Minutes of meeting of Merchiston Community Council held Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 7pm at Tennis and Bowling Club (AGM and Business Meeting)

Attendance: Ted Tate, MCC; Frances Hawarden, MCC [Treasurer]; Mairianna Clyde, MCC; Alison Edelston, MCC [Secretary]; Bridget Stevens, MCC; Ian Clement, MCC; Ian Doig, MCC; Tom Graveson, MCC; Robin Morris, [Chair] MCC; Councillor Andrew Burns, CEC; Councillor Gavin Corbett, CEC; Margaret Mackie, resident; Gillian Lawrence, resident; David Leslie, resident [Grove Garden project]; Kenny Redpath, resident, MYTRA; Simon Metcalf, resident, MYTRA. Police: PCs Burrell and Mawson form Oxgangs and PCs Morano and Jenkins from St Leonards.

1. Police Report (Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart). There were fewer break ins during April (0). There were 0 assaults. There is a national campaign on road safety which is concentrating on road traffic offences. There has been a spike in bike theft (11). However Operation Rack (plain clothes) is under way. David Leslie (resident) raised the issue of the recent canal boat fire. There had also been fires lit in skips near the canal. Plus a community greenhouse at the Grove Garden had been set on fire. Greenhouse and canal boat were destroyed. Luckily the resident of the boat was not on board at the time. Police will look into this. 101 is the number to ring for a historic event (already happened). 999 if you see a crime in progress. Police Report (St Leonards). There have been 435 calls, 70 reported crimes, one third of which have been solved. Mainly theft and housebreakings. Cars being stolen by breaking into/getting into, houses and stealing the keys. Beat Doorstep Crime are asking for volunteers to be a 'nominated name'. See: scotland.police.uk. alan.jenkins@scotland.pnn.police.uk

2. Minutes of last AGM. Proposed (Ian D) and seconded (Bridget)

3. AGM. Robin gave the Chair's report. Noted MCC's membership of MABLAG (Meadows and B'Links), FOMBL (Friends of Meadows and B'Links), Bruntsfield Living, Dig-In, and that we were shareholders in Dig-In. Then there was our involvement in the Xmas tree lights at Bruntsfield. The Treasurer's report showed we were in good health. It was audited by Richard Allen.

4. Elections: The following office bearers were elected – Chair – Robin Morris. Vice Chair – Tom Graveson. Secretary – Alison Edelston. Treasurer – Frances Hawarden.

Business Meeting

1. **Apologies:** Jim Geekie, Mike Talbot, Sally Lloyd, Councillor Melanie Main.

2. **Minutes:** of March meeting were circulated and seconded.

3. **Councillors' reports:** Gavin reported on the BHS sale which went ahead to Cala despite a local campaign headed by MCC to promote the bid from arts organisation Out of the Blue. Gavin (who sits on the Finance and Resources Committee) had tried to delay the decision for further reports in view of the strong community interest but his amendment did not succeed. But commended the good community engagement on the part of MCC. He highlighted that the upper floor of Fountainbridge Library, which is empty, needs repairs. The new 'linear park' will be called Fountainbridge Green. There is a possibility of widening the towpath there. There would be a further community planting day at Harrison Park on the 31st May from 10.30 – 1pm. Andrew Burns highlighted that the Council has a service agreement with Police Scotland for community policing, for which CEC pays £2.6 million pa. What happens? What are we getting for it? Andrew also indicated that his mail bag from residents mainly concerns the developments along the canal. This land is in 3 chunk. The new BHS and Napier student flats are on one chink (nearest Gibson Terrace) but plans are afoot for mixed use development on the next two chunks (beyond Viewforth, to Fountain Quay).

4. **Planning:** Robin highlighted the concerns about the development at Meggetland beyond Allan Park area. Although not in our CC area, the plans to make an access road through an existing quiet residential scheme by bulldozing an existing villa at Allan Park Crescent were not what we could support. Councillor Burns indicated his personal objection to the access proposal. A planning committee site visit at 12 Merchiston Place recently took place which Mairianna attended.

5. **Licensing:** Manacraft now sold and being converted into an American diner with licence. Underbelly is now getting the Ladyboys old pitch in the Meadows and worryingly it will operate from 8am to 12am.

6. **SWNP, SCNP:** SWNP seems to hold its meetings on the same night as MCC. There was discussion about the SCNP roads budget which Merchiston missed out on again. Why? There was no meeting in March. The meeting to decide was two to three weeks ago. Requests for suggestions were circulated back in December. Mairianna expressed dissatisfaction with how protracted and convoluted the whole process is. Not only is it difficult finding out about it but suggestions (even if received and tabled on a list) can be put on hold for years so that it hardly seems worthwhile engaging in the process.

7. **Donations:** We have decided to donate £50 to the Craighouse campaign and £50 to 38 Degrees (as Alison had recommended).

8. **AOCB:** (1) A vote of thanks was extended to Mike, Sally, Tom, and Alison for their assistance with the community meeting held on Tuesday 6th May at Boroughmuir High School on the Out of the Blue bid, especially Sally, whose 38 degrees e-

petition on our website had collected an astonishing 3000+ signatures in a matter of days, whilst the paper petitions in Bruntsfield had collected 400+. Most of the signatures were EH10, EH11, EH14 post codes – all showing very strong local support. (2) Mairianna to chase up bank re getting more signatures on MCC's Treasurer's account. (3) Bridget raises that we need a new banner to replace the one that was lost.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 16th June 2015 at 7pm Tennis and Bowling Club