



## **Minutes of the AGM Meeting held on Monday June 12th 2023.**

**7pm – 8.30pm at Nelson Hall**

### **1. Welcome.**

Chair welcomed all to the AGM of the Community Council.

### **2. Reports from the Office Bearers.**

Chair thanked the Office Bearers for all their hard work throughout the year, since the last AGM. Minutes of the last AGM were approved.

### **3. Demit of current office bearers/election of office bearers.**

Before commencing the AGM elections DF queried if we should appoint office bearers because we are due to hold an election, SRB said that it could be May next year that a general election is held, so we wouldn't be able to hold our election at the same time. PM said the Scottish Parliament constituency is up for review, though isn't sure if the community council constituency is up for review. PM also said that he thought it would be difficult to get everything sorted and we were unlikely to have an election before 2025. SRB said that he would follow up with the council officer responsible for advising community councils, Cllr Burgess suggested we should proceed with the AGM elections.

### **Cllr Steve Burgess chaired this agenda item.**

DF elected as Chair, nominated by JC, seconded by SRB.

JC re-elected as Vice Chair, nominated by DF, seconded by PP.

SRB re-elected as Secretary, nominated by BO, seconded by DF.

PP elected as Treasurer, nominated by SRB, seconded by DF.

PM stepped down as Webmaster, and from the Community Council.

**Minutes of the Public Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023.  
7pm-8.30pm at Nelson Hall.**

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence, declarations of interest.**

DF welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Daniel Fisher (DF - Chair), Philip McDowell (PM) Joan Carter (JC Vice -Chair), Liz Logie (LL), Betty Offerman (BO), Philip Pinsky (PP- Treasurer), Stephen Roger Benson (SRB Secretary).

Apologies: Bob Hodgart

Attending: Councillor Steve Burgess (SB) Megan Arthur (MA- Minutes)

Members of the Public: Jack Richards/Hugh Jordan (JR/HJ), Harriot ? (HL)

**2. Ascertain issues brought by members of the public: determine when and how to deal with them.**

JR/HJ raised a complaint about public transport and had been recording incidents of traffic running through red lights, particularly buses and taxis. He mentioned that he had contacted his local MSP Angus Robertson and the police but was unhappy that no action or improvement had been made. SB took details to follow up at a later time. Unfortunately JR/HJ refused to settle down. PP politely asked JR/HJ to let us continue with the meeting but he refused and was evicted from the meeting by the chair for causing a disruption.

JR/HR made a complaint about bus drivers driving recklessly (driving through red lights) and injuring individuals, which he has video recorded.

JC said that this issue has already been addressed (in our power), and that it should be taken to officials.

Council member said that JR/HR should email the Council, and that a meeting could be arranged.

JC said this discussion should be arranged in advance so that this issue can be addressed properly.

SRB had no communication from JR/HR.

JC asked JR/HR to submit evidence ahead of the meeting in September.

JR requested dictation. JC said that JR/HR could have a 5 minute meeting slot in September.

**3. Reports from Committees and meetings attended. N/A**

**4. Planning and Licensing applications.**

DF asked JC what's happening with the licensing applications emails from the Edinburgh Council. DF said that it appears that the licensing is taking place quite late.

SRB said that there are tons of STL applications , including emails about Nicholson square, and that a meeting needs to be arranged with Friends of Nicholson Square. Decision to object to STL's, so far most have been rejected.

SRB mentioned that the councils blanket refusals of STL's applications have been ruled unjust and that the Council is not allowed to blanket refuse them and that they need to be considered individually for planning permission. JC said that permission can/should be refused if it disrupts neighbours. SRB said that they shouldn't have bare floorboards to help with noise insulation and that it isn't fair on neighbours to experience disturbance when small changes could reduce the noise. JC said that there has been an insistence on modifications, though it will take ages for the changes to take place. SRB said that they're holding off on reviewing applications until after the festival, when it should resume and we will have to review the STL applications

## **5. Enforcement actions**

PM gave an update on enforcement actions stating that many of the things we had raised had received responses from the Council but no actions appear to have been made.

JC said these sort of HMO conversions take away permanent resident potential. Also, there is a shop that doesn't look right, and goes against council policies. JC read out a policy which shows that the shop complies mostly, though ignores the local development plan and guidance for business. JC said that this property has clearly been ignored by the enforcement authority, so JC wanted to bring it to the community council.

SRB mentioned a flat transformation. PM said there is a HMO with 9 bedrooms that look awful, and that apparently they want to merge the two flats, including the loft. PM said that there are lots of HMOs in Merchiston, and that there are now rules for HMOs, so there is more control. PM said that we should object to this application.

LL said that the Council ignored PM's complaint. PM said the Council neglected the Southside, though gave plenty of attention to the popular areas of Edinburgh. DF said that it would be good to move on to discussing the Scottish Widows building.

LL said that there are some very tall flats in the application JC questioned if conditions could be imposed?

JG to the left behind me said that the character of Holyrood park road will change massively because of the development.

PM said that there was an email to the chair. DF said that he did not receive this email. DF said that he hasn't logged into the official portal for a while.

## **6. 15 Dalkeith Road development**

DF said that the Christmas lights turn on at Christmas was successful, and said that it is great that this can take place on 15 Dalkeith Road. DF said that the Community Council should try to grow its membership base, [in post until next election. We should carry on until we know what we're doing.] DF stated that no one has objected to the Christmas light switch on taking place on Dalkeith Road again this year, and that the initial review led to a few changes with the arrangements.

## **7. Meadows Festival**

SRB suggested getting a stall at the Meadows Festival, and DF mentioned that this could be a good way to fundraise if needed. PM said that we could perhaps arrange some craft stall activities for this festival, such as biscuit decorating. PM said that we could get children involved so that members can chat with the public, though manpower is important for this. DF suggested having stickers, balloons and chocolate on the stall. PP said that the Community Council could perhaps pay someone to entertain children. PM said that we could perhaps pay someone to decorate biscuits. DF thinks the biggest issue is getting representation from other Community Councils on the stall, so that residents can speak to Councillors relevant to them as we had lots of people from other wards approach the stand.

JC mentioned a church leaflet with local landmark buildings where you guess what they are. She suggested that we could find someone to do something similar for landmarks of interest in Southside.

## **7. City Mobility Plan N/A**

### **8. No. 41 Bus**

JC mentioned that someone said that there will be no buses from the meadows to Princes Street, and that there will be no public transport accessibility to that whole middle bit of Edinburgh. DF said his understanding was that it was just the alteration of the 41 going to King's Buildings and that the majority of the route would be unaffected.

JC said that surely there'll be some sort of buses still running? A member of the public said that there will be an open consultation.

PM said that we should look at item 7 on the agenda. A member of the public said that we should just try to get less traffic generally? JC said that we should ensure that people still have access to public transport. DF said the idea of having no business access is bad. PM said that we can look at the mobility plan.

## **9. Public Question time**

HL said that Edinburgh synagogue is a great historic building that needs a community that will look after the building. HL said that there has been a lot of interest in the building which belongs to Newington, and that people tell her that they love the building.

HL said that, currently, the building is being subsidised by social care direct, and that they hold a lunch club every Thursday at 12pm. HL said that community members cook, and that they discuss topics including faith. HL said that the synagogue community has explored running various activities including golf and table tennis. HL welcomed Community Council members to visit, and asked if they could get publicity from the council. HL asked if they could have a link on the community council website. PP advised that HL also approach the school for publicity, such as Preston street.

## **10. Any Other Business**

PP said that we didn't spend much money on the Christmas do, and so suggested finding ways to spend this money. PP said that he attempted to contact someone for auditing, though unfortunately didn't hear back from them. PP said we won't get our funding from the council until the audited accounts have been submitted. DF mentioned that he has a contact that could potentially audit for the council.

PP suggested spending leftover money on the Royal Mail.

SRB said that there are significant things in the ward, and mentioned student accommodation and the loss of the 41 buses that are being replaced with number 9. He said that Cllr Tim Polson has been taking forward enquiries about the Holyrood campaign, and that he will proof a draft for consultation next month. SRB said that this will hopefully lead to a car free Holyrood park! He also said that Holyrood people would like Trishaws and somewhere to store them, such as a container.

SRB said that bike stores upto a certain size do not need planning permission, though this matter should be taken up with Historic Scotland. SRB said that this is in response to a member of the public asking if we have the authority to install shipping containers as storage for bikes

SRB said that a local nursery won an award for making a difference in the early age group, having introduced initiatives to reduce plastic in schools. He said that Natasha Stewart is one of the teachers that brought things to present to a committee, and won the awards.

DF asked if office bearers have anything else to report? DF said that soon Charteris will be doing a review of the year's event, and invited anyone who is able to attend.

PM asked if there will be a litter pick on Thursday 22nd June as planned? JC said that the litter pick will start from Unite building St Leonards at 12 o'clock. DF said that he had a meeting at the local synagogue with HL about supporting community buildings.

SRB that he has been trying to email the chair, though he has been struggling. He questioned if DF's inbox is full? PM questioned, why are we so ill prepared? male member of the public to the left behind me said that people want large houses to accommodate larger families, though nothing has been discussed on this topic. DF said that lots of money is being thrown at the building of offices. JC said that people don't care about offices.

## **11. Meadows festival**

SRB said that, at the Meadows Festival, no political parties had stands. DF said that one party had a stand. PM said that there was not enough communication at the festival, and that it is important to learn table location early on. SRB said that the Meadows Festival team communicated with them last minute about the whereabouts of their table. DF questioned, were there many other community councils attending? DF suggested that, next time, tables could be taken from Greyfriars Charteris Centre to The Meadows. He said that the council could pay for a van to do this. DF suggested having a community council stall and a raffle.

BO suggested selling lego at the stall to engage children, as well as raffle tickets. DF suggested selling lollipops with raffle tickets attached to them. SRB questioned, mid July? PP said that he trusts the judgement of the community council, and PM said that he is observing the implementation plan, and consulting on how they will implement things.

JC questioned, is there anything controversial? SRB said that there will be a Thursday public consultation from 4.30pm until 7pm at Mayfield Salisbury Church on 11th September.

DF said thanks to the office bearers and to Philip.

12. Date for Next Meeting: September 11th 2023