

Stockbridge & Inverleith community council

February 2024 draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday February 14th, 2024
in person

In Attendance

S&ICC Community Councillors: Clive Preston (Chair); David Chamberlain (Treasurer); Gregan Crawford; Geoff Calder; Pam Barnes(planning)

Bill Tait (Warriston Residents Association); Alan Baker; Joan Beattie

Ward Councillors: Cllr Max Mitchell; Cllr Jule Bandel

Apologies for absence: MP Diedre Brock, Cllr Hal Osler, Cllr Vicky Nicholson, Tannis Dodd (Secretary), Nigel Clark, Penny Richardson, Jerry Ozaniec

Welcome – Clive Preston

Nigel Clark was co-opted onto the Community Council. Clive Preston proposed him and Gregan Crawford seconded him. Clive has spoken to Jerry Ozaniec who is unwell and has had to give up his licensing role and care of the noticeboards. Clive is to take on the noticeboards and will tidy them up and put in notice re all forthcoming meetings. It was noted that New Town and Broughton CC had put a notice into one of the boards about their meetings. Pam suggested perhaps they had a noticeboard we could put a notice in re our meetings. Licensing is a problem but if anyone is aware of anything coming up then please let us know.

1.Minutes of last meeting. – Clive Preston

Approved January 2024 minutes. A couple of typos to be corrected.

Place Based Investment Fund - Geoff put forward a proposal which was circulated. Wants to address the problem of crowded footways on Raeburn Place especially the route from Dean St to the bus stop. Proposal to widen pavement and remove 5/6 parking spaces to do this. Suggestion from Penny to go all the way down to Cheyne St. Ambitious project and will depend on costings and funding. Approximate costings for the first step would be £70 - £80 thousand. Part of bid would be to do initial work and also do an in-depth study on the pavements in Raeburn Place. Joan said study might have already been done. Cllr Mitchell said it was done and widening certain areas was considered. Difficulty is the removal of the bollards. Said a great idea and the costs may be prohibitive. Geoff met with Isobel Leckie from Living Streets, and she suggested he contact Sean Gilchrist who was very helpful. Tannis had pointed out that removal of parking spaces could cause access problems for the shops for deliveries etc. Cllr Bandel said that there are plans to transform town centres to make them more walking friendly – wondering if Council have already done some work on that. She is to investigate this for Geoff. It is apparently at very early stages. Cllr Mitchell said he had suggested expanding into dead spaces that can't be used anyway to extend pavements. Geoff to talk to Tannis re the problems of offloading for the businesses.

Joan asked if Inverleith Park could put forward a project. Inverleith working group looking to put forward a project. Project has to be put forward by Community Council or ward Councillors.

Review of CC scheme – lots of amendments made to it at Council Meeting so consultation not started yet. Acknowledged lots of Community Councils struggling and how do they widen demographic and encourage more people to attend meetings. No changes re extending powers and budgets – it is the same old thing apart from a change of words. There are three changes to our boundaries. Extending Henderson Row and Glenogle into our area, the SW corner where they want to add a corner of the West End and stopping the boundary at St Stephens St rather than continuing up to Royal Circus. Pam suggested putting in a note about the change at this point as it does not

follow the electoral boundary. Clive met with NTBCC who were not overly concerned with the proposed changes which would impact upon them.

New locks in noticeboard on Saunder St – the Church organised and paid for this to happen as they had lost the keys. Clive has a set of keys as do the Church.

Broughton High School meeting – had a meeting with senior development officer and they are very keen for us to have a meeting with the 5th and 6th years -during their Citizenship slot. Have sent a resume to all the students about what the CC does, and we hope to get questions back from the students to discuss at the meeting. Geoff Calder and Nigel Clark agreed to go along with Clive as did Cllr Bandel. Gregan can possibly go also. Perhaps we will encourage some of them to join the CC. Draft paper on Heating Strategy – Clive not able to get hold of a copy to read it. Problems with recycling discussed. Thought about what happens to the recycling.

St Stephen St clock has stopped again – update on it coming to Culture and Communities Committee but Cllr Mitchell not able to say yet what is going to happen. Problem is someone keeps turning it off – issue known about. Frustrating.

2. Brief reports:

a. Police Scotland – no report

EACC chair Stephen Kerr received an email outlining all the ways the police are trying to communicate with the people. Tannis to forward email.

b. Councillors (on any local matters/action points)

Cllr Jule Bandel

Pavement Parking ban has come in – going smoothly so far.

Transport and Environment Committee – a lot of discussion re new route for trams – decision to let the public comment on the plans to decide which route would be best. Pam questioned the viability of using the Dean Bridge as a tram route into the West End especially as our trams are extra wide.

City Mobility plan – first review not too many changes- people mostly passionate about pavements

Circulation plan – street allocation framework – how do you prioritise parking, walking etc in certain areas.

City Centre Transformation committee basically looking at closing areas of the city centre to traffic. Closing the corridors from north/south – aiming to make it more friendly for pedestrians etc. Clive mentioned petition he had been informed about that were campaigning against the closure of these routes which would push all south/north traffic up Lothian Road. Further report coming in summer looking into how it will affect businesses etc. Looking at implementation of some stages to be trialled next year – initially looking at the Cowgate and then further implementation forward in 2025. Relies on traffic reduction but fears of the plan dividing the city between north and south.

Future of Libraries Consultation is live – closing date 19/4/24. Important for individuals to participate.

Cllr Max Mitchell

He has been inundated with bin hub complaints – phase 4 starting mid-February which affects parts of Stockbridge. Proposal for noise mitigations for glass bins. Looking at pushing servicing bins a little later in the day rather than at 6 in the morning.

Krem Karamel have been going through planning problems – Max told them to submit a removal of condition of how they can operate. Applied for use of property to go with person rather than premises. This was refused. Now going to the Scottish Government. Not given permission to use her oven for baking as it could be used for other things for which it is not allowed. One route is to put in ventilation equipment which is prohibitively expensive.

New alcohol licence applied for La Bocca.

Helping Warriston Residents association with no cold calling signage.

525 Ferry Road agreed with £3m contribution – being appealed and going to Scottish Government.

Joan raised news of potential closure of leisure centres including Glenogle Swimming Pool. Edinburgh Leisure are having difficult financial times however they have now been given a budget and they are not due for closure this year.

c. Chairperson - Clive Preston

Policy and Consultation update sent by Governance Team – quite an extensive list.

Tannis told us the Zoom account has been cancelled since we aren't using it.

d. Secretary – no report

e. Treasurer – David Chamberlain

Have roughly £2000 at moment and we will get next grant in August. No more expenses due to be coming in.

Warriston Residents Association have put in a bid for a grant to improve the small area of the walkway at the end of Warriston Gardens at the back of the playing fields. Scott Hastings initiated community garden there. They want to clear a lot of brambles and improve the area especially to encourage wildlife and they want to raise the canopy of the trees above the steps and put in ericaceous plants to encourage insects. They want to put more labels on the trees along the walkway for people who are interested. Request £1000. Initial request was for £500. Joan suggested other funding sources and will send name of them if she can find them. Concerns that it was a large amount of money. Perhaps a grant of £500 initially as it is rather a lot of our income, and we do have running costs. Slight concern that Warriston Residents Association have already had a fair amount of money already. So far, all the plants that have been put in have been donated. Clive is not happy about cutting back trees. Further discussion between the Community Councillors to be done before we make a decision. David felt we should approve some sort of grant for the project.

f. Roads and transport

covered already

g. Licensing

nothing to report

h. Planning - Pam Barnes

Planning application for Lancers restaurant – initial application was turned down. New application has come in – the front looks almost the same as before. The back of it is different. They now want two balconies which seems worse than before and have not engaged in what the planners said when they refused it. Plan is for an ice cream café we think. Pam to put in an objection similar as to before.

Short term lets – a lot of them coming through and we have been against them. A lot of them have been turned down. Pam would like to write to the planning people with a blanket objection based on two main points. Advised by Cllr Mitchell not allowed. In the Colonies it appears that most of the planning applications there have been approved. Once anyone gets over the hurdle of planning, they then go through on licencing as it is about a personal licence and the objections re amenity, noise etc are not relevant. Cllr Mitchell to send response from Head of Regulatory Services which is very helpful in understanding the legislation.

i. North West Localities – nothing to report

j. Parks and amenities - Glenogle Swimming Pool (discussed above)

Joan contacted Broughton School and their Ecology group is going to come and help in the little orchard in Inverleith Park but still waiting for all their risk assessments to be done before they can come.

k. Environmental issues – nothing to report.

Date and Time of next meeting: Wednesday March 13th, 2024, at 7.00 pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Community Council meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to raise something, please contact the S&ICC.

stockbridgeandinverleithcc@gmail.com

