



**Public Meeting – 7:30 pm - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**Venue: Red Room, Colinton Bowling Club**

## **Agenda**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Time</b>
1.	Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest	7:30
2.	Police Report	7:32
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	7:42
4.	Matters arising from the April minutes	7:55
5.	Colinton CC Annual Reports	8:00
6.	Matter arising from the Annual Reports	8:05
7.	2016/17 Accounts	8:15
8.	Election of Office Bearers 2017/18	8:20
9.	Taking the Colinton Strategy forward (with the public)	8:30
10.	A.O.C.B. to be notified to the Secy. prior to the meeting	8:55
	Close	9:00

Draft minutes of the previous meeting and reports will be on the website

Times for each agenda item should be adhered to wherever possible to allow time for informal conversation after the business of the evening has been concluded

**Future meeting dates to be agreed at the AGM on: 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**Present**

Dr David Houston (Chair), Tom McDonald (Vice-Chair), David Bewsey (Secretary), Bill Alexander, Lorraine O'Shea, Cllr Jason Rust, Cllr Elaine Aitken, PC Sonja Kaiser-Ferris & 5 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Ken Eyeington, Cllr Richard Lewis.

**Welcome by the Chair:** The Chair welcomed everyone and asked for any declarations of interest.

He proposed that Anne McDonald be co-opted as an elected community councillor and asked for the necessary two-thirds approval. Tom McDonald declared an interest and the co-option was approved by 3 votes to 1 (75%).

The Chair went on to say that Alastair Watt, Gordon Neill, and Catherine Lang had submitted their resignations and thanked them for their contributions. Gordon's efforts as Treasurer, Funding Panel member and Community Safety representative were particularly appreciated.

It was agreed that TM would take over the role of Treasurer, Funding Panel and Community Safety representative until the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> May 17

**Police Report**

PC Kaiser-Ferris gave an overview of crime in the Colinton area which was a slight increase on previous months. She also reported that Inspector Scott Richardson had now taken over in the area replacing Liz Duthie. The formal report is on the website. The Chair asked about reasoning behind sharp rise in crime. PC Kaiser-Ferris mentioned the Policing 2026 consultation and left a number of information cards to be distributed. Bill Alexander (BA) reported that a car had been side-swiped outside the Pharmacy on the narrowest part of Bridge Road.

**Minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017:**

These were accepted as a true record.

Prop. Tom McDonald (TM), Sec. Lorraine O'Shea (LO).

**Matters arising from the Minutes.**

The Secretary mentioned that he and the Vice Chair had not managed to make progress on the Strategy for Colinton. He also mentioned that an updated Walkabout document had been received and had been passed to BA.

He further mentioned that he had met with the Parks and Greenspace officer at Campbell Park to discuss possible improvements.

The Vice-Chair said that he and Tim Lawson (CAA Chair) along with a member of St John's Ambulance Service would be looking at the most appropriate placement for the Defibrillator in the Village. BA asked about relevant distances needed to allow the Defibrillator to be effective. TM suggested the representative from St John's would be the best judge of that. The Chair

mentioned that there was a useful video on YouTube. LO mentioned maintenance of the BT Telephone Box. There followed a discussion on usage and maintenance of the box and BA and Cllr Rust to investigate.

### **Reports**

There was a short discussion on the Secretary's report.

The Chair stated that the meeting arranged by Cllr Rust, with the Partnership manager Mike Avery and the Chair of the Funding Panel had taken place and that as a result of that he considered that with the further information being available on applications being available both prior to FP meetings and an updated Partnership website, there was no need to continue his research. It had become apparent that Participatory Budgeting (PB) was likely to be too complicated to operate within the Pentlands but that Colinton might consider this in future should it be appropriate for some projects. The Chair thanked Cllr Rust for arranging the meeting. He also said that the meeting had clarified that there was no problem for the Community Council in discussing applications to the Funding Panel and providing feedback to the FP representative. BA suggested there was a need to review how things work on a regular basis and a written remit was needed for the new community representative to attract most money or best value for the community. The Chair suggested there was no need for further action on this including PB.

### **AOCB**

TM commented that there were two planning items to mention. Kilpatrick Properties are to set up a contract within a week to start work on the Co-op. It was estimated that it would take five months to complete the building work and one month to set up the Co-op. TM suggested a meeting with Kilpatrick to get sight of the final agreed finishes to the building.

TM also stated that the Council was minded to refuse the Green Cemetery at Torduff Road.

The Secretary said he had received a Report from Cllr Lewis and gave a brief resume of it. The Secretary also mentioned a Licensing Consultation on Late Hours Catering he had received. This might only affect the Dreghorn Link Service Station. It was agreed it didn't apply to Colinton. BA commented on Richmond Homes going into receivership and concerns over what might happen to the Section 75 agreement. TM suggested there would have been a bond posted at the start of the development to cover that. A member of the public asked about the safety of the uncompleted buildings. It was suggested that this was not of any concern as the site was secured.

### **Public Comments.**

There was a question on the future of the former convenience store. The new owners of the former Bank building, Esk Properties, were expecting the building to provide a long-term investment opportunity. Concerns over the future of the ATM were raised and it was explained that it was part of the sale agreement to retain it. Progress by Colinton Village Ventures was asked about. LO stated that options were limited due to new business coming to the village.

**Next meeting: AGM - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7:30pm, at Colinton Bowling Club.**

## **Chair's Annual Report 2016-17**

This has been a challenging second year, partly because we lost four of our original team of community councillors by the Triennial Elections in October 2016 and we end the year on minimum complement. I wish to record our thanks to those that have served their community and would encourage others to join us and keep up the good work.

The big issue of the first year – the proposed Co-op development at 8 Bridge Road - has suffered significant delays such that the expected date of opening has been put back to Autumn 2017. Nevertheless, your Community Council has remained in contact with the developer and the Co-op and is ready to work with them on behalf of local residents to achieve the best possible outcome.

In the meantime, with the other general store in Colinton Village closing and the former bank building still unoccupied, a new local organisation called Colinton Village Ventures (CVV) has been formed with the goal of breathing some life back into the Village. The Community Council supports this initiative and was pleased to see CVV obtain a community grant to help start up their activities. We also liaised with other more established local organisations such as Colinton Amenity Association (CAA) and Colinton Community Conservation Trust (CCCT).

We appreciate the co-operation of the local Police who report on the latest crime issues and are faithful attendees at every meeting.

Two of our former councillors are pursuing the idea of decorating the walls of the historic railway tunnel on the north bank of the river. This project started in the Community Council and is expected to come to fruition early next year.

A long-term concern is the future of Redford Barracks which the Army may sell-off in 2022. This was highlighted as a likely option in part of a national strategic review. The City Council has set up a working party with a watching brief at this stage and Colinton Community Council will be an active participant in this.

A key objective for ourselves was to engage better with our local population. Perhaps our gazebo at Art in the Park 2016 was the most tangible activity but adverts in Colinton Library and local magazines and our Secretary's work on the website, Facebook and Twitter have certainly raised our profile. I personally investigated participatory budgeting (where local people vote for their favourite local project and the top projects receive funding). This is used by three other Neighbourhood Partnerships for the distribution of the Community Grants Fund (CGF). However, it was decided that this would not easily work in Pentlands Neighbourhood and so Colinton will make no suggestions for fundamental change to the existing CGF Funding Panel mechanism here.

Another idea we had was to invite interesting local people and organisations to give presentations at the start of our monthly meetings, e.g.:

- Rubbish Collection (City of Edinburgh)
- Decorative Railings (CCCT)
- Health & Social Care Integration
- Local Third Sector Organisations (Tiphereth)

These did improve attendance on the night but not to the degree hoped for.

And what of the future? There will be the opportunity to have new office bearers at this meeting and new councillors are able to be co-opted at any time. There are four things that I hope the new Community Council will agree on as objectives for 2017-18:

1. Recruit new councillors to assist with the remit and organise activities and responsibilities better in order to use their talents to the full
2. Continue to improve our engagement with the Colinton population in as many ways as possible
3. Influence and support the new Co-op development on behalf of local people and customers
4. Refine and implement a new Strategy for Colinton Community Council and Colinton by recognising and sustaining the assets of the locality while bringing in and supporting new initiatives that will benefit the Community. Co-ordination of and active participation in the activities of other local organisations is a role that should be grasped naturally by the Community Council while developing an improved relationship with the City of Edinburgh Council post their extensive internal reorganisation. The Secretary and Vice-Chair should be congratulated on their excellent initial paper on this Strategy.

I wish to thank everyone associated with Colinton Community Council, fellow office bearers and members for keeping this relatively new forum active and helping to develop its role for the benefit of Colinton residents. From here, I feel confident we will continue to improve our impact.

Dr David Houston – Chair  
Email: [chair@colintoncc.org.uk](mailto:chair@colintoncc.org.uk)  
Tel: 0131 441 1344

## **VICE-CHAIR, PLANNING AND (acting) TREASURER'S REPORT - 2016/2017**

### **1. Vice Chair's Report**

Apart from straightforward occasional duties deputising for the Chair, only one issue arose requiring particular attention: the VC was obliged to investigate allegations about actions taken by the Chair and related complaints about certain Councillors' behaviour.

The Chair's actions were not found to be contrary to our Constitution or other rules, and it was agreed at a Business Meeting that no further action was necessary. Investigation of the case against individual councillors became unnecessary when the formal complaints were withdrawn.

The VC concluded that a review is necessary to clarify certain procedural matters.

### **2. Planning Report**

New planning applications in our area continue to be monitored.

Colinton Community Council is obliged to reflect the views of the local community. As a result, individual planning applications can only be formally supported or opposed when there is a clear issue relevant to Colinton at large.

"Householder" applications rarely affect people beyond the immediate neighbours, and so usually lie outside the Community Council's sphere of influence, unless some wider issue is at stake. Nevertheless, the Community Council has, and will continue to advise individual residents about planning procedures and their rights.

During the last year, three planning issues of significance are worthy of comment:-

i) 8-10 Bridge Road (Co-op) proposals

Following their successful planning appeal the developers have been pursuing a Building Warrant to allow them to commence construction. They have faced delays arising from invasive weeds on site, and in finalising their permissions because of problems within the Council, but are now almost ready to build with an expectation that trading will commence in the Autumn.

Colinton Community Council has maintained a relationship with the developers throughout and has already been able to influence their proposals, with the promise that other issues remain open to discussion.

ii) Proposed burial ground at Torduff Road

Concerns about this proposal expressed by Colinton Community Council (and others) revolved around traffic and environmental issues. These have not been adequately answered and the council has refused the application. There is a possibility that the applicants may appeal, but it is unlikely they would succeed without answers to those concerns. They do have a right to reapply for planning consent (free of charge) within one year of the refusal so the issue may arise again. The Council is currently working on a city-wide policy on burial grounds which may also affect this issue.

iii) Possible closure of Redford Barracks

Colinton Community Council has taken an active interest in this matter as it could influence the village in a very substantial way. Redevelopment of the barracks would almost inevitably bring in a large number of new residents and perhaps a completely new commercial centre.

However the whole issue remains uncertain and the Community Council is monitoring developments.

### **3. Acting Treasurer's Report**

Documents for the financial year to 4th April 2017 were prepared by our recently resigned Treasurer and are ready for audit.

Colinton Community Council's income came solely from Council funding, and outgoings were almost wholly expended on website maintenance, information leaflets, signage and related PR activity.

Our financial year-end bank balance was just under £250. Our current balance is now £186.38 after payment of insurance premiums.

Tom McDonald  
Vice Chair 30th April 2017

### **Secretary's Report**

Since the last AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Colinton Community Council has held 11 meetings in public and 2 separate business meetings at which decisions on procedure and organisation and other matters relevant to the operation of the Community Council were discussed.

The Triennial Community Council Elections were held in September 2016 and three former members did not seek re-election, however two new members were elected. The attendance is shown in the table below. Regrettably, several members stood down due to personal differences with issues being investigated by the Chair and also some procedural issues. Sadly it has not been possible to reconcile these issues.

At the April 2017 meeting, Anne McDonald was co-opted in absentia which allowed the Community Council to continue, otherwise it would have failed due to lack of the required numbers.

Dr David Houston (Chair)	11/11	Alastair Watt (resigned)	6/7
Tom McDonald (Vice Chair)	10/11	Nigel Rudd(resigned)	6/11
David Bewsey (Secretary)	11/11	Catherine Lang (resigned)	6/11
Bill Alexander	11/11	Gordon Neill (resigned)	7/11
Ken Eyeington	6/8	Colin Proctor (stood down)	3/3
Anne McDonald	N/A	Alastair Murray (stood down)	3/3
Lorraine O'Shea (CVE nominated)	11/11	Mike Scott (stood down)	3/3
		Sarah Stone (moved away)	N/A

Since the Community Council elections I have been dealing with Communications and latterly taking on the Environment role. An initial examination of a strategy for Colinton is being taken forward hopefully with co-operation from other Colinton organisations. While in its initial stages we will be looking at the overall situation in regards to traffic, transport, environment and community health which might hopefully lead to well considered projects which would realise grant funding to take ideas forward. The quarterly Environment Walkabouts have recently been re-examined in light of reduced Council funding and this has meant appraising areas of Colinton which require upgrading rather than just fixing. Service issues such as pavement, road and street lighting repairs as well as litter and cleanliness issues can all be reported through the Report-It system or Clarence as it is also known.

One area that is felt worthy of improvement is Campbell Park. While it serves as more of sports facility it does nevertheless provide outdoor relaxation although in winter when the ground is particularly wet, parents with small children find traversing the park difficult. It is also an opportunity for other improvements such as increasing the biodiversity of the park which is also being considered in an upgrade plan. A report on this is currently in preparation.

Since October I have managed all communications matters using Facebook and Twitter to pass on useful information. This is also mirrored on the website which is the main source of information about events and matters affecting Colinton, and for those who aren't familiar with the new Diary facility, this allows many more events to be publicised. We welcome input from all Colinton groups to get their events publicised.

With fewer members I will be more involved in Community Safety matters as well as Health and Wellbeing. We have regular updates from the local community constables and their reports are now available in the Community Safety section of the website. The main focus of the Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership Health and Wellbeing since last year has been that of Dementia. Our website has featured regular updates of this campaign.

We are grateful to Colinton Bowling Club for the use of their facilities. Meetings are always followed by an opportunity to enjoy a refreshment and casual conversation with Community Councillors on subjects which some may not wish to discuss in open forum. As Community Councillors it is our duty to listen to the views of the community and we are always open to concerns or suggestions.

In November 2016 I was re-elected to the post of Secretary to the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC). This is the body which represents all Edinburgh Community Councils to the City of Edinburgh Council on common issues. Involvement in EACC means Colinton is able, with other member community councils, to have a voice on the Edinburgh Partnership.

We welcome all Colinton residents to our meetings and want to hear concerns or suggestions on any matter to do with Colinton.

David Bewsey  
Secretary

### **Roads and Pathways Issues Report 2016-17**

One of the major items of the year was the phased introduction of the 20mph speed limit throughout the City. The Community Council was proactive in persuading the City Council to apply the lower limit to Bridge Road which had surprisingly been left out of the draft scheme. Implementation of the 20mph limit in this locality will take place later in 2017-18.

With the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEPs) in 2106-17, we consulted with other local organisations, shortlisted several projects and decided on two to submit which correlated with most demand from the public:

- (i) A new path round Campbell Park to give access to the playpark there and
- (ii) Pavement repairs at the west end of Woodhall Road.

These have not yet been taken forward by the City Council but other NEPs submitted by the CAA and Woodfield Park Residents Association on the shortlist were implemented.

The Roads Team participated in Walkabouts with the City Council which have resulted in repairs to Spylaw Street, other minor repair work and a reassessment of parking close to bus stops. We have also responded to several concerns raised by the public and ensured these were passed on to the relevant contact.

It was identified after a CCC - CEC 'Walk About', there was a need to resurface the pavement, and provide new compliant bollards at the bus stop on Bridge Road opposite ex RBS building. This resulted in a NEPs project which was subsequently adopted and has now been completed.

We carried out a drive round report of all the minor through roads in Colinton in September. The main purpose being to identify any road repairs ahead of winter. Only one major issue was identified in Colinton Road which was subsequently sorted. We intend to carry out a similar exercise in September 2017 to ensure the best possible through access over this winter.

Late last year a feasibility exercise was initiated to identify if festive lights could be installed in the village similar to those in other suburbs in and around Edinburgh. A quantity of lighting arrays were acquired from CEC asset warehouse, sufficient to provide a small installation in the village centre. A mock-up was displayed at 'The Shed' in Spylaw Park over the winter festive season to explore the practicalities, whilst adding a bit of festive cheer. We are currently in discussions with CEC on planning, logistics and costings for CCC consideration.

Bill Alexander  
Roads Co-ordinator