MERCHISTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of public meeting on 16th June 2015 at Merchiston Tennis & Bowling Club

Present

Members:	*Police*:
Tom Graveson (Vice Chairman)	PC Mari Ramsay (St Leonards)
Alison Edelsten (Secretary)	PC Richard Wood (Oxgangs)
France Hawarden (Treasurer)	
Ian Clement	*Public:*
Mairianna Clyde	Richard Lloyd
James Geekie	Veronica Robertson
Sally Lloyd	Anna Stevens
Ted Tate	David Urch
Mike Talbot	Francis Valentine

Welcome & Introductions

Tom welcomed all present.

Apologies

Ian Doig, Robin Morris, Bridget Stevens; Cllrs Andrew Burns, Gavin Corbett, David Keys; MP Ian Murray.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the AGM and the business meeting on 19th May 2015 were tabled by Mairianna.

The £50 contribution mentioned for SWT, is for 38º, in recognition of help given to promote the Out of the Blue proposal for the Boroughmuir High School building.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Ian, seconded by Alison, and agreed.

Matters arising

Taken below.

Report - Police

PC Wood spoke to his previously circulated report on incidents in the Fountainbridge/North Merchiston/Slateford area. Only one housebreaking had been recorded during May. The fire-raising incidents involving a canal boat and garden shed are still being investigated.

PC Ramsay reported a reduction in the number of housebreakings in the Merchiston/Meadows area. A youth has recently been charged with a number of the break-ins in the area.

Responding to questions the PCs told the meeting:

- Most house break-ins occur after dark but flat break-ins mainly take place in daylight hours;
- The current model of community policing is to be retained for the present.

The PCs were thanked for their reports.

Report - Neighbourhood Partnerships

South Central Neighbourhood Partnership: Bridget had previously circulated her report (see attachment below) on proceedings at the Board meeting held on 8th June 2015.

South West Neighbourhood Partnership: Tom spoke about the Economic Forum attended by more than 400 persons. The SLA for ward policing is under review. In the next round of Community Grants some 20% will be allocated through a participatory budgeting scheme where the selection of supported projects is decided by community voting.

Report – Planning

Mairianna reported as follows:

12 Merchiston Place: Application to replace the existing building has been rejected by planners.

Student housing at Dundee Street, near Victor Paris showrooms: It was agreed that an objection be submitted on grounds of over-provision and the greater need for permanent residential accommodation in the area **[Action: Marianna].**

8 Ettrick Road: Planning decision expected shortly.

Report - Licensing

None received.

Report - Accounts

Frances tabled a statement of accounts to date.

A donation of £40 had been agreed for The Meadows Festival children's play space.

Report - Councillors

No reports received.

Residents and the public

David Urch drew attention to road safety problems on the Colinton Road where it narrows west of the Merchiston Campus of Napier University. He was asked to email details along with suggestions for a solution.

Francis Valentine suggested that the CC might offer support to the victim of the arson attack who was left homeless when her canal boat home at Lower Gilmore Place was badly damaged. It was agreed to publicise the appeal at https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/barneyboy on the MCC website. **[Action: Sally]**

Any other business

Edinburgh Living Landscape Partnership: Robin Harper has spoken with Alison about the involvement of MCC in this initiative which aims to promote biodiversity in urban areas. Alison will get further details and report back.

Liaison between local community councils: A Tollcross CC representative has written suggesting that neighbouring CCs might band together in petitioning CEC on issues of common concern. It was agreed that we are interested and Alison will write in support. **[Action: Alison]**

Ready-for-Twenty Event: Alison reported on a CEC meeting about the new 20 mph limit on roads in the city. In discussion reservations were expressed about the effects on arterial roads and problems of enforcement. However, most members were in favour of the initiative, principally on road safety grounds.

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils: Ian spoke about a recent meeting he attended at which a new committee was elected. The incoming chairman has asked for suggestions from CCs on priorities foe EACC.

Alison reminded that Ian's attendance had not been requested or agreed.

Meadows Festival: Tom and Frances each voiced the need for a banner to draw attention to our table at such events. Sally offered to investigate options. **[Action: Sally]**

Friends of the Meadows & Bruntsfield Links: The AGM is due to take place on Friday 26th June. Papers at http://www.fombl.org.uk/meetings.html .

Merchiston/Meadows walk-about: Ian has contacted Sara Burns at the CEC. She has agreed to arrange for a walk-about with Council officials and CC members if she is approached.

Change of name: Following Robin's communications with Andrew Burns Tom explained that the CC can now revisit the idea of a change of name and asked that the matter be discussed by exchange of emails over the summer. [Action: All]

Publicity & public engagement: Mike suggested reviving the idea of a group to co-ordinate promotional activities. Sally & Mike will discuss and bring back proposals to a later meeting. **[Action: Mike & Sally]**

Residents Associations joint meeting on 22nd June: James is to attend this meeting and will draw to their attention the potential benefits of working along with their CC.

Caledonian Corridor / Linear Park: Mairianna and Ted reported on recent community efforts the borders along these paths.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 15th September 2015 commencing 7pm at Merchiston Tennis & Bowling Club.

1.07.15

SOUTH CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Report from Bridget Stevens on Board meeting held on 8 June 2015

The main agenda item at the SCNP meeting on 8 June (at which I represented MCC) was the new arrangement for the Meadows in August. The Lady Boys of Bangkok have relocated to Fountainbridge and their place on the Meadows is to be taken by Underbelly. The concern is always about noise and other disturbance to people living round about as well as damage to the grass. A presentation was given by Underbelly Director Charlie Wood in which he offered assurances about various matters including

- prior notification of opening/licensing hours to be given to local residents who will also be provided with a 24-7 contact telephone number and email address for use in the event of problems/complaints
- 24-hour on-site security
- a willingness to meet and engage with local householders.

Minimisation of damage to the grass is also a priority.

I asked (1) why the late licence needed to be until midnight and (2) whether a meeting could be arranged with local householders during as well as after the festival period. I'm glad to report that both of these have been responded to so that the late licence will now only be until 11pm and Mr Wood has provided some dates for meetings during the run - 17 or 18 August - one of us should certainly attend.

There was also further discussion of a proposal to devolve allocation of part of the community grants pot to local people, decisions to be made at a Market Place Event where bidders would have stalls and be able to talk direct to local residents. I can see why this works well in Leith but am not sure how it would go down in SCNP where there isn't a defined "community". For example the meeting wasn't able to come up with a suggested venue for the market place event which would be appropriate for the whole SCNP area.