



# Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

## Annual General Meeting

**Date and Time of Meeting: 19th September 2023 at 7.10pm  
at Northfield Community Centre**

### Present

Community Council Members: Gordon MacDonald (Chair), John Nisbet (Treasurer), Nick Marshall (Secy), Charlie Wood, Margaret Bennet, James Keating

Councillors: Iain Whyte, Alex Staniforth and several members of the public

Apologies: Dave Armstrong (Vice-Chair), Frances Devlin, Chris Alcorn, Cllr Joan Griffiths

1. The AGM was preceded by an EGM (at 7.00pm) to carry out elections of new community council members. James Keating and Chris Alcorn had duly been elected, which brings the membership to 9, with Gordon Macdonald, Dave Armstrong, Frances Devlin, Charlie Wood and Nick Marshall elected in 2019 and John Nisbet and Margaret Bennett being coopted (2020 and 2023 respectively).

2. Welcome and Apologies

3. Presentation by Andrew Fields (CEC Head of Community Engagement)

This item was deferred because Andrew Fields had another urgent engagement.

4. Minutes of previous meetings

(a) Minutes of last AGM (8 Nov 2022) & matters arising

The minutes were approved (Prop: MB Second: CW). There were no matters arising.

(b) Minutes of last meeting (18th July 2023) & matters arising

The minutes were approved (Prop: MB Second: GM). Matters arising:

- Entrance to Morrisons: Joan Griffiths had emailed to ask for dates for a site meeting with a CEC staff member (Gavin Brown)

- 20 Min Neighbourhoods: it was agreed to publicise the link to the council's information on 20 Min Neighbourhoods on our website and Facebook page. **AP NM, GM, DA**

- councillors mentioned that several separate transport programmes were happening at the same time, including Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, City Centre Low Emission Zone and 20 Min Neighbourhoods. These were easily confused and it was felt that the community council could help provide clearer information to residents

- Community Engagement Consultation - Chris Alcorn had reviewed this long document and suggested that the only section relevant for community councils covered keeping them informed. A meeting about this agreed that we should only respond to that section and this was done.

- Coffee mornings: the second had happened in July with increased attendance by local residents. MB had compiled a list of comments raised. The 3rd coffee morning would happen in October, and might be preceded by leafletting in Piershill and Lady Nairne **AP MB and others**. It was agreed that the programme of coffee mornings would continue in 2024 and that dates would be agreed at the next CC meeting.

- Youth Engagement: Brenda Devlin had not yet responded to emails, and other means were being sought to contact her. Contact would also be made with other Youth Workers. **AP MB**
- Defibrillator: CC members had researched locations and funding. It was found that emergency services have maps of locations of all defibrillators, and that it was unlikely that an allotment site would be suitable for one. This had been discussed with Mr Mackinlay of Craigentiny Allotments, who was grateful for the information.

5. Financial report for the period since the last meeting  
There had been 6 transactions in August and none so far in September. The current bank balance was £4668.87

6. Approval of Annual Report and Accounts  
The report and accounts was approved (Prop: CW; Second: John)

7. Community Council Membership Matters  
Membership now stood at 9 (2 coopted). It would be possible to coopt one more member.

#### Election of Office-bearers

John Nisbet wished to stand down as Treasurer

Nick Marshall was re-elected as Secretary (Prop: GM; Second: JN)

Gordon Macdonald was re-elected as Chair (Prop: NM; Second: CW)

Dave Armstrong was re-elected as Vice-Chair (Prop: GM; Second: NM)

Chris Alcorn (who had indicated his willingness to serve) was elected as Treasurer (Prop: MB; Second: GM)

Margaret Bennett was elected as Engagement Officer (Prop: NM; Second: CW)

It was agreed that the bank account mandate should be updated as follows:

Remove John Nisbet as signatory. This would leave Frances Devlin as the only current signatory.

Add Gordon Macdonald, Dave Armstrong, James Keating, Nick Marshall and the new Treasurer (Chris Alcorn - see below) as signatories. Change the name and address for communications to that of the new Treasurer. **AP JN and others**

8. Engagement

Community Coffee Mornings: It was agreed to continue the series throughout next year, dates to be decided at the November CC meeting. This year, MB had sent flyers to the CC area and put up 17 signs in shops, surgeries, schools and the library plus 7 council noticeboards. There had also been regular updates on the website and facebook and meetings advertised in Duddingston Direct. It was suggested that we could try and encourage senior years school pupils to join the community council (**AP MB**) and that we could also recruit young people through the Scouts or Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

9. Any other competent business & Public Forum

- Police Report: CPO Sam Morison had sent a report from which the chair read the key sections including ASB incidents in Piershill Squares and traffic offenses in the vicinity of schools, both of which resulted in police responses.

- An ASB incident was mentioned in which an irate motorist had chased a parent outside Parsons Green school. It was suggested that the sign indicating part-time closure of the top of Paisley Drive needed to be more visible.

- A number of Lady Nairne residents had reported concerns about untaxed vehicles being left parked for long periods and that despite having reported them, no action appeared to have been taken.
- The rear garden walls between Meadowfield Av and Lady Nairne Cres were dangerously close to collapse in places due to poor maintenance and damage by council contractors. The council had been contacted but had failed to repair them. **AP MB** to forward correspondence to councillors who promised to try to get action.
- The poor quality of pavement surfaces in Paisley Drive and Northfield Drive was mentioned.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be a regular Community Council meeting and will take place on 14th Nov at 7pm at Northfield Community Centre.