

### **Present**

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Mike Scott, Nigel Rudd, Colin Proctor, Bill Alexander, Alastair Murray, Catherine Lang, Lorraine O'Shea (CVE), Sarah Stone (co-opted), PC Graeme Howie, PC Vinnie Blair (MoD), Cllr Jason Rust, & 13 members of the public.

### **Apologies**

Cllr Elaine Aitken, Cllr Richard Lewis, Gordon Macdonald MSP, & Joanna Cherry QC MP, Major Alex Price(3 RIFLES), Mr Christopher Davies.

### **Welcome by the Chair**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the representatives from Colinton and Bonaly Primary Schools, and guest speakers, Calum Brookes (Edinburgh Library Service) and Kevin Hanratty (Edinburgh United FC). The Chair briefly mentioned the letter from Cllr Richard Lewis giving his current remit. This will be included on the website. **ACTION: SECRETARY**

### **Presentations:**

Calum Brooks of the Library Service gave a brief talk on the facilities and services offered at Colinton Library. These will be posted on the website. MS thanked the Library service for their assistance to the Community Council. A question was asked about a box or large letterbox to return books.

Kevin Hanratty from Edinburgh United FC gave a brief overview of their proposal in a joint venture with Merchiston Castle School to improve the sports facilities at Paties Road.

### **Police Report**

PC Howie outlined the crime related issues in the area over the past two months stating that there is possibly more than one group who are very active at the moment. He went on to say that there have been three housebreakings where property had been stolen. Six attempted break-ins and one vehicle stolen from a house in Bonaly Terrace as a result of a housebreaking. The car was recovered and two males charged. There has been an increase in high visibility patrols and they have been working on tackling local crime with some success but the Police are keen to improve on this. There were two crimes of violence. A number of minor road collisions in the area but most are happening on the City Bypass dealt with by Traffic Police. A male was disturbed breaking into Merchiston Castle School and from the description given the culprit was identified and charged.

PC Vinnie Blair mentioned that they had one assault at Redford Barracks, and he continues to help enforce the School Streets policy at Colinton PS. He also carried out a road safety initiative, along with Police Scotland and Kwik Fit Community Unit on drink driving with 3 RIFLES. Pupils from Colinton Primary School received their cycling proficiency test and all passed.

There has been no interest in Neighbourhood Watch despite announcements on BFPS Radio.

**Minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and matters arising:**

The minutes were approved. Proposed: TM, seconded: GN

The Chair commented that CAA had made no application to replace Iain Gotts on the Community Council. He went on to say that despite his comment to make a formal response to the Council Budget, on consideration he felt he could not make a representation without consulting the community, but he had given a personal response. He went on to say he had received feedback on the 4183 responses CEC received. The Chair also mentioned that CEC had received a 10000 signature petition against cuts to school music tuition. There was also an announcement from CEC that a further reduction was sought from Scottish Government. Cllr Rust was asked to speak to this item and mentioned that the final proposal would be put to the full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016. There had been a further revenue reduction of 4.5% which represented a further £18m. Both he and Cllr Aitken were keen to hear further comments even although the formal consultation had closed. The Secretary suggested there wasn't much we could do at this stage however our MSP could be lobbied as it would be the Scottish Government who have it within their power to increase funding to Councils, as only 18% of Council funding comes from Council Tax.

The Secretary commented that the MOD had submitted an application to replace the perimeter fence along Colinton Mains Drive/Oxgangs Road North/Colinton Road from Tesco Store to Balaclava House. Enquiries have been made with Defence Estates about improvements to the main section along Colinton Road but no response has been received. This would be followed up.

**ACTION: Secretary**

BA asked about the item on membership of the South West Communities Forum (SWCF). TM said he had attended the last meeting of this group and found it very useful as the Convenor of Planning Committee had attended to answer informal questions about planning issues. The Chair proposed that Colinton CC join this group and offer to host a meeting of SWCF. Seconded by the Secretary and it was carried unanimously.

**Tunnel Artwork Project Scoping – Progress Report**

MS augmented his report with current information. He stated that it was still in feasibility phase and that while two potential major “blockers” had given their support for the project there were still further hurdles to overcome and that it would take until the next meeting if not beyond to get to the point where it becomes a matter for the Community Council to approve and seek ways to take forward as a viable project. The issue of sources of funding was mentioned and the various organisations that might be approached for funding once the project scoping has been completed and approved by the Community Council. The work on the tunnel starts on 8th February 2016 for approximately six weeks. MS said that the group would report at either the next meeting or the one after.

TM congratulated MS on the work so far. He suggested that there needed to be a mechanism to take forward this and other projects. TM suggested forming a steering group to avoid a

fragmented approach to this and other projects. It was agreed that this should be the subject of a meeting to look at the required mechanisms. A public question was asked about the suitability of the wall surface to take on paint. A further comment from CP was made regarding improving the lighting and this was considered to be a safety matter and LED lighting could be investigated.

TM proposed that there be a business meeting prior to the next public meeting. This was approved for Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

### **Action Group Reports – Matters Arising**

**Status of the appeal on the application for 8 Bridge Road.** TM said that he had attended the site visit by the Scottish Government Reporter and had been open to comments subject to specific rules on site visits. He was made aware of an illustration submitted by the applicant that didn't fully represent the outcome and he had made that clear to the Reporter. Her decision is awaited.

Two applications which required attention were at Torduff Road. While notionally linked they were separate applications. One for a burial ground and the other for a house. For reasons of timing responses were required by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and that had been duly done. TM said that the CC had taken what feedback it had received and put in an objection to the house on the basis that no justification had been made for a house on the site. He said that on balance the case for the burial ground had not been made and an objection to this proposal had also been submitted.

**Communications:** - The report was accepted without comment. LO mentioned that Facebook visitors should get friends to "Like" the page.

**Roads:** - The Bus Stop outside Dantes Restaurant has temporarily moved further up Bridge Road towards the Post Office. This might be a reason to review the placing of the Bus Stop so they are able to pull straight off from the stop without. A review of the placing of the Bus Stop had been requested.

### **AOCB**

The Chair mentioned that Catherine Lang had given notice that she was moving away from Colinton and therefore would be standing down. The Chair thanked her for her input.

The Secretary suggested we should seek the assistance of someone with medical knowledge

### **Meeting with the Edinburgh Garrison Lt. Col. Doug Mackay.**

A very constructive meeting was held at Edinburgh Castle with Lt. Col. Mackay, Edinburgh Garrison Commander. Col. Mackay is in fact a son of Colinton and has a long standing interest in the area. It was suggested that the local army presence would appreciate a welcome pack for army personnel on arriving to take up posts in the barracks. The Chair suggested that formation of an Army Liaison group led by AM, with SS would be useful.

The community council also has a liaison offer and contact for 3 RIFLES, Major Alex Price.

**Community Grants Fund:** The Treasurer gave details of the Community Grants fund. This currently stood at £18,958 with standing requests of £18,773, which leaves £185 assuming all the requests are agreed.

**School Liaison:** Lyndsay Blakemore mentioned that Bonaly PS has a mailing list of some 418 pupils and they could use this to promote Colinton CCs email list.

**Waste Collection Issues:** The Secretary mentioned emails that had been circulated about waste collection issues on Woodhall Road. This has been raised with Cllr Lewis and Cllr Rust. It was suggested that a senior Council Officer come to the next meeting to explain what had gone wrong over the Christmas period.

The issue of some 40,000 complaints was brought up by a resident. Another comment suggested that there were issues all over Colinton and indeed city-wide.

A general discussion followed about the complaint reporting system and the level of success in certain areas. It was proposed and agreed that a Senior Officer be invited to the next Public meeting. Prop. TM, Sec. SS **ACTION: SECRETARY**

SS mentioned success in use of Social Media in getting a response to local issues.

The Secretary mentioned a communications he had just received. This was to respond to a Review of Children's Services at St John's Hospital.

**Disciplinary action:** The Chair stated that the period of disciplinary action against the Secretary had now expired and he asked the members for formal approval for him to join the planning section. The Treasurer expressed his disapproval of the way this matter had been handled. TM proposed DB to join the planning group. This was agreed.

### **Public Questions**

It was requested that Woodthorpe Residential Home should be described as a Housing Complex and not a care home.

The issue of timing of the pedestrian lights at the crossing between Thorburn Road and Redford Road was brought up. It was requested that an increase in the time allowed for disabled persons to cross be lengthened. This would be investigated. **ACTION: TRAPS**

The drainage at Woodfield Park was raised again and the CC requested to put more pressure on CEC to take action. This will be followed up. **ACTION: ENVIRONMENT**

Questions were asked about the application about the Burial Site. The planning aspect was discussed by TM.

**Date of next meetings: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7pm, at Colinton Bowling Club**

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

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

02 Feb. 2016