

## **Meeting Minutes Monday 11 May 2015**

7.30pm, Dining Hall, Stewart's Melville College

**Committee present** Ian Hewitt, Alan Denham, Rupert Lezemoore, Eddie Thorn, George Millar, Margaret Richardson

**Ex-Officio present** Gavin Barrie, Lesley Hinds

**Also present** PC Lawrence (Drylaw Police Station), Ross McElhinney, John Adams, Martin Riddell

**Apologies** Nigel Bagshaw, Neil Watt

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Council have secured the Groathill site the ownership of which is in dispute.

### **Police Scotland Report**

- There has been less crime involving housebreaking over the last month but it is Drylaw's number one priority.
- Several youths have been arrested and charged in the for housebreaking related crimes. These are a variety of different individuals, there isn't one cohesive group.
- The Police still consider the helicopter to be a good tool.
- Cllr Barrie requested that we be informed when and why the helicopter is up. The police responded that they would be happy to inform us after the event the purpose of the activity.
- The CC asked if the police could increase officer patrols, the impression being that we only see officers after a crime has been committed. The police responded that this request would be passed up the chain of command.
- Cllr Hinds asked the police if they were able to deal with the pavement parking on Telford

Road. Although sympathetic, the police responded that the crime was one of driving on the pavement, not parking on one and as such was difficult to catch someone in the act.

- The CC asked the police if they were able to provide support for a proposal to install CCTV on the Groathill cyclepath. The police offered to make available crime figures and supporting evidence to the Council in which would contribute to resourcing decision.

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### **Chair's Report**

- Attended INP meeting and reported the following regarding the recent spate of housebreaking:

- Police resources are currently concentrated in Pilton.
- The Council currently pay for some additional police officers under a service level agreement as well as a crime analyst.
- Edinburgh has higher housebreaking rates than other parts of Scotland.

- Reported that the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils AGM is on the 31/05.
- As there are funds available for the EACC, IH is in favour of disbanding the EACC in favour of a good quality website.
- New committee members are to be voted in at the AGM and IH will forward candidates' CVs.

### **Secretary's Report**

- The CBCC would like to thank the outgoing MPs for their service to the Community.
- The CBCC would like to congratulate the incoming MPs and welcome them to the meetings.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Final accounts of the financial year were issued. In summary: income of £611.83, expenditure of £731.41, £1472.34 in surplus.

The annual accounts were approved by Eddie Thorn, seconded by Ross McElhinney.

## Planning Report

None

## CEC Councillors' Report

Cllr Barrie is keen to involve the area's youth in community activity. Households are being asked to identify areas where there is lack of engagement with the area's youth.

## Matters Arising

- Community Council Recruitment
- Current numbers: Councillors 8/12; Nominated 1/6
- Age / gender balance

The above deferred for future discussion

- Communications and conversations via the Secretary's email It was agreed that for the time being the Secretary will forward all incoming mail to the CBCC email account to the CC committee.
- Curbside weeds Various members reported an increase on weeds growing at the curbside and on pavements. Councillors responded that while sympathetic, the Council currently has limited resources to tackle the problem. This is coupled with the requirement to use an environmentally friendly herbicide that is weaker than the traditional one and requires periods of dry weather, which we have not had recently. The Councillors will, however, look into what further can be done.
- Litter Alan Denham reported that the quantities of litter and other detritus, such as leaf matter in the gutters was at an unacceptable level. Cllr Hinds will look into this and has already asked that each area have parked cars removed in order that gutters are cleaned periodically.

## AOCB

Nothing further was discussed.

**Date of the next meeting:** Monday 08 June 2015