JUNIPER GREEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Committee Room at JG Village Hall,

Baberton Avenue, on Wednesday 28th September 2016 starting at 7pm.

**Attendees:** Ian Gilmour, Vic Stewart, Cliff Beevers, Richard Watt, Ken Davies, Anne Wimberley, Norma McGeever, Alison Walker, Ann Smith, Nigel Rickard, John McLeish, Margaret Follon, PC Annette Oliphant, Councillors Dominic Heslop and Ricky Henderson,

**1. Apologies:** Cliff Beevers, Helen Ogg, Serena Broadway, Gordon Miller, Russell Salton, Susan Perriss, Anthea Grierson, Councillor Bill Henderson and Gordon Lindhurst MSP.

In Cliff’s absence Vic took the chair.

**2. Minutes of 24th August 2016, Meeting and Matters Arising:** the minutes of 24th August were accepted as a true record.

**•** Ricky Henderson had met Margaret Follon on Wed 31st August to discuss local issues and the idea of a residents’ group. Margaret reported some progress on forming a residents’ association with the formation of a steering group. She had been encouraged by very positive responses at a meeting with CEC officials who included the housing officer.

**•** Ricky had passed on contact with Crawford McGhie (CEC Assets Planning Manager) to Cliff. Cliff had emailed Crawford seeking assurances about CC involvement in any consultation about catchment boundary reviews affecting the JGCC area. Crawford had emailed on 8th September as follows: “My current estimate for this statutory consultation going ahead is early 2018; however this would be entirely dependent on a development being proposed or progressed by that time.”

**•** Update on the repairs at the JG Village Hall: Malcolm had reported that the tender period had now finished and he hoped CEC would decide quickly on who would carry out the necessary work. However, the building warrant had not been received. The councillors present were asked if they would chase up the officials on this matter as the timetable seemed to be slipping again. Ricky said that the tender period was now complete, but the process was taking longer than expected. He agreed to investigate.

**3. Reports and recent meetings:**

**3.1 Secretary:** Richard reported that the Kinleith Mill pub had requested an adjustment to its licence on the admission of children.

**3.2 Treasurer:** Ken’s report showed no financial activity in the past month other than a payment of £300 from the Scottish Book Trust into the No2 account which stood at £8,448.33. The No1 account contained £748.79.

**3.3 Monthly local planning matters:** Archie Clark was thanked for providing a thorough and detailed report for JGCC following Neil Ingram’s resignation. Training for Neil’s successor was available through CEC. The Friends of Curriemuirend Park had submitted a detailed 16 page document to CEC objecting to the Reporter’s decision to retain the park’s designation for housing development in the LDP. However, the submission had been largely ignored by the Planning Committee. Archie had asked on behalf of SWCF for a two month delay so that CCs would have time to assess the latest SESplan proposals. Cliff’s letter to the Planning Department registering JGCC’s objections to the Newmills Road, Balerno, planning application for 207 housing units was submitted to the meeting for comments and feedback. The hedge on Woodhall Terrace had not been cut back despite the letter from CEC to the owner threatening that if he took no action the Council would do the work and charge him for it. Vic suggested that two Newcastle students seconded to the Edinburgh Planning Department, who had produced a report on traffic volumes for Corstorphine CC, might possibly be asked to attend a JGCC meeting to present their findings and also perhaps be asked if they could perform a similar service for the Lanark Road corridor.

**3.4 Meetings:** Norma had had a productive meeting at Juniper Green Church with Jim Dewar and representatives of the Palm Café, Balerno, discussing the idea of starting a similar monthly café at the church for people with advanced memory loss or dementia to coincide with the current lunch held on the last Friday of each month. Money from the Neighbourhood Partnership would be applied for to assist with transport. It had been calculated that £5,000 would cover set-up costs, but ongoing finance in subsequent years had not been considered. Ian commented that the timetable for accessibility improvements to the church was another factor to be taken into account.

**4. Police report:** Annette reported that in August two cars had been stolen from a house on Lanark Road and in September two hairdressers premises had been broken into, but only small sums of money taken. There had been a break-in on Baberton Mains Way, but it was not known if anything had been stolen. Two domestic assaults had been reported. 20 mph speed limits were being monitored. There was good news on Community Policing: fewer officers would be allocated to community work but they would be relieved of other duties so that they could concentrate on the localities they had been assigned to and would provide greater continuity at CC meetings. Euan and Ali would be the funded officers for Ward 2.

**4.1 Safety committee meeting:** Vic had no real issues to report; the meeting had been mainly taken up with other areas’ concerns about crime.

At this point Dominic, in the role of returning officer, took the chair in order to receive nominations and secondments and to conduct the vote for office bearers.

**5. Changing of the guard (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Minute Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, Planning Convenor):** Dominic, as returning officer, said that because there had been only nine valid nominations for JGCC no election would be needed. He pointed out that Ian would have to be coopted at the next meeting. He then asked for nominations of office bearers. The following appointments were made as a result: Chair, Cliff Beevers; Vice-chair, Vic Stewart; Treasurer, Alison Walker; Minutes Secretary, Ian Gilmour; Correspondence Secretary, Russell Salton; Planning Convenor, John McLeish. Both Cliff and Vic had agreed to occupy their posts on an interim basis only so as to provide continuity between the old and the new JGCCs.

**6. JGCC matters:**

**6.1 Pentlands Book Festival news:** Russell had reported by email that regarding PBF16 we were where we should be.  All events had been confirmed (except for one school event, Nether Currie); we had sent our publicity to Scottish Book Trust; we had received £300 in funding from Scottish Book Trust; we had 2 other sets of funding to claim after the event; we had set up the revised website <http://www.pentlandsbookfestival.org/>; we had set up Eventbrite for issuing tickets and were doing final checks to ensure all would function as it should before going live. We had also started work on PBF17, with 2 confirmed bookings, James Robertson, and Doug Johnstone. For the benefit of new members of JGCC Richard outlined the development of the Book Festival, in particular its extension into Colinton, its sources of funding and sponsorship, the venues being used and its major events.

**6.2 Heritage Angels Award:** Richard explained that JGCC had accepted his proposal that it should support the nomination of the Baberton Mains History Group for the Scottish Civic Trust’s Heritage Angel Awards. The group had been shortlisted as one of three finalists for an award in the Investigating and Recording category and had been invited to the Awards Ceremony on 18th October at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh.

**6.3 Village Trust/Progress on asset transfer:** consultations had continued at the Open Door Café at JG Parish Church, at a parents’ evening at JGPS and in St Margaret’s Court. An estimated additional 200 residents had now been contacted about the ideas for the abandoned public toilet site so, in all, about 10% of the residents had now been consulted and the message that there was sufficient child care in JG had been noted. Cliff and Vic had visited Dig In, a cooperative fruit and veg shop in Bruntsfield to hear about another model for organizing volunteers at a retail outlet. Russell had modified the SCIO constitution in line with advice from Community Ownership Scotland. We now had in excess of 100 trust members as required by the amended constitution. Cliff had attended the meeting chaired by Ricky to discuss stage 1 of JGCC’s request for the asset transfer of the toilet site from CEC into community ownership. Progress was being made but a further meeting with CEC officials would be required to take the process to the start of stage 2 where a full business plan was needed. There had been a lot of support by consultees for a shop, but Molly’s was now opening a shop selling papers and vegetables in the former Wood’s Deli which would make a community owned shop unviable. Nevertheless it was agreed that Molly’s initiative was a very welcome one and that the new shop would be a most valuable asset to the village which everyone should support.

**6.4 Invitation to attend opening of Gordon MacDonald’s office;** email sent earlier. There were no takers for this invitation.

**7. Councillors’ Corner:** the councillors had nothing to add to what had already been said.

**8. Other responsibilities:** PNP, JGVHO, Friends of Curriemuirend Park: who was to take these responsibilities on was postponed to the next meeting. There was to be a meeting of the JGVHO on the next day. Vic brought JGCC up to date on the resilient community initiative. He had spoken to St Margaret’s Court residents on the subject. Finding out who in a community was vulnerable was a major problem. Schools under PFI were not available as emergency centres and other suitable premises had to be found.

**9. AOCB:**

**9.1 The annual cross country competition at Curriemuirend Park on** Saturday 1 October would start at midday. The organizers had requested help with stewarding and asked that stewards be present at 11.15am to check out duties.

**9.2** Ian raised the question of what was happening to the boarded-up house at Gillespie Crossroads which he had heard was to have become a centre for autistic people. Ricky thought the City Council was trying to dispose of the property and undertook to investigate the situation.

**10. Date and venue of the Next Meeting, walkabouts etc.** To be decided in the loner term by the new committee. It was agreed to continue in the meantime with meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting would therefore be held in the Village Hall Committee Room on Wednesday 23 November.

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