



# Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

## Minutes of meeting held on 18th July 2023 at 7.00pm At Northfield and Willowbrae Community Centre

Present: Chair - Gordon MacDonald  
Secretary - Nick Marshall  
Treasurer- John Nesbit  
Vice Chair - Dave Armstrong  
Margaret Bennett

Also present: CPO John Anderson, four members of the public

Apologies: Charlie Wood, Frances Devlin

1. The meeting was declared Quorate, and the Chair welcomed those present.
2. Previous minutes and matters arising  
The minutes of the previous meeting (16 May 2023) were formally approved (prop: MB, 2nd NM)

### Matters Arising

#### Jock's Lodge student housing planning application

NM had made a second submission about this, critical but not an objection. After consideration by CEC Planning Committee, the application had been refused.

#### No 113 bus

DA had written to Scott Arthur (CEC Transport) re and asked him to pass it on to the relevant person at Lothian Buses (LB). The response from LB was unsupportive. It was agreed that DA should write again directly to LB, to make a more limited proposal that 113 buses should stop at intermediate bus stops between Paisley Drive and Meadowbank only between 10am and 4pm to avoid overcrowding buses during rush hours. **AP DA**

Other matters arising were discussed under the appropriate agenda item.

### 3. Finance

The Treasurer reported that there was currently a balance of £3,539, having received a grant of £2299 for the environment fair and spent £2442.60 since the last meeting. Expenditure included flyer maildrop (£2040), hall hire (£102.77) and materials/catering (£132.33) for the June coffee morning.

It was noted that the flyer maildrop had been unsatisfactory and, after investigations by CC members, a claim had been submitted and the contractors had agreed to refund £767.15 JN suggested that, if we have a regular advertisement in EHDirect, we should pay by direct debit. It was agreed that the Treasurer should produce a balance sheet, listing income, expenditure and starting and ending balances, one week prior to each meeting, and submit it to the Secretary for printing. **AP JN NM**

It was agreed that JN should arrange for 2 more signatories on the bank account, and that these should be the chair and vice-chair.

**AP JN GM DA**

#### 4. Membership matters

It was agreed that Liam Bugler was duly disqualified from membership because he had not attended a meeting for more than 3 years and had not responded to repeated attempts at contact by email. It was also noted that Ian Murray had stepped down for medical reasons. Ian was probably the longest serving member of the community council and his stalwart service over the years was appreciated.

CC members had met with 3 volunteers who had expressed an interest in joining the CC. All had been found to be very suitable candidates. Unfortunately, due to the falling number of the elected members since the last election, the rules disallow us from co-opting any more members at this time. In view of the City Council's desire to keep Community councils operational and their previous advice to us to address our falling numbers, a request has been lodged with the council's Governance Section to allow us to co-opt all three. Unanimous approval was given in principle, pending the council's decision.

#### 5. Police Report

CPO John Anderson presented his report. Police had responded to incidents of anti-social behaviour in Meadowfield, Northfield and Duddingston Village. There were ongoing road traffic problems around schools and initiatives jointly with schools were planned. Plain-clothed officers were patrolling key areas in evenings and weekends.

GM mentioned that 3 cars in Scone Gardens had tyres slashed a few weeks ago.

CPO Anna Morison's work with the council on addressing problems in Baronscourt Park was discussed, specifically the provision of lighting, the wooden fence with Morrisons car park being set on fire (seemingly better now after the car wash had been set up) and youths breaking into Royal High grounds.

The ongoing pedestrian safety issue at Morrisons car park entrance was discussed, and it was understood that Councillors were working with council officials to develop a solution.

**AP NM to write to Joan Griffiths for an update on progress**

#### 6. Planning

##### 20-minute Neighbourhoods Consultation

As this consultation closes on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, it was agreed that the community council did not have the time to submit a response on this occasion. However, members of the public who had enquired about 20 Minute Neighbourhoods would be encouraged to look at the consultation notes and guidelines which explained the thinking behind the proposals.

**AP NM**

##### Effective community engagement in local development planning guidance: consultation

As this consultation closes on the 13<sup>th</sup> September prior to our next council meeting, it was agreed to organise a Zoom meeting in W/beg 4<sup>th</sup> September to discuss a community council response.

**AP All.**

#### 7. Engagement

##### Coffee Mornings

The first "Village Coffee Morning" in June had been successful although turn-out was low. A good number of comments and suggestions about the area had been contributed by members of the public. The next Coffee Morning will be on 12th August from 10am -12 noon and the final one for this year on 14th October.

**AP MB to organise publicity. Volunteers to help on the day, please contact MB**

#### Environment Fair

Planned for Sat 23rd September, 10am - 3pm. All interested in helping could contact NM.

#### 9. AOCB

##### Youth engagement

It was suggested that we contact Brenda Devlin to discuss what could be done to improve youth services to reduce anti-social behaviour. **AP to write to Brenda to arrange meeting.**

##### Street Clean-ups

Willowbrae Transitions Group had organised a "weed your street" day in that part of the area.

##### Defibrillator

A member of Craigentenny Allotments had emailed to ask for help or information about getting a defibrillator installed at the allotments. It was agreed that we should (a) locate where they are currently installed (b) find out who funds their installation and how to apply. **AP All**

#### 10. Date of next meeting

AGM on Sept 19th 2023 at 7pm in Northfield and Willowbrae Community Centre. To include presentation by Council Engagement Team