

# Stockbridge & Inverleith

community council

## DRAFT MINUTES

Of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 November 2017  
at Stockbridge Parish Church, 7b Saxe Coburg Street, Edinburgh

**Present, S&ICC:** Gregan Crawford (Chairperson); Penny Richardson (Licensing Officer); Joan Beattie (Rep on Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership); Pam Barnes (Planning Officer); Andrew Morrison; Clive Preston (Vice Chair); John Cowie; Tannis Dodd (Secretary) (attended for preliminary agenda); Nigel Clark (took the minutes)

**Members of the Community:** Alex Johnson; Jenny Milner; Liz Engelsen; Jacqui Spence;

Ward Councillors: Hal Osler; Max Mitchell

**Apologies for absence:** David Chamberlain; Cllr. Gavin Barrie; Jerry Ozaniec (Environment and Transport Officer); Jan Anderson (Inverleith Society Rep)

**1. Minutes of previous meeting** 18 October 2017: Subject to the following changes; the minutes were approved: correction: Ian Hooper was in attendance and Alex Johnson attended.

### **Matters Arising:**

Buses on Henderson Row – problem in the main is the fact the drivers leave their engines running. Cllr Hal Osler apprised the meeting that they have now been alerted to the nuisance factor.

Parking on double yellow lines - Inverleith Gardens and harassment from drivers: Cllr Max Mitchell informed the meeting that he had followed up the issue with the police and spoken to the parking wardens who had patrolled the area. Gill Doyle and Shahida Imani wrote to say thank you to the Councillors and the Community Council for their support at this time.

Graffiti – Cllr Hal Osler had contacted the Council and graffiti had been removed. Abusive graffiti will be removed immediately.

Water of Leith – land slippage that has caused an obstruction to the path has remained unresolved from 2013. Cllr Hal Osler apprised the meeting that two meetings had been held with David Jamieson and the Council's legal team to clarify why little progress has been made to remove the obstructions. Up-to-date information was required – posted up on the website. Hal reiterated that money had been put aside to remedy the work.

Potential Closure of Bield House on Haugh Street: Susan Napier of Bield was invited to explain the circumstances surrounding the prospective closure of the Haugh Street property. She was supported by Paul Collins a manager with Bield. Susan told the meeting that Bield is a registered social landlord operating on a non-profit basis managing five and a half thousand properties. It is not always possible to meet rising costs. Deficit funding has historically been taken on by the Council who would step in to ensure continuity but local government funding is no longer available. Changing circumstances have

meant that the situation is no longer viable. Increased complex care needs and that standards and regulations have increased and meant more audits and inspections. Installing sprinkler systems for example add a cost of £5,500 per building. In addition there are regulations that prevent simple cross funding across the organisation. Meeting these and other targets comes at a cost and so Bield has taken the decision to put the properties up for sale including the Haugh Street property.

A formal offer has been made for the property from another care provider. Susan was not able to expand on the purchase details and couldn't speculate on what the new owner will do with the existing tenants. Susan said that the tenants were aware of the prospective transfer. Their reaction has been shock, concern and disappointment. Cllr Hal Osler hoped that the Council and the NHS would support individuals in the transfers whatever the outcomes. Gregan asked Penny to keep the Council informed of how this progresses.

## **2. Reports:**

a. Chairperson: GC welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

- Increasing AirBnB bookings, particularly in the colonies were raising concerns and a public meeting \* had been held to consider the issues.

- Minute taker - still looking for someone to fulfil this role on a regular basis

- Crossing at East Fettes Avenue is generally considered to be in the wrong place. Cllr Hal Osler has asked (The Road Safety Team) for the rationale. She recommends residents contact the Council with their views.

- Bins at the Sunday Market are overfilled and remaining on the Monday following are unsightly and a health hazard. Both Cllr Max Mitchell and Cllr Hal Osler said that this had been raised with the Council about collecting the bins in good time but they would raise it again.

b. Secretary: report provided by Tannis and read out by GC

c. Treasurer: no report as David Chamberlain was away

d. Police Scotland: no report

e. Environment: report provided by Jerry circulated and salient points read out by Gregan. Penny recorded thanks for timely and informative report

f. Transport: nothing to report

g. Licensing and Planning: Penny circulated a draft objection to application for a provisional licence at *Tasti*, 55 Raeburn Place (citing Neighbourhood alcohol and tobacco outlets environments in Scotland data).

Additionally Penny said she was responding to the consultation by the Edinburgh Licensing Board on reviewing their policy statement - to go to the Licensing Board for 22 December. Key areas are: Preventing Crime and Disorder; Securing Public Safety; Preventing Public Nuisance; Protecting public health; Protecting children from harm. Penny welcomed comments from members of the C.C. Cllr Hal Osler said she wanted to be kept up-to-date with the applications going in and said it would be useful if this were done automatically. Gregan said how useful the Council's Planning Portal was in providing information and that it was a pity a similar facility wasn't available for Licensing.

h. Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnerships: Joan Barrie said there was no meeting to report on.

There is a forthcoming meeting to be held in the Library between 6 and 8pm on 30 November.

\* A meeting had taken place instigated by some residents of the colonies who were concerned at the number and frequency of Holiday (AirBnB-type) lets and the attendant numbers of strangers amongst the communities. There is a lack of regulations and there is the potential for anti social behaviour. On

the positive side it was bringing people into the area and resultant spending in shops here. The event was well attended (130 people) in the church.

John Cowie said that the meeting should probably have been managed under the auspices of the Community Council. John raised the issue of the need at such large meetings to have an effective PA system. Gregan thought that the Community Council could support this and would ask Treasurer David Chamberlain about the money that could be made available.

Planning application of Edinburgh Academy to extend present building capacity. Cllr Max Mitchell said that a consultation meeting was planned with the developer who has still to submit their plans. In advance of this Jacqui Spence and Liz Engelsen said that the Academy had cut down trees within the school grounds to erect a decking but which spoilt the outlook especially for residents in Perth Street. There was a general discussion about rights and the regulations about felling trees.

### **AoB**

Tabled items:

Corridor for Bees. Alex Johnson told the meeting of a Stockbridge Primary School project to create a corridor where bees can successfully thrive. He asked for suggestions and anyone interested to help get in touch with him and the school.

Security Gates – there were three security gates recently erected protecting private property in the community area. (Inverleith Place and Inverleith Row were instances) Stockbridge is largely free of gated housing and an increase in this feature has implications for the character of the area. This was raised by Clive Preston who went on to emphasise the impact of fear that this might affect people in the area. Pam Barnes suggested that Historic Scotland could have a role here as to whether such gates would impinge on and be to the detriment of the character of the area.

Disposal of needles – raised by Joan Beattie. A member of the community who had gathered up a range of used needles and taken them to a number of agencies who refused to take them off her for disposal. She was told to take them back to the department who had initially issued them. This seems unsatisfactory - might some other remedy be considered.

Felled trees – Pam Barnes reported that two lime trees had been cut down at Mary Place and clarification was sought as to what rules were in place to save the destruction of trees that lent their special character to our community. Clive Preston said from his experience as tree warden that the tree would have to have a special or unique aspect if it were to be protected. Cllr Max Mitchell and Cllr Hal Osler said the Council could only object to a tree being felled if there was a protection order (TPO) in place.

Dean Valley Regeneration - Cllr Hal Osler said the project had now moved on to Phase 2. A request by Penny to look at a planning feasibility report should be held over to the February meeting because at the next meeting in January the Raeburn Place Foundation had agreed to provide an update on their development plans. The last building work undertaken in May this year was to avoid losing their planning application.

**Date and time of next meeting:** 17 January 2017