



West End **Community** Council

M I N U T E
of the
M e e t i n g
of the
WEST E N D COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held at 19.30 on Tuesday 4 February 2025
within Ashfield, 61 Melville Street there.

SEDERUNT

PRESENT IN PERSON were Gordon M Wyllie (in the Chair), Vice-Chairman Ian Robertson, Engagement Officer Paul Hancock, Martha Baur and Gordon Renton, Community Councillors, and City Councillor Hal Osler along with local residents Graeme Lyall Planning Convener designate) Ian Halley, Finola Quin, Dorothy Johnston, Peter Johnston, William Phillips. and Barbara Ross

ATTENDING VIA THE ZOOM VIDEO PLATFORM Planning Convener Isabel Thom , Licensing Convener James Benbow and City Councillors Jo Mowat, Claire Miller, and Margaret Graham along with local resident Cate Howell and "Juste"

WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

After welcoming everyone to the meeting Gordon Wyllie opened proceedings.

APOLOGIES were presented for or on behalf of Treasurer David Hewitson, Roads Convener Hazel Black, Community Councillor Leonora J H McAndrew . Christine Jardine MP, Angus Robertson MSP, and local resident Anne Tod

FINANCE

As indicated by the Treasurer, the funds of the Community Council remain at £1435.38 (figure corrected post hoc)

MINUTES

The meeting approved the Minute of the meeting held on 7 January 2025

MATTERS ARISING

(a) Neighbourhood Watch

This was carried forward to the next meeting

(b) City Council's failure to enforce compliance with title conditions re West End public toilets

The Chairman remained puzzled at the lack of transparency surrounding the Local Authority's failure to enforce the clear obligation contained in the legal title granted to the developer. It appeared that the City Councillors had still to hear further from their officials regarding the embargo on discussion.

The Communications and Engagement Officer, remarking that seventy thousand people went past his door on the last Murrayfield match day, wondered why the City Council could

not provide at least a battery of temporary toilets to relieve the vexation of the Community Councillors and local residents.

(c) Slippery pavements

Cllr Mowat reported that little progress had been made regarding the application of grit as at least a temporary measure. This item would also be carried forward. (since the meeting a trial of burning the surface of the stone pavement outside 27 Douglas Crescent had been undertaken)

(d) Diesel Emissions and the Low Emissions Zone

It was suggested that the tourist levy might be a suitable source of funding for permanent placement of suitable power supplies for locations that are used on a regular basis. Cllr Mowat confirmed that this had been added to the items suggested for the use of the tourist tax.

There was a long discussion about the fumes emitted by the diesel engines of fairground attractions and older public service vehicles. Mr Renton's opinion that contractors should be made to supply and pay for their own "clean" energy, such as Hydrogen powered generators, was widely welcomed.

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Dr Phillips spoke to the paper delivered to the Edinburgh Rotary Club on 10 October last, which demonstrated that modern engineering made low emissions zones unnecessary for modern vehicles, while older ones would be increasingly few in number. He believed that fines for infringing amounted to over a million pounds. The City Councillors pointed out that the local authorities in Scotland are mandated to designate such zones under primary legislation, although the extent thereof could be varied. It was noted that the arrangements concerning the LEZ are to come under reviews and the others expressed a general opinion that the Edinburgh zone should not be extended. It was agreed to revisit the matter when the review of LEZ was being scheduled for review. Copies of the paper were made available to those attending the meeting.

POLICE REPORT

In the absence of a representative from Police Scotland Mr Hancock spoke to the latest police report. People were encouraged to report suspicious incidents using the online reporting forms.

ROADS REPORT

In the absence of the Roads Convener, there was no formal report. Mr Hancock advised the meeting of the lamentable decision by the local authority to proceed with their bus-gate etc plans for Dalry Road and Lothian Road. Mr Halley said that the vote had been close - 49 to 46. Some vexation was expressed that the objections of the Community Council and local residents had received such little consideration and there was some discussion as to how such objections might be made more meaningful. The structure of the consultations left much to be desired. There was to be a review of how consultations were carried out but it was not in the plan for this year. It was suggested that vice chair might take this forward with Councillors.

The same view was expressed regarding the introduction of bin hubs.

Mr Hancock also led a discussion around the damage caused by heavy public service vehicles to setted streets and the applicability (or not) of signage at the entrance to Rosebery Crescent Lane.

LICENSING REPORT

Mr Benbow spoke to his Report, and after the contents were discussed, he was asked to object to the off-sales elements of the applications for alcohol licences. Cllr Graham reported that she had consistently voted against more off sales in city centre and West End because of over provision. NHS were also objecting on Public Health grounds where over provision exists which was also helpful to the cause.

PLANNING REPORT

While Mrs Thom and Mr Lyall had nothing specific to report, the meeting was glad to hear that Mr Lyall would be attending the training session regarding Place Plans on 13 March.

CITY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Osler told the meeting about the ongoing improvements to the Water of Leith walkway, the disruption caused by tourist buses in the Dean Village, and the dangerous corner in Belford Road between the hotel and the Gallery of Modern Art. Cllrs Graham and Mowat expanded on a number of issues discussed and felt that there otherwise was little to report. CCWEL issues will be discussed at the tech committee in May. Report on use of UK govt funds for EV charging points will be circulated to Paul Hancock by Cllr Mowat. Cllr McFarlane has been involved in discussions about relocating a sculpture from Hunter Square to Atholl Cres Gardens. A local resident has asked to donate a substantial amount of money to sponsor a piece of public art. Paul will take this forward.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

While arrangements are still to be confirmed and advised, Cllr Mowat will again be serving as Returning Officer. Mr Hancock is still awaiting fulfilment of his request for publicity material.

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mr Hancock believed it was now accepted by the City Council that wherever possible the paladin-style collection bins should be sited on the garden sides of streets where these existed and regretted that gull-proof sacks were not going to be provided. An enquiry would be made about the frequency of fines being issued for littering in the city centre. Work on the website by Fraser Stevenson was about to recommence.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 4 March 2025

OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Dr Phillips referred to the "No Heavy Goods Vehicles" sign at the entrance to Rosebery Crescent Lane, which appeared to have been erected by the CCWEL team. concerned about potential damage to the cycle track. Mr Hancock would enquire of Cllr McFarlane about the status of such signs as they affect bin lorries.

THIS WAS ALL THE BUSINESS