



Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

Minutes of Meeting 16th January 2024 at 7.00pm at Northfield Community Centre

Present

Community Council Members: Gordon MacDonald (GM)(Chair), Nick Marshall (NM)(Secy), Dave Armstrong (DA)(Vice-Chair), Chris Alcorn (CA)(Treasurer), Margaret Bennett (MB)(Engagement Officer), John Nisbet (JN), James Keating (JK)

Councillors: Danny Aston

Three members of the public

Apologies: Charlie Wood, Ellie Burroughs, Cllr Joan Griffiths

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Minutes of previous meeting (14th Nov 2023)

The minutes were approved (proposer DA; seconder GM)

Matters arising (numbering as in last meeting's minutes):

- 1(a) Links to CEC 20 Minute Neighbourhoods information –have been added to our website and Facebook page
- 1(c) A meeting of the Northfield Community Centre (NCC) management committee was held on Thursday 11th January to which all user groups were invited. Permission was sought to invite the Community Council to send a representative in future and they will be notified in advance of all meetings.
- 1(d) Bank of Scotland had been poor at communication to JN & CA on what was required to transfer Treasurer role. JN had gone to Branch and got additional Form. All new NWCC signatories to sign Form tonight and **AP- CA** to submit to BoS.
- 1(e) Despite several efforts, neither High School had responded to the invitation to participate in Democracy Matter 2 (DM2) consultations. Parsons Green Primary have invited MB to lead a discussion with pupil council on their ideas about the local area.
- 1(f) Despite follow-up letters from Councillors, CEC official had not yet responded on Lady Nairne wall repair. **AP- Cllr Aston** to raise again with CEC Housing officer.
- 1(g) No further action as yet on Morrison's access as the new CEC funding round will not begin until Spring 2024.
- 1(h) Information sheet on LTNs, LEZ, etc drafted and put on website and FB.
- 2. CA had spoken with RHPS staff. Lighting has been improved, but currently unclear if funding for railings or CCTV available. **AP-CA** to follow-up with School Business Manager and cc Cllr Aston.
- 2. CW reported (by email) that signs around St Johns Primary had not yet been repaired. **AP-CW** to chase-up CEC Roads staff.
- 3. Donation of £300 to NCC for Environment Fair 2023 day hire of Community Centre would be made very soon **AP- JN**.
- 4. Recent CC members had been added to NWCC e-mail forwarding list.

- 4. Communications sub-group meeting had taken place in January. Further discussion needed with all NWCC members (see item 4 below).
- 5. Links to Democracy Matters 2 consultation put on website and FB
- 6. Holyrood Park consultation response submitted and put on website. **AP-CA** to follow up with HP staff in due course.
- 6. Objection to fence at Iceland submitted
- 6. Objections to 2 Short Term Lets (STL) applications submitted. Earlier STL recently refused by CEC.
- 6. Living rent guidance - no update.
- 7. 69 bus survey - no update.

3. Financial matters

(a) Treasurer role - **AP - JN, CA** to continue to push Bank of Scotland to process application for changes to signatories.

(b) Financial update - Since the last meeting in November 2023 when balance was £3,698.98, income had been £150 from Scot Govt for DM2 consultation. Expenditure had been £366.92. The current bank balance was £3,482.07. CEC grant to NWCC due in April. Additional £205 due from SG for second DM2 event.

(c) Meadowfield Park grant - It was agreed to reimburse Diana Dodds (DD) the sum of £65.80 to cover expenses related to the Meadowfield Park Group residents' survey on the understanding that this was one-off support. **AP-CA, JN**. DD had forwarded survey results to NM. **AP-NM, GM, DA** to put on website and FB.

A site meeting had occurred with CEC Parks and Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust on 15/1 (CA had attended) and possible improvements discussed. New Friends of Meadowfield Park Group still at early stages and not in position to make a grant application.

(d) *Baronscourt Park - Cllr Griffiths had suggested NWCC apply for CEC Community Grant Fund (CGF) to meet residents request for bench(es) in Park at c£500. **AP-CA** to complete CGF application and contact CEC Greenspace Officer. Cllr Alston mentioned that Baronscourt path lighting had been recommended in assessment of parks but had just failed to meet budget cut-off. **AP-Cllr Aston** to chase-up CEC about lighting improvements and supply contact for South Elixia Place Factor. **AP-DA & CA** to contact Morrison's Manager about their possible contribution to lighting on path.*

(e) CEC Place Based Investment Fund Grants - this is a fund for larger projects aimed at improving the local environment, for projects in 2025/26. CA asked if any NWCC projects as he proposed greening NWCC area via a major street tree re-planting project. DA mentioned recent tree planting at Ulster Drive & Avenue. **AP-CA** to work up a project proposal for the next meeting.

4. Management Matters

Secretary's role - it was agreed to defer this to a longer informal meeting on 13th February at the Community Centre.

Communications Group - it was agreed to defer this to the meeting on 13th February.

5. Engagement

(a) Local Place Plan - the LPP sub-group had discussed this and proposed that the Community Council should carry out a programme of participatory events over the spring and summer, using already agreed dates for coffee mornings, in order to submit a LPP to CEC in November. This was approved and it was also agreed to devote up to £500 towards the costs of copying, hire of halls, etc, if other funding was unavailable.

(b) Community Coffee Mornings in 2024 - several of these would be devoted to DM2 and LPP events.

(c) DM2 consultation - The first DM2 session in Piershill took place on 9th December 2023 in the Library and was useful despite a small number of attendees. As a result MB has explored their suggestion of the reinstatement of the Community Flat in Piershill Square West, and discovered that CEC are considering selling flat. MB has written to the council's Neighbourhood Manager to request a meeting and a 6 month delay to allow for further consultation. The second session, mainly for Lady Nairne residents, will be held in the Duddingston Church Hall on Saturday 27th January from 10.30 – 1.30pm. Scottish Government funding had paid for the costs of these events and the efforts of MB, assisted by EB, JK and CA were applauded. It was also agreed to hold an informal meeting for CC members to express views regarding the DM2 consultation, and this would take place on 5th Feb at the Community Centre.

(d) Environment Fair - While these have been successful, and should continue under the banner of Environment Fair, it was felt that some reorientation was needed, in particular to attract a wider range of residents, to focus on local actions and groups and local businesses (re 20 Min Neighbourhoods), it should seek to promote the practical actions that the government, CEC and larger voluntary groups were taking, and that it should be used to promote and gather views on the Local Place Plan.

6. Planning

An objection had been lodged with CEC regarding the proposed student accommodation at *Willowbrae Road*. *Cllr Aston had called application to CEC Planning sub-committee and asked NWCC representative to speak at committee (AP- CA) There were no updates on submissions reported in Matters Arising above. AP CA agreed to draft NWCC policy on STLs to complete the earlier draft STL Briefing Note and also re-circulate the draft Protocol about replying to planning applications.*

7. Any other competent business & Public Forum

None

8. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 12 March 2024.