

Granton & District Community Council Minutes Monday, 27 November 2017

In Attendance: Fred Marinello (Chair), Mizan Rahman (Secretary), Donald McDonald, Anne Reid, Jill Talēyarkhan, Lorna Forsyth, Heather Pugh, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Councilor Jim Campbell – Forth Ward

Clare Symonds & Daya Feldwick: Planning Democracy

Katie Quinn, granton:hub

Rod Shearer, Trinity Community Council

Claire Connachan, Corstorphine Community Council

Gillian Paterson, & Jonathan Paterson, Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden

Alan Fisher, CAS Steering Group

Catriona Morrison, Spartans Community Football Academy

Cathy Umob

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Ben McPherson MSP, Deidre Brock MP, Cllr George Gordon, Cllr Ellie Bird, Cllr Cammy Day, Frederick Hessler

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes and they were Moved by Lorna Forsyth and Seconded by Mizan Rahman.

4. Guest Speakers

a. Clare Symonds, Planning Democracy

Planning Democracy was set up eight years ago to 'work with community councils, individuals, community organisations and others to identify the problems that people face in planning. Our work is informed by these people's experiences. Our network is Scotland wide, made up of community councils, individuals and organisations who are involved in planning issues in some way.'

They run campaigns, operate a community network of around 200 people and organisations and have a new initiative, action research. They are 'running a planning academy with the community in North Edinburgh. The aim is to build understanding and awareness about new opportunities and challenges in planning and community empowerment and how they might take advantage of them.'

Clare used a couple of local planning examples to highlight that communities have to work hard in order to have any influence on the current planning system. This is why they are campaigning for Equal Right of Appeal in the Scottish planning system. Introducing this would mean that communities would have a right of appeal as well as the developers. The reason that Planning Democracy is pushing ERA is that the Scottish Government Planning Review that began in 2015 is drawing to a close. Although the Scottish Government has refused to recognise that this is a fair concern, and tried to remove it from the Review framework, Planning Democracy has fought to put it back on the agenda.

Clare urged us all to become familiar with ALL the plans that can affect where you live, that is, Locality Plans and Local Place Plans or national plans. A good place to read about planning issues in Edinburgh can be found at <https://planningedinburgh.com>

Clare and Daya encouraged us to complete campaign postcard in favour of ERA for all eight Lothian MSPs.

Planning Democracy will be holding an event to explore the options in relation to planning legislation, to engage local people in their Local Place Plan on Wednesday, 6 December 2017 at North Edinburgh Arts Centre, at 17.30.

A discussion followed that highlighted how difficult it can be as a community to work in the planning system. It was observed that current planning policy does not dovetail or tie in with any other government policy such as clean air/emissions or climate change.

b. Katie Quinn, granton:hub

Katie spoke about Madelvic House and the hub. They are keen for it to be a real community hub with plenty of local involvement. It is currently open on an ad hoc basis as it is staffed by volunteers.

5. Police Report

Community Police Office Sarah Hall submitted a written report as there was little to speak to:

‘Just for your awareness there were a few fireworks incidents in the area over Halloween / Bonfire night and one youth was charged with being in possession of a firework. These incidents were however rare and isolated without the associated disorder that we experienced in Muirhouse / West Pilton. The other issue at the moment is break ins to sheds / bike racks - we'd ask everyone to check their security and be vigilant during the dark nights.’

6. Elected Member Report

- a. Cllr Campbell was the only elected member present so fielded a number of questions after he had made his comments.

He said that it is likely that a lot of Edinburgh's new housing will be built on the Waterfront. As EDI is coming back into CEC control, it is hoped that CEC will have more control over this development.

- b. Neighbourhood Partnerships will continue on for the foreseeable future and the Localities will subsume this function and work.

c. Edinburgh's budget will be dependent upon the Scottish Government's Budget so it is important to participate in the current CEC Budget consultation so that they know what the public's priorities are.

- d. Questions and comments

Donald McDonald commented that the lighting seems to be quite dim and this is off-putting for people particularly the elderly. Combined with the very bad state of paths and pavements especially from PCHP to the Catholic church, it is difficult to negotiate even for the sure-footed.

Cllr Campbell stated that there is an 8-12 week backlog of lighting repairs currently and that it is hoped to install LED lighting across the city which would be brighter.

Jill said that half of Crewe Road North's repaving had been done but it looked unlikely that it was going to be completed by the end of November as promised. Cllr Campbell suggested that it will be completed but he could not provide a timeline.

A question was asked about the 'Tourist Tax' and Cllr Campbell responded that the Scottish Government must pass legislation to allow this.

An attendee asked what was happening to RWCC and Cllr Campbell responded that it was in the same position as the rest of Edinburgh; adjustments need to be made and these will take time.

7. Secretary's Report

- a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

Mizan presented the new look newsletter and asked for feedback. There was some discussion on feedback and how a more disability friendly version could be made available both in print and electronic form. Mizan would like people to contribute items and volunteers to help collate and assemble the newsletter going forward.

b. GDCC would like to put on an event for the Ward in 2018 with the help of a Local Events Fund grant. He is looking for suggestions of what that might be.

c. Mizan highlighted the Christmas Charity Bazar in support of Hope for Girls on Sunday, 10 December 2017, 1.00-4.00 pm in the Scout Hall on Boswall Parkway. Everyone is welcome.

8. Treasurer's Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

There were no matters arising from the previous Treasurer's Report and there has been no change to the balance of funds.

9. Neighbourhood Partnership

Nothing to report.

10. Planning and Licensing

A request has been received in relation to a new proposal of housing development in Granton Harbour. The issue has been highlighted in the Q & A session after planning democracy presentation. Few residents highlighted the issue of increased pressure on services as a result of expansion should be addressed. Mizan mentioned that there are no transport and environmental reports attached with lists of documents in the planning hub portal.

11. Transport and Consultations

Nothing to report.

12. AOCB

a. Tool Library

This is currently located in Leith, where the training and workshops are held. There had been discussion about providing this facility in this ward, basing a new library at Madelvic House in granton:hub but Katie has not had a response from them and will chase this up.

b. No further items.

13. Date and time of next meeting

29 January 2018, Royston and Wardieburn Community Centre, 7.00 pm