



Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council

Minutes – Annual General Meeting 13th May 2025 Northfield Community Centre 7pm

Item	Action By Whom & By When
<p>The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the format for the meeting.</p> <p>Present: Ruth Pearson (chair), Margaret Bennett, Chris Alcorn, Gordon Macdonald, George Callaghan, Dave Armstrong, Sunila Nimalasuriya, Rebeca Diaz-Vazquez, Lauren Kennelly (via phone), Councillor Alex Staniforth, Councillor Danny Aston, Councillor Joan Griffiths.</p> <p>Apologies: James Keating, WPC Anna Morrison.</p>	
<p>The previous AGM minutes from 14/05/24 were approved (nominated by MB seconded by GM). There were no matters arising.</p>	
<p>The chair presented the Annual Report (see attached) and asked for questions. GM asked about the crossing at Morrison's - no progress yet. A meeting has been arranged re local projects - GC agreed to take this forward</p>	
<p>The Engagement Officer (MB) gave her annual report (see attached Engagement Report) and asked for questions.</p>	
<p>The Treasurer (CA) presented his annual summary of accounts (see attached report) and asked for questions. A new auditor will be required for next year's accounts. CA was asked about the grant for Baronscourt Park bench - money left over was used to print leaflets. CA still checking costs for CC notice board at Lilyhill Terrace entrance to Holyrood Park.</p>	CA

<p>New office bearers were officially appointed to their roles. Officer bearers are Ruth Pearson (Chair) – proposed by MB seconded by GM, Lauren Kennelly (Secretary) – proposed by RP, seconded by CA, Chris Alcorn (Treasurer), proposed by MB, seconded by GM Margaret Bennet (Engagement Officer) – proposed by DA, seconded by RP. Members are Gordon Macdonald, George Callaghan, James Keating, Sunila Nimalasuriya, Rebeca Diaz-Vazquez.</p>	
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<p>The minutes of the meeting on 31.05.25 were approved (nominated by GM, seconded by MB).</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton Terrace - flashing sign installation - update from 24/02. Meeting with Mark Simmons, Safety Officer, with Head Teachers of Duddingston & St John's PSs and residents. Installation company went into receivership - new company will maybe do the work in week beginning 19/05. • Wall clearance and repair - Lady Nairne Crescent/ Meadowfield Terrace – RP gave an update that Paul Swann from the council had visited to check the ivy which has now been permanently cleared. The next step is to get the trees cut back and the wall repaired (contractors are being appointed). • Piershill Flat update - MB received letter from council stating flat to be returned to housing stock due to Housing Emergency. No work to repair the structural problems has begun as yet and we have asked for time to take this decision to the Director of Place and possibly use the petitions route to get a hearing from the full Council. However, as the petition was done over a year ago and it may not meet the criteria, we are considering a community event in the squares and another round of leafletting to gauge current support. Those interested in helping to let MB know after the meeting. Cllr Aston suggested formal process which would see matter raised at relevant council committee. NHS Lothian may have changed policy on community flats. • Cavalry Park update – MB reported some progress. Gareth Barlow, Director of Place, has visited and agreed with several of the Action Points from the January meeting of stakeholders. These action Points included new signage, CCTV, measures to remove the canopy outside the pavilion and restricting access to the building by installing more fencing. Cllr Staniforth to follow up with Gareth Barlow. • Willowbrae Church Sale - no formal consultation since it was announced that the building was to. Be sold by the Church of Scotland. However, there is strong support for community use, and one organisation working on a plan. CC will organise a public meeting to discuss the proposals and ask questions once plan is ready (probably in early June). Meantime, other groups are free to come forward with ideas. • Local Place Plan update – timescale expanded until 26/05. We will continue to encourage the use of the online questionnaire but also to arrange focus group meetings with as many local groups as possible and to gather views using several key questions. CCs to let MB or CA know of any local groups they have links with, such as the Bowling Club, allotment holders, faith groups, parent and toddler groups, youth and carers' groups and so on. MB and CA are planning to run a quick training session soon. Hope is to complete this stage by the end of July. The next phase involves entering data and preparing a draft plan which 	<p>MB, RP</p> <p>Cllr Aston, MB & CC members</p> <p>Cllr Staniforth, MB</p> <p>All CC members</p>
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we hope to put on display at the Environment Fair (20/9/25) before finalising the plan for submission in early 2006.

- HES consultation on use of Holyrood Park - follow up meeting, hosted by Lorna Slater MSP, next Monday (19/05) at Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 138-140 Pleasance, from 6.30 - 8pm. Those interested should sign up via Eventbrite. Park Manager has agreed to attend next CC meeting.

All CC members
ASAP

All CC members
19/05

<p>Environment Fair 2025 – RP indicated that Saturday 20th September 2025 had been confirmed for this event and the community centre has been booked. CA has applied for a grant. Volunteers were sought to help organise the fair and RP and SN nominated themselves. RP expressed that it would take all hands on the day to help organise the event and help clear up. There was also discussion about raising funds for CC activities at this event.</p>	<p>Sub group will report progress at meeting on 08/07/25 (RP).</p>
<p>Public forum and any other business – there were no questions from the public. Two items were raised - GC mentioned the noise from the carwash at Morrison's was very intrusive for residents of Baronscourt Terrace. Cllr Griffiths suggested that it could be tested for noise levels.</p> <p>- Northfield Community Centre Management Committee has dissolved. MB stated that users had not been informed of AGM, and very few meetings of the MG seem to have been held recently.</p>	<p>Cllr Griffiths, GC</p> <p>MB to contact relevant Council Officer</p>
<p>The date of the next AGM will be Tuesday 12th May 2026 (time and venue TBC).</p> <p>The date of the next ordinary meeting will be <u>Tuesday 8th July 2025</u> at the Northfield Community Centre, 7pm-8.30pm. Agenda items to be submitted to the Secretary fourteen days prior to this date to allow agenda to be organised and distributed.</p>	<p>All items submitted by 24/06/25</p>
<p>The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.</p>	

The Community Council meeting is open to the public, but it is not a public meeting. Members of the public are invited to raise local issues with the community council for discussion. If you wish to raise an issue, please email the Secretary at secretary@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk at least **fourteen days** prior to the next meeting date so it can be added to the agenda if appropriate. We welcome all members of the local community to attend these meetings as observers, with the opportunity to comment on items that have been raised under the Public Forum towards the end of the meeting.

To keep up-to-date with the work of the NWCC, look up our website (<https://www.northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk>). You can scan the QR code. Copies of all previous minutes along with other aspects of the work of the community council can be found here.

You can also like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/nandwcc/>).

