



March 2024 draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday March 13th, 2024
in person

In Attendance

S&ICC Community Councillors: Clive Preston (Chair); David Chamberlain (Treasurer);
Gregan Crawford; Geoff Calder; Nigel Clark (minutes)

Members of the Community: Peter Chalmers, PC Holly Matheson

Ward Councillors:

None

Apologies for absence: MP Diedre Brock, Cllr Hal Osler, Cllr Vicky Nicholson, Cllr Max Mitchell; Cllr Jule Bandel, Tannis Dodd (Secretary), Penny Richardson, Pam Barnes(planning), Joan Beattie

Welcome – Clive Preston – welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

1.Minutes of last meeting. – Clive Preston
Approved February 2024 minutes.

Police Scotland – PC Holly Matheson – local Community Officer

Holly updated the CC for observations of the routine patrols in the Stockbridge area. She said that the Police received 138 calls during the last period (which is about average) and these included: 29 with regard to a homeless male; a car obstructing; graffiti; domestic disputes; a case of mental health issues and a neighbourhood complaint. There is no crime trend of concern in the issues raised. Clive raised the issue of shoplifting . She stated that there did not appear to be a problem in the area but accepted that many retail outlets did not report incidents.

In addition, they ran traffic checks at Learmonth Terrace, Inverleith Row and Comely Bank – one cautioned. There have been additional routine patrols in areas where previous anti-social behaviour has occurred e.g. in the Sundial Garden in Inverleith Park. Holly added that she now attends on a three weekly basis the Sunday Stockbridge Market where she welcomes face-to-face contact with members of the public to hear their queries and concerns.

Holly advised the CC that she would be back to report to the CC in October but would supply reports for the meetings. Clive thanked her and she left the meeting.

Matters Arising

Clive said that he had got keys to the noticeboard by the bridge and market and had cleaned the surfaces and up-dated the notices of the up-coming Community Council meetings.

Place Based Investment Fund

Geoff Calder referred to the paper he had circulated previously and that the widening of the pavement would cut down the number of parking bays available.

Geoff updated the CC that he had been speaking to people to get their feedback, and with the Council to ensure it would be submitted in the right format. The report has to be submitted within two weeks. One of the outcomes of the report will mean the loss of 6 parking spaces. CC secretary Tannis Dodd had passed the observation through Clive that a decrease in 6 spaces was significant and a loss to businesses of visitor spaces. Also, there was a need to ensure this report was in-keeping with Council-wide strategy with regard to the use of city's streets. Prompted by resident Peter Chalmers it was decided to extend the pavement widening to Cheyne Street would be too far. Geoff added that the report was in keeping with this under the 'reclaiming the streets' strategy. It was agreed that the report should be issued as stated with Geoff Calder as the nominated lead. The report is to be sent to the CC secretary for forwarding to the Council.

Community Council Scheme Review

Clive reported that changes to the scheme had been agreed at the CEC meeting on the 8th of February 2024 and he now had a list of them. These included: time-limiting the position of Chair to 5 years; highlighting the need for a more inclusive and diverse composition of community councils; and including in the 12 week consultation ending on 8th April 2024, the following options for improving access, equality and diversity: time limits for other office bearers; gender balancing mechanisms; increased training; additional sources for encouragement of candidates to Community Councils and resources to support attendance at Community Council meetings including transport and car costs.

Clive expressed concern at the time limiting of the Chair and other Office Bearers as it was very difficult, as it was, to appoint to these posts and, although agreeing in principle with the access, equality and diversity aims, was concerned that rigid application may prevent some Community Councils from functioning. There was general discussion around the issues. In addition, the proposed boundary changes for the area were discussed. It was agreed that the addition of the area at Glenogle Road was probably sensible, that including Buckingham Terrace made no sense. The loss of the area around North West Circus Place would not only make our area not coincident with the Council wards and proposed Scottish Parliamentary constituencies but would also mean the loss of Gregan Crawford from our area. New Town and Broughton CC did not appear to have any strong feelings about taking over the area. Clive stated that he proposed to submit the CC's comments at a face-to-face session with the CEC on either the 25th or 26th of March and he asked the Community Councillors to forward any further comments to him before then.

Visit to Broughton High School (BHS)

Clive reported back on the visit to BHS to discuss issues identified by the senior pupils, at a morning Citizenship session. Clive, Cllr Jule Bandell, Geoff Calder and Nigel Clark attended. The pupils were attentive in what was said and it was proposed with Sally MacMillan, Senior Development Officer that we have future meetings with smaller groups of pupils to address issues they wish to raise.

2. Brief reports:

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

No Councillors were present for the meeting.

Cllr Max Mitchell sent in his report which was read out:

Bin Hubs – I realise this has been a perennial topic. I cannot overstate the upset these have caused. Implementation across Phase 4 (Stockbridge and Canonmills in terms of this area) has caused great upset, requests for site visits. Many report not receiving the notification letter last year. Reviews are taking place of some locations (Saxe Coburg Street, Brandon Street) and a further site visit is to take place for Hamilton Place outside Smith & Gertrude with a subsequent review.

Speed Survey in Inverleith Row completed – average speed of 22mph means that road safety will not take further action as it's within the tolerance.

Parking Pressures – Many complaints and concerns re bin hubs causing loss of parking and impending Finance House application. Have raised with team and still trying to get a meeting.

Re St Stephens clock – [this recent update](#) (see pages 2-3). I was not satisfied with this update, so have requested a further update regarding the solution's implementation or an estimated timeframe for completion.

b. Chairperson - Clive Preston

EACC – Clive informed the CC of the next EACC meeting in the Council Chambers on Community Council engagement to be held on 23rd March and he would attend if possible. This would be the first face to face meeting since 2020.

c. Secretary – no report

d. Treasurer – David Chamberlain

David advised the CC it was the year end for the accounts at the end of March. He had not been advised by the CC secretary of any outstanding bills to account for.

Clive raised the bid for funding from Warriston Residents Association. He proposed that a grant be made for £250 but that it was conditional on no trees being cut back. This was agreed and Clive would ask Tannis to offer this to them.

e. Roads and transport

Clive noted that there had been some complaints of the over size vehicles (quite a few mobile homes) which were long term users of the wide pavement along Ferry Road and that some sort of regulation should be considered. He would speak to Councillors.

f. Licensing

nothing to report.

g. Planning - Pam Barnes (Gregan read out her report in her absence)

Two applications of interest:

1) Financial House at Orchard Brae.

The ownership has changed hands since the site was given planning permission for conversion to residential flats. There is now a new application to turn it into student accommodation - not a full planning application but an outline of what is proposed. Clive went along to their public consultation and will be able to tell you more,

2) Heriot's playing field along Ferry Road.

We objected to their last application which was withdrawn. This is a new application essentially very similar but with a lot more paperwork to show that they are complying with policy. Again Clive will tell you more as he lives close by and is liaising with Trinity CC who also objected last time. It is of interest to people in the area who live along Ferry Rd. It is just on the boundary of our CC.

Clive added he would submit an objection to the Heriots application.

Otherwise a few short term let applications. The CC has discussed STLs in the past and we object to the amount of accommodation in our area that is or trying to become STLs when there is a great need for long term rentals.

h. North West Localities

Money is available (£18,500). Clive had assessed several bids for funding forwarded his views for the decision making.

i. Parks and amenities

Joan Beattie was working on a proposal for development in Inverleith Park but was not at the meeting so nothing was discussed.

j. Environmental issues

Clive informed the CC that the Council was recording the Inverleith Row Air Quality Management. The Scottish Government has accepted the proposal to revoke the Inverleith Row designated Air Quality Management Area. This was because levels had complied with objectives since 2017.

Nigel Clark raised the issue of the deteriorating condition of the public toilets in Hamilton Place. It was pointed out that repairs to the Council owned building would probably cost thousands of pounds and the Council would not in current circumstances have the budget to spend on the building. Nigel spoke up in regard that there must be ways to address the overall scruffiness in direct ways (like cleaning up the torn off posters on the doors and tiles inside) that members of the community could actually do if empowered. It was agreed that our Ward Councillors might be approached to suggest ways where members of the community could help in restoring pride back into our local buildings. It was agreed that initially the status of the building should be ascertained and then permission sought from CEC to make any improvements. Funding was not being sought.

Date and Time of next meeting: Wednesday April 10th, 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 a something, please contact the S&ICC.

stockbridgeandinverleithcc@gmail.com