



# Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting

Date and Time of Meeting: 14th March 2023 at 7pm  
at Northfield Community Centre

### Present

Community Council Members: Gordon MacDonald (Chair), Dave Armstrong (Vice-Chair), Nick Marshall (Secy and minutes), Margaret Bennett

Councillors: Joan Griffiths, Danny Aston

Others: 4 members of the public

Apologies: Ian Murray, John Nisbet (Treasurer), Charlie Wood, Cllr Alex Staniforth, CPO Anna Morrison

### 1. Welcome, Introductions

The Chair welcomed all those present and Community Councillors introduced themselves.

### 2. Consideration of minutes of last meeting (24th January 2023)

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously (Proposed by Nick Marshall; Seconded by Margaret Bennett). Matters arising to be discussed under agenda items.

### 3. Financial Matters

The Treasurer's emailed report indicated a current bank balance of £3942.18, with no outstanding bills or payments. It was noted that community councils should not normally retain balances that exceeded twice their annual grant and that this surplus had arisen due to the pandemic. Future projects were being planned in light of the need to reduce the balance and make appropriate use of these funds.

### 4. Police Report

CPO Anna Morrison had emailed an update which mentioned:

- Ongoing ASB issues with youths in the area of Lady Nairne, Northfield Road and Northfield Farm Road
- Various Traffic Offences in the vicinity of St. John's and Duddingston Primary Schools.
- Traffic Initiatives to address the issues surrounding both Primary schools on Duddingston Road.
- Community officers carrying out plain clothes patrols during late shifts in the area to address ASB issues.
- Emergency Services Day, held on 25th March at Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Leith.

### Action Point

It was agreed that the community council should write to the council requesting the repair/renewal of the damaged School Street sign at Hamilton Terrace **AP Nick**

### 5. Planning

#### (a) Jock's Lodge Student Accommodation Proposal

The Community Council had made a submission on this planning consultation, which, while not

being a formal objection, stated that it considered the proposal inadequate for this site. Due to the large number of objections, it was likely that the application would be referred to the Planning Committee and a site meeting would be held.

Margaret reported from a recent conference on Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) organised by the Cockburn Association. Main points; -

- objections to PBSA developments are common across the city
- there are concerns about areas becoming dominated by student-only accommodation
- too much unaffordable luxury accommodation and lack of variety
- students spending up to 75% of income on rent
- shortage of low cost options leading to students dropping out of courses
- Edinburgh has an acute housing crisis in general

### **(b) Willowbrae Crossroads development**

The first application for student accommodation had been refused some years ago (NWCC had made a submission drawing attention to ways in which the proposal did not meet the requirements of the local plan; and strong local opposition). A revised application for residential accommodation has been made (in May 2022) and appears to have been approved. Councillor Griffiths agreed to find out the current status of the plan and inform the Community Council.

## **6. Communications**

NWCC laminated boards had been produced and permission would be sought, to display them in key locations in the CC area;-

- Schools  
Parson's Green, Duddingston , St Johns RC and Royal High Primaries,  
Holyrood and Portobello High Schools
- GP surgeries  
Baronscourt and Moira Park
- Shops  
Morrisons and Tesco
- Misc  
Arts Centre, Meadowbank Sports Centre, Duddingston Golf Club, Library, Community Centre

Geoff Pearson had agreed to put up notices at the Trevelen Park noticeboard. Our keys work on the noticeboards at Baronscourt and Meadowfield Parks and we have permission to use them. We have also applied for funding for a noticeboard at the Lillyhill Terrace entrance to Holyrood Park. In future we will post notices of all forthcoming meetings and events on these boards in the hope of reaching more people in the community. We already have a noticeboard outside Morrisons and in Piershill Library.

Duddingston Direct is willing to include NWCC information and so we should make sure to get it to them in good time.

### **Action Points**

Contact Duddingston Direct and provide them with timely information **AP Dave**

Laminated boards and the latest poster will be delivered to all the locations above.

**AP Margaret and Dave**

## **7. Engagement**

### **(a) Village Coffee Mornings**

The Community Council is proposing to hold a series of bi-monthly "Village Coffee Mornings" with the aim of inviting residents to discuss what they like and dislike about their area and suggest improvements. Each one would focus on one part of the NWCC area, beginning with Piershill. The following dates are proposed subject to the Community Centre being available;- Saturdays from 10am –12 noon on 15 April, 10 June, 12 Aug and 14 Oct.

#### **Action Points**

Agreement to be sought from Community Centre to open and provide janitorial support **AP. Nick** Refreshments, flip charts etc for Coffee mornings to be purchased and arrangements for first one to be co-ordinated. **AP. Margaret**

### **(b) Environment Fair**

Work had been progressing on the 2023 community environmental fair. Councillors asked to be given plenty of notice so that they could attend if possible (**AP Nick**). Funding was being sought so that more effort could be put into attracting more local residents, including a mailshot, Portobello Reporter and Duddingston Direct (**AP Nick**)

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

### **(a) Cavalry Park Playing Fields**

The problems at CPPF were raised by a member of the public. These included:

- vandalism of buildings and equipment belonging to Edinburgh Leisure as well as bins
- aggressive behaviour of drivers trying to park in limited parking spaces
- fly tipping in old tennis courts (recently set alight)

### **(b) Willow courses**

The Field Group (Duddingston) are running two courses in (i) basket-making and (ii) hurdle-making on April 29 and 30. Those interested should email: fieldgroupduddingston@gmail.com.

**Action Point** **AP Nick** to email poster to Cllr Griffiths

### **(c) Dangerous Crossing at Morrisons entrance**

A raised cushion had been installed but the island had been removed and it was still a very dangerous crossing for pedestrians. It was also felt that the road layout could be improved for the safety of pedestrians and that it might be appropriate to reduce the speed limit to 20mph, as it was a busy shopping street. Cllr Griffiths offered to contact council staff about this and arrange a site visit with community councillors.

### **(d) X113 bus**

Residents, especially the elderly, are unhappy with the limited number of stops for this bus, which is the only direct bus to and from the Western General Hospital. It was agreed that we should write to Scott Arthur asking him to impress our concerns about this on to Lothian Buses (**AP Nick**).

## **9. Date of future meetings**

The next meeting will be a regular Community Council meeting and will take place on Tuesday May 16th at 7pm at Northfield Community Centre (**AP Nick**). Other meeting dates were set as 18 July, 19 Sept (along with the AGM) and 14 Nov.