft example of its layout/ appearance available soon to view.</p>	

<p>Graffiti removal – Cllr Jo Mowat referred to graffiti removal in the local area. Paul Hancock suggested underutilised McDonalds staff could help with this. Mr Hancock then referred to recent police success in identifying culprits.</p>	
<p>10. Dates of next meetings</p> <p>4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 2nd September, 5th October, 9th November</p>	
<p>11. AOCB</p> <p>There was no other business</p>	

Dr Wyllie closed the meeting.

Appendix 1. Police Report provided to and distributed by Paul Hancock.

OFFICIAL

Hi Paul,

Apologies for not getting back to you earlier. I was off for a period of sickness followed by annual leave, and was unable to get a report to you in time.

Hopefully this is not too late to be of relevance, however.

With regards to the anti-social behaviour in basements, we have had a couple of incidents of people drinking there, and one of a small fire being set (not enough to provide any danger to the building). Our advice to residents and businesses would be to ensure that the gates are locked and that the area is free from any items that could be used for shelter or which could be burned. Obviously, if there are any such instances, let us know at the time, and we will certainly look to send a resource to deal with it.

With regards to the rat run at Douglas Crescent, we deployed officers to that location with the speed gun, and a number of motorists were stopped and spoken to for going slightly above the speed limit. Unfortunately the majority of persons stopped were local residents, however the issue wasn't particularly pronounced on the two occasions we were there. If this issue gets worse, we can consider reattending there, however at the moment it does not appear to be significant enough to warrant regular directed patrols. I have spoken with a local resident there who raised the issues to us, and advised that it may be beneficial to contact Edinburgh Council to discuss the road layout and any possible traffic calming measures they could implement.

With regards to the loss of keys or any other property, it's just a case of making a lost report over the phone to police or in person at a station. If the items are then handed in, provided the description is detailed, we should be able to match them and reunite them with the owner. In respect of found property, it can be handed in to any police station and it will be recorded.

There isn't much we can do about alarms going off during power outages unfortunately, but most premises will have an alarm box on the wall that give an indication of the company that maintains the alarm. This might allow an opportunity for a call to be made to them and they will likely hold details of the key holder for the premises who could be contacted to come out and deal with it.

Obviously, we deal with alarm calls on a case by case basis, and if there was reason to believe that anything untoward had taken place, we would of course investigate and check the security of the building. Unfortunately we don't hold any details of the key holders on our system however.

I am still in the process of trying to pull this new format for our newsletters together, however it is taking longer than expected as it may be taken on as the format used across the division as opposed to just our own area, so I've had to do a bit more in the way of consultation. I look forward to getting this to you soon.

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Kind Regards,

Cameron

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