



## Southside Community Council Minutes of Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### **1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence; Declarations of Interest**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present: Daniel Fisher (DF – Chair); Stephen Roger Benson (SRB - Secretary); Elizabeth Offerman (EO); Philip Pinsky (PP – Treasurer); Liz Logie (LL); Nicholas Oddy (NO)

Attending: Alex Alderton (AA – minutes); Mandy Cumpstie (MC - minutes); Cllr Pauline Flannery (PF)

Apologies: Joan Carter; Stuart Tooley.

### **2. Ascertain Issues brought by Members of the Public: determine when and how to deal with them**

None.

### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Matters arising:

- SRB had discovered he could use Mailbird without payment being required. DF noted that several people had offered to build the website.
- Nobody had started to attend the EACC meetings yet.

### **4. Councillor's Report**

PF presented her report. She apologised for the lack of Councillor at the last meeting; there is a system to ensure there should always be a Councillor present.

Regarding the South Bridge Resource Centre, most of the adult classes would be accommodated elsewhere but the Council was having trouble finding a space for the pottery group. After the works, which will improve accessibility, it may be that the groups can move back into the original building. Canongate Youth will remain in the building alongside the Fringe Society who intend to run events there year-round. PF welcomes questions after the next meeting which is on Wednesday meeting. Works are planned to start in the Autumn.

PF also mentioned the Circulation Plan, noting that one of the focus points for Southside is the closure of the bridges and potential impacts of this, particularly Cowgate. There will be a consultation for the bridges area but there are delays due to works being complicated at Cameron Toll.

The budget has been done, and includes more investment into roads, which includes pavements/drop kerbs. At the next finance meeting the Braidwood Centre lease will be discussed which concerns DF and the Charteris Centre.

The Causey Development Trust had a street projection event recently. On Saturday at Nicolson Square there was a public music event which went well another one is planned in June. FoNS (Friends of Nicolson Square) were involved in this.

DF asked a question regarding a meeting he attended last month about the Southside Community Grants – when would the award notices be sent out? **Action – PF to follow up on Community Grants.**

SRB brought up a few things that were mentioned by local people at the stall recently. People were concerned about the closure of the South Bridge Resource Centre; also a local homeless person complained of being harassed by begging gangs. PF will feed this back to the Locality Team and Community Police Representatives.

#### **5. Reports from Office Bearers**

Chair – DF reported he has agreed Heads of Terms with the Council for the Braidwood Centre so the next step is for them to prepare the lease.

#### **6. Reports from Committees and meetings attended**

DF and JC attended a funding meeting and contributed to the agreement of where funding would go. They were told the SCC application for the Christmas Lights event was successful but no award letter had been received yet.

#### **7. Planning and Licensing Applications**

SRB reported that there had not been many relevant applications.

NO reported an application on Bernard Terrace regarding a first floor flat which was being converted from four to seven bedrooms (11 person occupancy). Permission had been given in 2018 but it had expired so they renewed it but the notice was not displayed well and there were concerns from neighbours about the number of people that would be on the stair. SRB could not find evidence of the renewal application on the portal. PF recommended reporting it to start a paper trail and ensure it is looked into, whilst she would check the regulatory side. DF noted it would need to be reassessed as fire regulations have changed since 2018. **Action – PF to follow up on the Bernard Terrace HMO.**

SRB circulated a letter from February from Summerhall, explaining that they will be amending their layout and extending opening hours from 1am to 3am on Fridays and Saturdays in some of their spaces. DF noted the SCC had objected on behalf of residents when they had extended hours before but it was approved anyway. The courtyard amplifies the noise. PF advised a written objection can be made or you can attend a meeting and object in person. She recommended forming objections around the Licensing Objectives. **Action – DF to get views of local residents regarding the Summerhall plans.**

#### **8. Community Police Officer Update**

The Community Police Officer was not present. This update would have been regarding the statements given around Hugh Jordan . PP reported the Police had tried to arrest him so that they

could give bail conditions prohibiting him from attending meetings but couldn't get hold of him. If he attends again 999 should be called.

### **9. Safety Advice for Community Council Members**

LL brought this item for discussion as the recent events have been a new situation and caused concern about the safety of CC members. Suggestions were raised to have the meetings in a busier/alternative location, online, or earlier in the evening. Training could be arranged and possibly included in the new CC member training. **Actions - SRB to ask if the venue could be available from 6pm. PF to ask Councillors if they could attend at 6pm, and to discuss member safety with Tom Veitch. DF to contact Stuart Tooley regarding member safety.**

### **10. Stall Feedback**

SRB reported there was more interest earlier in the day and it was very cold so perhaps next time one hour would suffice. Many people learned of the existence of the SCC who had previously not heard of it. Once the website is sorted out more advertising materials can be made.

DF was keen to put more effort into the Meadows Festival this year and work with other Community Councils as well as FoMBL. It would be good to have a Councillor on the stall.

### **11. Pothole Repair Quality**

LL reported on some pothole repairs that had happened near her home recently; it seemed to be done well but they opened up again very quickly. Repairs are layered on top of each other and some are not done. The CC agreed that it was an ongoing issue. In some areas they can do it all in one go but in Southside there are very busy roads so it's harder to schedule the work in. LL had contacted Cllr Scott Arthur. EO noted street lights are also dimmer which in combination with poor road surfaces is very dangerous for cyclists.

### **12. LEZ Changes**

LL brought this item; not everyone was aware of the LEZ and its boundaries. It had been debated how far it would extend and it's now just the City Centre and immediate vicinity. If your car isn't compliant there's a fine which is less if you pay it quickly. There is a changeover period for vans/business vehicles but not private vehicles.

### **13. Public Question Time**

None.

### **12. Any Other Business**

DF gave his apologies for the next meeting.

### **13. Date for Next Meeting: April 8th 2024**