JUNIPER GREEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the committee Room at JG Village Hall, Baberton Avenue on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 starting at 7pm

Attendees: Ian Gilmour, Cliff Beevers, Alison Walker, PC Ali Murdoch, Russell Salton, Margaret Follon, Jim Ferguson, Vic Stewart and Councillor Ricky Henderson.

Apologies: Nigel Rickard, John McLeish and Councillor Bill Henderson

Visitors: Neil Gardiner (prospective SNP councillor in the forthcoming election)

Minutes of February 22nd Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

\* Nigel had attended the opening of the new library at JGPS on Thursday 2nd March.  Headteacher Anthea was very welcoming and the event was well organised and the children very enthusiastic.  It was great to see such an impressive facility becoming available in our community - in addition to an already very impressive school

\*Vic, Nigel and Russell had received de-fib training at JGPS.

3. Reports and recent meetings

3.1 Secretary: Russell forwarded information ahead of the meeting of a draft bid to engage a part-time development worker to build up the dementia work which has grown out of the PALM Café in Balerno. If successful, the worker would liaise with existing organisations including the monthly soup and roll lunch in JG Parish Church. The whole project to be managed by a representative from each of the 3 valley CCs and a local charity worker. The committee unanimously endorsed the request. Russell agreed to write on our behalf to that effect.

CEC currently funds a number of supported, or subsidised, bus services in the city, principally for reasons of social inclusion and the support of local communities. This support tends to be aimed at service provision where there is a clear social need.  CEC had written to ask for comments on the current supported buses serving our area. Russell advised that, following feedback from JGCC members, he had written to support services 18,20 and 63. With reference to the information that the 45 bus Saturday service was being withdrawn, Ricky proposed that contact be made with LTC and Russell agreed to invite them to one of our next meetings.

3.2 Treasurer: No. 1 account has £728.70 and no. 2 account £8697.08. The C&B News has donated £1000 to this year’s Pentlands Book Festival for which we are most grateful. David Geary has agreed to audit the books again this year. It is hoped to hold the AGM on Wednesday 31 May, time to be decided, Cliff to check accommodation. It was suggested that an inducement to attend might be encouraged by some wine and nibbles.

3.3 Monthly local planning matters: There has been little of note except the proposal to build at 14 Belmont Road. John had sent in a detailed note about why it should be refused which was accepted by the committee. Archie Clark had prepared some extensive notes on the 84 questions which formed the Scottish Planning Consultation document. He had asked for comments on the 4 key questions and this document had been circulated in advance of the meeting for comment. The committee agreed to ask Archie to include JGCC in the key question responses as part of the South West Communities Forum submission. If time permits Cliff hopes to provide an additional submission from JGCC on the key questions. With thanks to Archie Clark the following list of planning applications and decisions is recorded:

**Applications**

**6 February 2017**

No entries

**13 February 2017**

16/05909/FUL - Extension of dwelling house, replacement of garage with new and expansion of hard-standing driveway at 28 Baberton Crescent, Edinburgh. EH14 5BP. *Minor works. At 27.3.2017 - Awaiting assessment.*

17/00477/FUL - Install Driveway at 5 Juniper Avenue Edinburgh EH14 5EG. *Minor works. At 27.3.2017 - Awaiting assessment.*

17/00480/FUL - Construction of single storey extension to rear of dwelling with timber decking fitted around same at 10 Baberton Mains Bank , Edinburgh EH14 3ED. *Drawings difficult to read but appears minor. At 27.3.2017 - Awaiting assessment.*

**20 February 2017**

17/00478/FUL - Form new rooflights to serve attic conversion at 30 Woodhall Millbrae Juniper Green EH14 5BH. *Minor inconsequential proposal. At 27.3.2017 - Awaiting assessment.*

**27 February 2017**

No entries

**6 March 2017**

17/00884/PAN - Proposed development of a new research and innovation centre including informal conference facilities, offices, teaching and meeting rooms, cafe and food areas with associated landscaping, car parking access and infrastructure works at Caddon Hall, Ettrick Hall, Yarrow Hall, First Gait Currie EH14 4AS. *Typically inadequate information on what is proposed. Viewing is scheduled for 2-7pm on 25th/26th April at the H-W main reception area.*

**13 March 2017**

No new entries

**20 March 2017**

17/00862/FUL - Erection of a dwelling house at Land 21 Metres West of 14 Belmont Road, Juniper Green. *While the 2-storey house appears to be uncontroversial, the address is misleading. The site is in Juniper Green Conservation Area and is the subdivided rear portion of land at 16/18 Belmont Road. A planning application (02/01236/FUL) submitted by G.Andrews to construct a new double garage at 16A Belmont Road Edinburgh EH14 5DY was refused by CEC, but granted on appeal. While there are no drawings to show its location, a trench was dug for the foundations, but the garage has never been built. This might have artificially enhanced the ‘value’ of the site. The current plans state that the non-existent garage is to be removed, with outdoor parking provided for four cars. There may be an issue about the rear access to the site from Juniper Park Road, off the route to Bloomiehall Park. It is unclear whether the access is on to a Right of Way to the Park or just shy of the end of the actual road. It is noted that the adjacent dwelling house mentioned in the description is not accessed from Juniper Park Road (which it closely abuts) but down a long lane to Belmont Road, suggesting that that house was not allowed access from Juniper Park Road. Whether that might apply to this proposal would require the 2002/2003 appeal documents to be reviewed. At 27.3.2017 - Awaiting assessment.*

**27 March 2017**

No new entries.

**Decisions**

**6 February 2017**

No entries

**13 February 2017**

No entries

**20 February 2017**

16/03972/FUL - Existing Public Toilet + Shop Redevelopment to form Office, Shop, 2x 1st Floor Apartments with Courtyard + Detached Townhouse on Adjacent Site. (as amended) at 529 Lanark Road Edinburgh EH14 5DE. *Granted.* *Juniper Green loses a few more car parking places when the ‘townhouse’ gets built on the east side of the road down to the Walkway. If the RBS bank is sold, the Council should buy it to provide much needed car parking to help revitalise the businesses in the community.*

**27 February 2017**

No entries

**6th March 2017**

No entries

**13th March 2017**

No entries

**20th March 2017**

16/06135/FUL - Erection of a garden room / storage shed at 39 Juniper Avenue Edinburgh EH14 5EE. *Lodged 23 and 30th January 2017. Granted 17th March 2017.*

**27th March 2017**

16/05810/FUL - Residential Development (up to 32 dwellings) with associated car parking, access, open space, drainage infrastructure and other associated development on site 46 metres South-west of 26 Hailesland Place, Edinburgh*. This development comprises several 2- and 4-storey high buildings, for rent, on a cleared site between the Union Canal and Holy Trinity Church. Granted 24th March 2017.*

3.4 Meetings: Margaret had met with Louise Muir, South West Villages Community Liaison Worker, and she explained again the task facing Louise in making contact with lonely people. To this end Louise has organized an inter-generational meeting on Thursday 20 April 12-3pm in the Gibson-Craig Hall. Russell agreed to put posters out when they arrive.

Vic attended the funding committee meeting where proposals of £21k were considered but only £14k remained in the fund so projects that were not time critical were postponed into the budget for next year which was likely to be around £42k.

4. Police report: Alistair reported on house break-ins in Baberton Mains and Baberton Crescent, theft of papers from the deli, a racist incident in the JG main street, a congregation of youths in Woodhall Drive one Saturday night and vandalism of a car in Juniper Place. The recent death in the Water of Leith was not suspicious and did not impact on safety along the walkway.

4.1 Safety committee meeting: Vic reported on last week‘s meeting where they were informed that a new police inspector would take over from Inspector Duthie on 24 March. Parking issues remain at the Pentlands Surgery and Link housing. The penalty for dog fouling has doubled to £80. There was still no report on the pilot study about car parking near schools at start and finish times.

5. JGCC matters

5.1 Traffic issues: The sub-group set up to consider these matters will be led by Alison and includes Ian and Nigel from JGCC and a concerned parent Dr Richard Taylor. The group were encouraged to seek information on frequency and speed of cars in the back streets, selfish parking as reported in several emails and the possible provision of loading bays. A report is hoped to be ready when the new CEC has been elected.

5.2 Closure of RBS branch: It is now clear that RBS will not be changing their minds about the closure. It was important that JGCC continued to talk to RBS to be sure of their intention but now the most likely option is to see if the Scottish Government’s suggested solution of a credit union plus post office could work in this area. To that end meetings have been arranged with Pollok CU in Glasgow this coming Friday and Castle Community Bank in East Edinburgh next Wednesday morning. Cliff asked if JGCC were prepared to pay expenses of travel and they agreed.

5.3 Signs on private land: Following the discussion in the last meeting the sign to Molly’s had been taken down while investigations continue on what can and cannot be done by way of advertising on private land. Conflicting advice was obtained so Cliff was asked to send the information from Councillor Heslop onto Sarah at the deli indicating that an A board could be displayed without planning permission but with Councillor Ricky Henderson’s views reported too that advertising does need some form of planning agreement. It is hoped that clarification will be forthcoming at our next meeting.

 6. Councillors’ Corner: there was nothing to add.

7. AOCB

7.1 Representative on JGVHA: Cliff hopes to attend the next meeting but will keep in touch with their committee by telephone otherwise. Nigel has volunteered to go along to the April meeting. The news on progress with the repairs is positive with the hope that the work will be completed by the end of the month.

7.2 Edinburgh Association of Community Councils has a meeting on Thursday 23 March, is anyone able to represent JGCC at the meeting? No one volunteered.

7.3 Hustings is to be organized jointly by WHCC and Currie CC and will take place on Wednesday 12 April at the Gibson-Craig Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm

7.4 Craig Dunlop emailed to say that he has 500 hornbeam whips ordered for 27th March and intends to have them planted in a double row on the 29th in place of the “removed” hedge in front of the west wall in Bloomiehall Park.

7.5 Jim informed the meeting that a path had been cleared around Curriemuirend Park and Craig Dunlop hopes to create a wildlife meadow there in the future.

7.6 Concerning the Scottish Government Consultation on Unconventional Oil and Gas, Russell agreed to express the wish of the committee to oppose fracking since it is not in accord with the Scotland Energy Plan.

8. Date and venue of the next meeting, walkabouts etc: April 14 for the next walkabout and April 26 for our next scheduled meeting.

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