

# Stockbridge & Inverleith community council

## February 2020 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2020  
at Stockbridge Parish Church , Edinburgh

**Present:** Clive Preston; Pam Barnes; Nigel Clark; Gregan Crawford; Maggie Dawson; Tannis Dodd; David Chamberlain; John Cowie; Jerry Ozaniec; Alan Murphy; Geoff Calder; MP Deidre Brock; Penny Richardson; Susanne Mitchell Henry; Alena Linhartora; Katie Dobell; PC Shaun Baker; Ruth George; Steve McIntyre

**Ward Councillors:** Hal Osler

### **Apologies for absence:**

Cllrs. Gavin Barrie; Max Mitchell; PC Ros Milne; Andrew Morrison; Alex Johnson; Joan Beattie

1. **Minutes** of last meeting of 15 January 2020. Clive asked whether the previous minutes be agreed. This was confirmed.

### **Matters Arising:**

A member of the public made the point that whilst searching for the minutes of previous meetings they could not locate the relevant minutes but that the November minutes were duplicated. Gregan said that they were posted up and he would seek to ensure this was still the case. [update: an error on the website has been corrected so November's minutes are available there]

**Painting of the double yellow lines in Glenogle Road:** It was confirmed the double yellow lines in Glenogle Road have been completed.

### **Scottish Gas Network**

Note of the Raeburn Place Plans and the on-going provisions to help the public over the upheaval include:

S.G.N. are providing a shuttle bus (a 16 seat coach) covering a circuit of the local streets from Royal circus running every 20 minutes. (as long as people are willing to use it)

The point was raised that this was not sufficient. The CC was asked to approach S.G.N. to extend the bus service to Mondays as well. An appeal was raised that sheltered housing residents be especially accommodated. It was noted that S.G.N. were offering a free taxi service for those most in need from the sheltered housing.

A number of complaints were aired about Lothian Buses and the slippage of timings being on the increase. Also that Lothian Buses need to update the timings app whilst the road works are in place and have the right timings on the bus shelters. Cllr Osler said that Lothian Buses have been approached about the timings of their service and that they said they needed to stick to the certainty of set schedules throughout the diversions.

Following discussion it was to be recorded that the community backs the view Lothian Buses be more responsive to the complaints aired about the deteriorating service. It was added that the CC should perhaps meet with senior management of Lothian Buses to emphasise the importance the Community places on their service. It was suggested that the CC should also contact the chairs of Newtown and Blackhall to join in with this request.

## **2. Brief reports:**

a. **Police Scotland** in the absence of PC Ros Milne, PC Shaun Baker updated the CC and read out to the meeting a brief update that included notes of speeding and parking violations in the Warriston area which included 6 speeding tickets had been issued where motorists had been found to be travelling at speeds up to 34 mph. Others have been stopped and warned for speeding violations. Patrols in Raeburn Place were also ensuring that traffic management was being enforced. In response to a point raised by a member of the public that parking on the pavements was becoming more frequent he said that this would be pursued by the traffic wardens on patrol. Begging was being monitored to ensure that nuisance was curtailed and he believed there was no evidence of human trafficking taking place. Patrols have taken place in Inverleith Park especially over the half term since there is evidence of quite a lot of alcohol related rubbish being left. No incidents were reported There are plans to have a police stall at the Sunday Market in Stockbridge.

## **CAM Contact Assessment Model**

PC Baker outlined the new system that the Police will soon be working to: the CAM system in which priorities would be assessed (graded on 1 – 7 basis) and how calls are handled and managed: Immediate; Prompt; not Prompt. There was to be a more detailed explanation of the system demonstrated on 28 February, 09.30 – 13.00 at the RAF base hall in Learmonth Terrace.

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

Cllr Osler said that the Council budget was being revealed tomorrow (20 February) in which the governing parties will be seeking to drive through £35m of cuts which will have implications for the way policing is carried out (coming through from April). There will no longer be a bespoke community police ward related service. There are big implications for the services locally including downgrading of police services across the Ward.

Edinburgh Leisure will review the Libraries service including the benefits of delivering an automated service. Although Libraries are not a statutory function it is a very important service and Edinburgh is promoting itself as the “City of Literature”. MP Deidre Brock said the Council was committed to keeping the Libraries open. It was noted that the Stockbridge Library was well-liked and provided the community with a good service. Cllr Osler urged everyone to go online to check out the budgets.

c. **Chair** Clive Preston welcomed the comments and thanked the Councillors for their hard work on behalf of the community. He referred the CC to the City Plan 2030 and the Mobility Plan for the city and commended CC members to view the plans. He added that he found it useful to have published hard copy plans but lamented the almost complete reliance on consultation through the Internet. He questioned whether this complied with equality legislation.

Cllr Osler added that there were opportunities to take part in the consultation events and the planned Civic Forums.

Penny appraised the CC that Rules and Regulations for the running of allotments were now published that will have implications for many people particularly those currently on waiting lists.

d. **Secretary:** Tannis Dodd informed the CC there was no Secretary's Report on this occasion.

e. **Treasurer:** David Chamberlain reported that the Bank of Scotland issues have now been sorted; there is £5,400 on account and that £3-3,500 has been ear-marked for the Summer Solstice event for 2020.

f. **Environment:** Jerry Ozaniec read from his written report and added that a date had now been offered up by the Water of Leith conservation Trust for Sunday 24 May for clean-up of the stretch of water bank along the river of the Deanhaugh Path. Nigel added that a small group of volunteers were already established that meet on Monday mornings to keep maintenance of the path and creating a nature corridor.

Cllr Osler referred to a meeting in the City Chambers next Thursday about planning for Green Spaces across the City and the way plans will be set out.

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:** Penny appraised the CC of the progress the License Board was making in digitally recording all premises across the city. She added that there was nothing of note going forward to the April Board. As part of succession planning Rona Carson had agreed to take over the role when Penny steps down. Cllr Osler said that she and Cllrs Mowatt and Burgess were interviewing candidates to take up their roles on the future Licencing Forum.

**Planning:** Pam Barnes referred to local planning application for 68 Comely Bank Avenue and the changes to the top flat and attic which will affect the communal space on the floor and the access to the roof and windows. She also described the planning application at 80 Comely Bank Avenue contrasting the two applications in the amount of detail provided in which the integrity of the firewalls will be affected and the CC will be putting an objection to this. Members of the public affected by the application were present and gave their views. Pam gave advice as to how they could take their objections forward.

Pam also appraised members of the developments in the centre of Edinburgh raised at the recent meeting of the Cockburn Association (800 – 900 people attended) including West and East Princes Street Gardens and also that the Underbelly Christmas Markets spread needed no application for planning for the erection of the buildings. The contract with the Council is binding for the next two years. She also said that many felt the detrimental effect that overloading the city with tourists was having for local residents.

#### **AOB**

It was agreed that there was a need for national legislation on the use of **AirBnB** and a need for a Statutory Instrument on the basis of the housing shortage throughout the city of Edinburgh.

21 June **Summer Solstice events:** John Cowie said they were looking for people to help plan the event in 2020 and identify some money to make it work. Jerry said that he would join in a sub-committee to achieve this. 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. SGN say they are to finish roadworks in the street in August, but this was not certain. It was agreed to keep the whole issue of the event under careful review.

**Date and Time of next meeting:** Wednesday 18 March 2020 at 7.00pm. **Note the next meeting will be held at the St Vincent Church, Stockbridge.**

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.