



# Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting

Date and Time of Meeting: 24th January 2023 at 7pm  
at Northfield Community Centre

### Present

Community Council Members: Gordon MacDonald (Chair), Dave Armstrong (Vice-Chair), John Nisbet (Treasurer), Nick Marshall (Secy and minutes), Charlie Wood  
Councillors: Danny Aston; Others: 8 members of the public; CPO Anna Morrison  
Notes follow the order in the Agenda rather than the order in which they were discussed.

### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Apologies: Ian Murray, Frances Devlin

It was noted that Councillors had not been formally invited due to an oversight. They would be asked to sign up to Mailchimp so that they would receive such notices in future (**AP Gordon**).

It was agreed that future meetings should start with a round of introductions, in particular so that members of the public knew who the Community Council members were (**AP Gordon, Dave**).

There should be signs to indicate where the meeting was being held (**AP Nick**). And there should be a list of CC members (**AP Nick**).

### 2. Consideration of minutes of last meeting (AGM; 8 Nov 2022)

The minutes of the last meeting (AGM 8th Nov 2022) were considered but do not need to be approved until the next AGM. No matters arising were discussed.

### 3. Financial Matters

John reported that the bank balance stood at £3975.18 at the end of last financial year (31/12/2022). There was only one outstanding bill - £24 for hire of meeting room.

### 4. Police Report

CPO Anna Morrison warned about bogus workmen and financial fraud. She mentioned the Community Alcohol Partnership, which has resources and advice, especially for teenagers and their parents.

The problems at Baronscourt Park had reduced possibly due to removal of benches (although this was not on advice from the Police). It was felt by many that the key issue is lack of lighting, which CPO Morrison has sought to have installed. She reported that the security lighting around the school will soon be repaired and that this could reduce vandalism. She also suggested the installation of fencing chicanes on paths to reduce motorbikes going through the park.

Serious ASB problems continue at Cavalry Park Playing Fields, a recent development being people with cars parking by the changing rooms and taking nitrous oxide from large canister which are then discarded in the car park. Anna would discuss with colleagues what could be done to address this.

There were continuing problems with parents in cars ignoring the traffic/parking controls around Duddingston Primary and St Johns Primary (part of the School Streets safety initiative) and police

would continue to enforce the rules whenever they could. It was noted that police cannot now enforce no parking on double yellow or zigzag lines (but traffic wardens can).

## **5. Planning - Jock's Lodge Student Accommodation Proposal**

The planning application is out for consultation with a deadline of 10th Feb. It was felt that the CC should make a submission and that it should (a) consider whether the proposal fitted with planning policies in the Local Plan and (b) transmit the range of views of the community. The CC could point those interested towards useful information: the proposal's entry on the CEC planning portal; the Action Group's web/FB sites and could circulate information from other groups (**AP Dave**). We could invite residents to send their views to us as well as to the Council, to inform our response (**AP All**).

## **6. Communications**

It was reiterated that we should get NWCC notices on many more public noticeboards - schools, churches, inside Morrisons, in addition to the ones we already have (outside Morrisons, inside Piershill Library, by Trevelen Park). Dave has had positive contact with schools and we have email addresses for those who deal with school noticeboards. We need to ask if we can email notices for them to print out and put up (**AP Dave, Nick**). **AP John** to get keys for Morrisons/Library boards from Ian and get a duplicate set made and kept by another neighbouring CC member. **AP Charlie & Nick** to contact Geoff Pearson to get keys for Trevelen Park noticeboard. Gordon has got mailchimp working again, with about 150 addresses. He also maintains the website. Dave maintains the Facebook site.

A request had been received from the Willowbrae Mothers CAN group for support towards a noticeboard at the Holyrood Park entrance at the top of Lilyhill Terrace. Nick had visited the site with two of their members and discussed a suitable site (on the strong fence to the rear of the pavement adjoining the Lilyhill Flats garden) and possible designs. It was agreed that this is something that the CC should support and that a noticeboard similar to the one outside Morrisons (in size and durability) would be suitable. Next stage would be to get quotes for purchase and installation of a noticeboard, and to contact the council and the owners of the Lilyhill flats for permission to use their fence (**AP Nick**). We would need to be clear on who would own the noticeboard and control its use (esp re potentially controversial notices) and who would pay to maintain it, before making a final decision on funding. Gordon lives close by and should be one of the keyholders.

## **7. Engagement**

It was agreed that there should be another community fair this year. The theme should again be Environmental, it should take place in September (avoiding the holiday weekend) and be based at the Community Centre if possible (**AP Nick**).

## **8. Any other competent business & Public Forum**

(a) New members of the Community Council

The meeting co-opted Margaret Bennet as a member (Prop Dave; 2nd Charlie). It was agreed to make more efforts to contact Liam Bugler to see if he wishes to remain a member (**AP ?**).

(b) Playing Fields

A request had been received for support in encouraging the installation of AstroTurf on one or more of the pitches at Royal High Playing Fields. It was felt that this was outside the scope of NWCC and suggested that it would be best dealt with through Councillor(s).

(c) Cosy Cuppa

The donation agreed at the AGM had been received with thanks. The group intends to show a film about oil towards the end of this month.

**9. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be a regular Community Council meeting and will take place on Tuesday March 14th at 7pm at Northfield Community Centre (**AP Nick**).