

**Present**

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Gordon Neill (Treasurer), Mike Scott, Nigel Rudd, Bill Alexander, Colin Proctor, Alastair Murray, Lorraine O'Shea (CVE), PC Graeme Howie, Cllr Jason Rust, Cllr Richard Lewis, Cllr Elaine Aitken & 5 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Colin Proctor, Iain Wright, Joanna Cherry QC MP.

**Welcome by the Chair**

The Chair welcomed everyone.

**Declarations of Interest**

Bill Alexander and Cllr Aitken declared an interest in the matter of Cuddies Lane.

**Police Report**

PC Graeme Howie gave an overview of crime in the Colinton area over the summer. He also provided a detailed copy for the members.

It was announced that there will be a Crime Prevention awareness evening on 25<sup>th</sup> October in the Colinton Bowling Club.

**Minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (AGM) and matters arising:**

LO commented that the suggestions came from Pam Wardell and that she should be named in the minute. Minutes were otherwise approved Proposed by GN seconded by AM.

LO stated that the results of the village survey by Colinton Village Ventures (CVV) were being analysed and that CVV were creating a business plan for a Community Interest Company. LO also mentioned that there would be a public meeting on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October in Dreghorn Loan Hall.

**Reports**

The Secretary (DB) stated that he attended a meeting of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) at which a Scottish Government Officer had given a presentation on the Community Empowerment Act by and the presentation and other related information was in the EACC Documents section of their website. DB also went onto say he had attended the Edinburgh Civic Forum meeting, run by the Cockburn Association, which primarily dealt with planning matters and that updated Planning Concordat had been discussed. That document is also on the EACC website and is an agreement between developers and Community Councils to liaise with one-another on any local development. Not all CCs have signed up to this Concordat. The EACC recommends that CCs use this to leverage betterment from any large scale (>50 houses) development in their area.

The subject of the NEPs fund (Neighbourhood Environment Programme) was raised. BA said he would be looking at the NEPs bids. DB went on to say that several Colinton projects as well as one from Fairmilehead had been costed and most were likely to be accepted but a final scoring had to be agreed by all CCs in Ward 8. It was noted that the suggestion of a path across Campbell Park had been costed at £40k and couldn't be included as the budget is only £35k. After discussion between DB, NR and the Parks official who thought it was a good idea, it was noted that there weren't any other budgets to access at the time. TM suggested that despite there not being any available Council funds, we should look at alternative methods of funding as this was still a good project to take forward. After a discussion on various options it was agreed to form a group, headed by NR, to look at alternative means. It was also agreed to write to Richard Lewis as Convenor of Culture and Leisure, to see if he had any alternative sources of funding. A suggestion to review the grass cutting regime was also made. **ACTION: DB & NR**

The Secretary mentioned that Woodfield Park had two projects which had been marked highly and are likely to be accepted. This seemed to show the system appeared to work well.

BA mentioned the Walkabout follow-up and he confirmed that the issue with the hole in Spylaw Street was being actively looked at by CEC and Scottish Water is aware of this issue.

### **Meeting Dates**

The Secretary discussed the review of meeting dates and mentioned that there should be a business meeting to discuss Art in the Park at a date to be arranged in August. It had already been agreed to hold a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 pm. DB also intimated that there should have been agreement for a meeting schedule for the coming year at the AGM. It was then decided that future public meetings would be on the second Tuesday in October and November, one of which would be when office bearers would be elected following Community Council elections. Thereafter there would be meetings on the second Tuesday of the month in December, February, March and April. The 2017 AGM would be held Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017. MS asked about the starting time. It was agreed that unless there was to be a particularly heavy Agenda, it would remain at 7:30pm and if an earlier time was required, it would be advertised well in advance.

### **Publicity for Community Council Elections**

The Secretary announced that there would be minimal advertising for the CC elections. It would mostly be done via social media. He went onto explain the election process and nomination dates and the decision process. It was also mentioned that there was a strong move to encourage minority and ethnic group members to seek nomination. A comment was made on promotion of meeting dates on noticeboards and other means. TM suggested that some suggestions for promotion of the elections were needed.

### **AOCB**

No. 18 Bus service: The Secretary announced that First Bus would not re-tender for the No. 18 route. BA announced that there were plans to reduce subsidy for Taxis to hospitals etc. He also mentioned a proposal to strengthen the 18 bus route. The Secretary suggested that we should write to the Councillors/Lothian Buses about the continuing service.

**Art in the Park:** Approval to book a stall agreed and payment of £15 made. It was agreed that sufficient members would be needed on the day.

**Future of the Village:**

TM commented on concerns expressed about the state of village retail centre. LO asked the Secretary if there had been any information from RBS regarding the relocation of the ATM. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had been informed by RBS and Councillor Rust that the ATM was to be reinstated in the new position and it awaited a dedicated BT line to be installed prior to decommissioning of the Bank building, prior to it being auctioned in September or October. It was pointed out from the floor that the Post Office does offer a money service and that it was more flexible than the ATM although only within business hours.

TM asked members of the public about their concerns for the village situation. Pam Wardell (PW) spoke about a small survey she and others had carried out to seek opinion about what could be done to regenerate Colinton Village. She went on to describe a number of ideas that came out of the research she had carried out and what other groups around Scotland had done. She went onto propose that a meeting be held to look at creating a Colinton development trust to raise finance to create a community shop.

TM suggested that the Community Council were in a position to promote and support such a trust and help take matters forward, but it required a core of individuals to start things moving forward. At that point the trust could have a representative on the Community Council.

TM mentioned that there was to be a meeting coming up with the owners of Kilpatrick Property and the Coop to identify what betterment might be achieved out of the situation.

With the close of Convenience Store time was of the essence to restore some services. It was pointed out that the Community Council might not be in a position to have any more information than anyone else. TM suggested that any proposals would be welcome. BA suggested that parking was a major issue within the village. Pam Wardell suggested that a steering committee be formed to send round a leaflet to the community and that some form of contact with the landlords of the vacant premises in the village should be attempted. She also suggested it was necessary to look at what brought people to the village.

**Public Comment**

Chris Moorey on behalf of residents of the Spylaw area thanked the Community Council for its support in successfully objecting to the recent proposed Local Government Boundary Commission changes.

**Date of next planned meeting: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7:30pm, at Colinton Bowling Club**