



October 2024 Draft minutes

of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2024
at Stockbridge Parish Church, Stockbridge, Edinburgh

Present, S&ICC: Nigel Clark (standing in as Chair); David Chamberlain (Treasurer); Gregan Crawford; Tannis Dodd (secretary)

Members of the Community: Ruth Smith; Gillian Woolman; Adam Perek (Warriston Residents Association); Lottie Tiller; Evan Wildman; Peter Wilson; Gaby Cleveland; Amanda Adamson

Ward Councillors and Member of Parliament: Cllr Max Mitchell

Apologies for absence: Holly Harrison; Joan Beattie; Pam Barnes (Planning); Cllr Hal Osler; Cllr Jule Bandel; Peter Chalmers; Clive Preston (Chair).

CC Chair – Welcome from Nigel Clark standing in as Chair.

Minutes. Minutes from meeting in September 2024 were approved.

Matters arising:

CC Review – no update yet.

Public toilets in Hamilton Place – still waiting to have the doors painted.

Meeting at Broughton High School on 18th November 2024. Gregan has agreed to attend along with Clive Preston and Cllr Max Mitchell. Still looking for a 4th person to join in though David Chamberlain said he would be happy to go along if no one else comes forward. The purpose of the meetings with the students is to spread the word about the Community Council and to give awareness to local democracy.

2. Brief reports:

a. Police Scotland

PC Holly Matheson, local community officer, was not in attendance and we do not have a report, but Nigel reminded us that she is in attendance at the Stockbridge Market every three weeks where you can go and chat to her and raise any issues you may have.

Max also mentioned that there had been a break in at a flat in the Saxe Coburg area on October 11th, 2024, at about 9.20 pm. If anyone saw anything or has any information relating to this then please contact the Police.

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

Cllr Max Mitchell - Stockbridge Clock at France Manca – they are in the process of separating the switches to stop the staff turning off the clock.

Fitness trail – they are trying to get funding to replace the equipment that has been removed. They were removed as the wood was rotting.

c. Chair

Place Based Investment programme to which we put forward two projects – the whole bid has been paused because the Council are not sure if they are going to receive the money set aside for the projects.

d. Secretary: Nothing to report.

e. Treasurer:

We have now had confirmation that the accounts for 2022-2023 have been received and confirmed that the Council have also received the 2023- 2024 accounts. As we were late in submitting the 2022-2023 accounts, we have not received our grant, but we will get it in their next tranche of payments. In the meantime, David has loaned the CC £820 which will be returned to him once we get our grant. Gregan thanked David for this gesture. David said that there are limited funds for Community projects if anyone is looking for funding.

f. Transport

There is a lot of work going on in CC area. Max has received complaints about the work at the Inverleith Place roundabout by SGN. This should be finished in a few days. The work will then be moving further down on the south side of Inverleith Place. This is for ongoing work for the purpose of installing and connecting a heat pump for the Botanic Gardens. It may be in place for some time. Tree trimming on Orchard Brae is finally due to happen October 20th.

Roads and pavements - the upgrade of the junction at Deanhaugh St and Leslie Place is due to start October 21st and should take about 6 weeks. The 36, 24 and 29 bus routes will be disrupted during this time.

Comments were made about Dean Bank Lane and what a terrible condition the pavements are in. Max thinks they are in the Capital Budget to be repaired but was going to check.

g. Environment:

Bin hubs

There is a meeting of TEC 3rd week in November to look at the rules governing the positioning of bin hubs now that the in person and online meetings to discuss this have taken place.

The next phase will be 5C, the Dean Bridge area and the St Bernards Crescent area which is part of the World Heritage Centre.

h. Licensing and Planning

Nothing for licensing.

30 North West Circus place – Cata – put in for Listed Building Consent for alterations of the shop front. Also, the second application is for change of use from Class 1 and Class 3 restricted to unrestricted Class 3. They appear to be operating as if their application has been granted but until it has been granted or refused, they can't be challenged. Local residents were in attendance to say they are still having terrible times with the smells coming from the restaurant, the noise and the condensation in their flats occurring from their use of equipment. It was also noted that cooking was occurring in the basement where there was no evidence of extraction or ventilation. Pam Barnes has put in an objection and Max has been very helpful. The residents have also been in touch with Environmental Health Officers who have been very helpful and do have a say in the granting of planning permissions.

Short term lets – no update yet but it was noted that even when an application was refused the applicant has a right to appeal and during this time can continue operating their short term lets.

NW Localities: These are being reviewed because of governance processes and have not been so successful.

The Inverleith Community Grants Fund panel has met recently and agreed various grants to community groups. In their last round of decision making both Stockbridge Primary and LifeCare were successful with their applications. If you are part of a constituted local group that is looking for funding for a specific purpose, then get in touch with Inverleith Community Grants Funding or Cllr Max Mitchell.

Parks and Amenities: nothing yet resolved regarding the position of the permanent toilets in Inverleith Park. There is a suggestion to have them positioned to the West of the Milk Coffee van.

AOB

Road Safety - Gillian Woolman, a resident of Oxford Terrace, raised the issue of the speed of traffic on the Queensferry Road around the blind corner heading towards the Dean Bridge and also away from the Dean Bridge. A speed survey was done in June where it was established that traffic was going at an unacceptable speed. One of the main offenders is the buses. The issue was written about in the Evening News and has had great feedback. She first raised this issue about the speeding traffic three years ago and nothing appears to have been done about it. The big issue is that it is a blind corner and there is no policing of the speed of the traffic.

Max said he is not sure what action will be taken but it has been confirmed that it will be investigated.

Closure of Little Dobbies – Comely Bank. It was confirmed that this branch of Little Dobbies will be closing on November 30th, 2024. There are other branches of Little Dobbies closing around the country. Lottie Tiller, a local resident and student of journalism, wanted to know how the community felt about this. It was generally felt that it would be missed in the community and there was concern as to what might take over the unit.

Lottie was asked what she felt about our meeting and felt it was interesting to see how local issues are dealt with and felt it was a great forum for people to air their views.

The meeting closed with Gregan thanking Nigel for chairing the meeting in Clive's absence and thanked Max for his input to the meeting.

7.Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday November 20th, 2024, at 7pm. Please note this will be the last meeting of the year.

Members of the public are welcome to attend community council meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to raise a subject, please contact the S&ICC at stockbridgeandinverleith@gmail.com or visit our website www.stockbridgeandinverleithcc.org.uk