

Stockbridge & Inverleith community council

November 2019 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 November 2019
at Stockbridge Parish Church, Edinburgh

Present: Clive Preston; Pam Barnes; Joan Beattie; Nigel Clark; Gregan Crawford; Maggie Dawson; Nick Evans; James Simpson; Andrew Morrison; David Chamberlain; John Cowie; Jerry Ozaniec; Rona Carson; Margaret Hills; Alan Murphy; Geoff Calder; Leolie Lucy Telford-Cooke

Ward Councillors: Cllrs. Gavin Barrie; Max Mitchell; Hal Osler; Iain Whyte

Apologies for absence:

PC Ros Milne; MP Deidre Brock; Tannis Dodd; Penny Richardson; Alex Johnson

1. **Minutes** of last meeting of 16 October 2019. Clive asked whether the previous minutes be agreed. Penny referred to corrections on the wording of the licensing report.

Matters Arising:

Vice Chair – as per previous meeting when Jerry Ozaniec was proposed as C.C. Vice Chair. Jerry accepted that he would, when asked, chair the Community Council meetings but should be excused follow up duties (of the Chair) should they arise. This was accepted on this basis.

Rona Carson agreed to carry out secretarial duties of the registered local interest group the **Inverleith Society**.

Engagement Officer - Andrew Morrison expressed interest in fulfilling the optional role of Engagement Officer to expand and promote broad and wide ways of seeking views of the community. He was asked to produce a 'short description' for the next meeting.

Scottish Gas Network note of the Raeburn Place Plans

It had been hoped to have representative from the company or the Heads of Roads team at the Council (Dave Sinclair) but it had not been possible in the timescale ahead of the road closures.

There was no planned extra publicity on the scale and the detail of the work other than Information available at the Stockbridge Library on the frequency and change of route of the buses that normally cross Raeburn Place.

Cllr Whyte said there were still concerns raised about the wider traffic control on such a large scale of the anticipated road works. He said he will follow up at full council the issue of the review of bus lanes and to ensure there was adequate road signage and advance publicity through Edinburgh Travel.

Trees by the Water of Leith

Having spoken to the Forestry Department about the fate of the trees planted between the Rocheid Path and the Falshaw Bridge Clive was able to update the CC that lack of maintenance and regular watering had caused the trees to wither and die. He would pass on this update to Lady Bute who had raised the issue.

2. Brief reports:

a. **Police Scotland** in the absence of PC Ros Milne, Clive read out to the meeting a brief update which included that there had been a big reduction in call outs to bonfires and related firework events in the area on November 5th.

b. **Councillors** (on any local matters/action points):

Cllr Osler said that an accident on Orchard Brae junction gave cause for concern as it was the third accident in a year and as it is the main route to (Flora Stevenson) school the safety of the crossing needs urgent review.

The proposed improvements to the crossing at the Botanics and Inverleith Park were raised and given there is a budget available it was asked when would a start be made to securing a safe crossing. Information should be made available to residents.

Cllr Osler said that the Water of Leith flood defence system would be tested in April or May in 2020.

To a point raised about the siting of cycle racks the CC was informed that planning permission was not required.

c. **Chair** Clive Preston welcomed the comments and thanked the Councillors for their hard work on behalf of the community.

Plastic Free Stockbridge

Clive introduced Leolie Lucy Telford-Cooke who is leading a project aimed at achieving a plastic free Stockbridge. She said that there were four aims: obtaining CC support; forming a Steering Group; arranging two litter picks a year; establishing plastic free allies.

To meet twice a year and establish individual action plans making small changes of using materials other than plastic. Her aims were well endorsed by the Community Council.

d. **Secretary:** Tannis Dodd was absent and she had informed the CC there was no Secretary's report on this occasion.

e. **Treasurer:** David Chamberlain reported that the accounts were being drawn up with regard to the tidying up of receipts from the solstice. He had sent forms off to sort out the signatories for the account but Bank of Scotland had lost them so he could not finalise accounts and had yet to be reimbursed the money he had previously put forward himself.

f. **Environment:** Jerry Ozaniec read from his written report.

Legal proceedings have been raised over the landslip at the Water of Leith at Dean but delayed until 30 October.

The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils was seeking nominations for a new Chair and Vice Chair and Jerry gave a synopsis of the two candidates and the CC endorsed their preferred candidate: John Tibbett from Leith.

g. **Transport:** Jerry Ozaniec's report referred to traffic disruptions and footway improvements and changes have been uploaded to the website.

h. **Licensing and Planning:** In Penny's absence no report was submitted.

Planning: Pam Barnes referred to local planning applications for the reinstatement of the wall on Comely Bank Road and asked for views from members of the CC. Local resident Louise Hodgson had written to the CC about the wall and gave her view that it should not be re-instated. Clive read this out explaining the Planning application sought by Douglas Lowe which was to assert his rights over the site. James Simpson stated that the follow up to the case at the Court of Sessions (Lady Wolf's judgment) was awaited maybe in two months.

The CC also had a wide-ranging discussion about concerns for the likely damage to the trees (there is a tree preservation order on them).

Cllr Osler advised that the CC should look at the planning application and consider this accordingly in its own right; not with all of the historical issues that were mentioned. Clive asked that all CC members be appraised of the planning application details and give their views to Pam to formulate a Cc submission.

Pam also apprised members of the developments in the centre of Edinburgh including East Princes Street Gardens and also that the Underbelly Christmas Market had no planning consent for the erection of the infrastructure. Further discussion continued on the relationship between City of Edinburgh and elected members and officials in the decisions made ie the Christmas market.

Joan – updated the CC about the NW Neighbourhood Network.

Any other Business

New Parking Regulations – Maggie Dawson asked about the new visitor parking permits of 90 minutes blocks, would there be problems with these in short term holiday lets in Saxe Coburg Place. She was assured there should be no problems.

Cllr Barrie said that there was a need for national legislation on the use of AirBnB and the need for a statutory instrument on the basis of a housing shortage throughout the city of Edinburgh.

Inverleith Park

Pam raised the issue of the future of the Depot within the park and its future use as she was aware that the Council might be considering relocating other parks departments to the site. The long awaited re-organisation of depots is still not decided. There was a possibility of using part of all of it for the local community. The Friends of Inverleith Park had been considering possibilities and what support there was. There was a ranging discussion of what sort of further Community use could be made of the depot.

Pam stated that some events planned for the Park are not really suitable – the Gung Ho 5K proposed for the park was not really suitable for Inverleith Park in view of the restricted design of the park and the huge requirement for space for large plastic inflatables. The Friends Group and the Park Manager had been consulted and had objected on those grounds.

Dementia Care

John Cowie explained some of the developments in the enhancement of care for elderly and dementia sufferers in Stockbridge and the role LifeCare was playing in supporting this with the appointment of the NHS link worker.

Joan said that we should create a database for what needs can be met. John said he was talking to EVOC re the aspects which the Council should take over.

Summer Solstice events looking for people to help plan the event on June 21 2020.

There was a need to identify some funds to make it work. Costs were in the region of £20,000. The Councillors said that they would explore through the “Open Streets” team to see if this can be supported.

Date and Time of next meeting: Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 7.00pm.

Cllr Whyte said there were still concerns raised about the wider traffic control on such a large scale of the anticipated road works. He said he will follow up at full council the issue of the review of bus lanes and to ensure there was adequate road signage and advance publicity through Edinburgh Travel.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Community Council meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to raise a subject please contact the S&ICC.