

Stockbridge & Inverleith community council

January 2020 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 January 2020
at Stockbridge Parish Church , Edinburgh

Present: Clive Preston; Nigel Clark; Gregan Crawford; Maggie Dawson; David Chamberlain; John Cowie; Tannis Dodd; Rona Carson; Alan Murphy; Geoff Calder; Caro Tulloch; Roddy Watson; PC Lindsay Johnson

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

Apologies for absence:

MP Deidre Brock; Cllr Iain Whyte; Pam Barnes; Jerry Ozaniec; Penny Richardson; Alex Johnson; James Simpson; Andrew Morrison

Agenda Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence

Minutes of last meeting of 20 November 2019. Clive asked and the CC confirmed that the previous minutes be agreed.

Matters Arising:

Andrew Morrison had spoken about carrying out the role of Engagement Officer exploring new ways to broaden the interest in the Community Council and that he would like to carry out a survey of ideas and report back to the Community Council. It was agreed that this would be welcome.

Clive told the CC that he had not given up on pursuing the reinstatement of the trees that had died in the area by the Rocheid Path and had spoken to Richie Fraser from the Council. Although the earth in this area is quite compacted the Council are reassessing the position.

In response to a query about progress of the proposed crossing at the Botanic to Inverleith Park Cllr Mitchell updated the CC by saying it was delayed but as an active travel project was progressing. An application has been made through SuStrans to fund the design work to get it to this stage.

Concern was raised about activating the Water of Leith flood defences since they have not been tested every year as was initially promised. Also bolts for the floodgates at the Falshaw bridge have been tarmacked over. Cllr Osler confirmed that the defences have not been tested for four and half years. Council reassurances and SEPA confidence in the system, through monitoring how the water is channelled, remain high that it will work effectively when next tested this spring. Doubts remain with residents however that they will be informed of the test results. The public were advised to search updates on the SEPA website for further information.

In response to the deterioration in public transport during this time due to the SGN road works Tannis Dodd informed the CC that customised transport was available for members of the community severely disrupted by the works in Raeburn Place. HCL Transport dial a line bus service was available for the benefit of the community. CC

members were informed that SGN will pay for taxis in the event of emergency especially where shelter homes and residents require to make hospital visits.

Cllr Osler gave feedback on some of the results of the speed monitoring (20 mph zones) in the area, particularly around Inverleith Row, Orchard Road and East Fettes. Where average speed has been higher than 24 mph the Council's Technical Services will review safety issues arising.

Concern was raised about shortage of litter bins in Raeburn Place and the length of time the council takes to empty those that are there. Cllr Osler said there were enough bins in place but said she would keep up the vigilance in ensuring the Council empty the bins in a timely way.

Brief reports:

a. Police Scotland: PC Lindsay Johnson updated the CC on the routines of the Police patrols in the Park, checking the local streets for speeding and on keeping an eye on the levels and types of begging outside Sainsburys and the Co-Op. She said there were no serious issues to report.

In response to a query as to why they had closed the McKenzie Bridge to traffic it was as a result of numerous drivers abusing the one-way system in place on the bridge.

b. Councillors were sympathetic where traders raised their concerns about the sharp drop of takings during the time of the SGN road works and the businesses operating out of rented spaces owned by landlords not obliged to meet costs of deteriorating buildings.

Maggie Dawson from the Saxe-Coburg residents Association wished to record residents thanks to the Councillors for their hard work in responding to the street's issues over the past three months.

Cllr Osler also added that where pick up of communal waste bins in the street was still a problem particularly round St Stephens St developments residents should keep them informed so that the Cllrs could pursue the issue.

c. Secretary: Tannis Dodd had no report to the CC.

d. Treasurer: David Chamberlain gave a brief report of sound finances; difficulties with the Bank of Scotland branch in mislaying updated paperwork on new account signatories. Money allocated in the funds (£11,807) would mostly be taken up with last year's Summer Solstice.

e. Environment and Transport: Jerry Ozaniec was not in attendance but had submitted his report which was also available at the CC meeting. It included details on the progress with the Water of Leith landslip issues and the Dean Valley Improvement and Regeneration proposals. The latter was subject of a discussion in which CC members were not entirely clear on what the organisation's intentions are.

f. Licensing: with Penny Richardson away there was no report to the CC.

g. Planning: Pam Barnes had sent in a report which informed the CC on a planning application at No.3 Circus lane for the construction of a dwelling to be built in the garden. She felt it was inappropriate for the amount of space available and in the

materials chosen for the building. Her letter was on the website setting out the detail of her objection.

Pam informed everyone of the Cockburn Association meeting at the Temple Hall at Toll Cross on January 22nd. It should be a concern to all residents as it was about plans for Edinburgh's Public Spaces

Summer Solstice Event – John Cowie apprised the CC of progress and issues taking the planning of this year's summer Solstice event forward. He referred to a letter to Vivian Robison (her job disappears in March) to include the Raeburn Place closure in the same way other "Open Streets" are dealt with because the Council funds the closing of the streets. She agreed, but said Stockbridge would have to make the case for this. John added that they still need to meet Police Fire and the Council on the plans. SGN will work around it.

A resident raised the concern that the double yellow lines on Glenogle Road at Bridge Place were covered with tarmac and as it rained when the Council were painting the lines they had not completed the job. As a consequence owners were parking on a dangerous corner. The lines need to be reinstated. Cllr Osler said she was chasing the relevant department as without markings police and traffic wardens cannot do anything.

Cllr Osler said she was scheduled to meet residents at Glenogle Court as they own the bank and there needs to be agreement where the gate key is lodged.

AOB

Edmond Belt raised general questions about repairs to buildings and the liabilities should accidents happen due to falling masonry. Heralding and stonework coming away made structures dangerous. It raised complex issues as to who is responsible if any masonry coming off the walls caused accidents and he challenged the Councillors over the issues. He said he would like to know what the Council position was.

Cllr Barrie gave the CC the background to this and that the shared repairs scheme no longer was in place. Many people and groups of residents can access a virtual system and people can log into this.

Cllr Barrie said he would meet with Edmond Belt to discuss further.

Date and time of next meeting: February 19th 2020 7pm . 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.

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