

Minute of meeting held on Wednesday 15 June 2022

At The Open Door, 240 Morningside Road.

Present:

Office bearers: Willie Black (WB), Goff Cantley (GC)

Members: Caroline McKinley, John Robson, Moira Gibson, Jennifer Scarce.

PC Brandon McKendrick (Community Police Officer), Stephen Knox and Jamie Watson (CEC Flood Prevention and Gully Maintenance officers),

Attendees: Arne Strid, Geoff Murray, Ali Wright, Stephen Knox and Jamie Watson (Flood Prevention and Gully Maintenance), Fiona Stevenson, Dianne Mollineu, Aileen Haggart, Andy Dunn.

Apologies:

Jill Powlett-Brown, Maciej Malaszuk, Cllr Ross, Cllr Parker, Cllr Munro, Cllr Watt, John Percival, Sheena Nimmo, Carol Duncan, Tamsin Kilgour.

1. Police Report

- The Police officer gave an update on Operation Slowtime. This Op is about promoting road safety and encouraging safe and considerate parking, particularly around the local schools.
- When officers are available they also act on Parking offences, such as parking on zig zag lines and pavements.
- Recently Police Crime prevention stalls were held outside M&S, Hermitage of Braids and Morningside Library.
- The Police also participated on Career's day at George Watson College.

A discussion followed with a number of issues raised by attendees and answered by the Police officer. In particular, in response to attendees concern about van drivers and taxi drivers mounting the pavements to drive round the modal filters, PC McKendrick agreed to add the modal filters on the Midmar estate to a list of the Patrolled areas.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

MCC agreed that the minutes of last meeting are an accurate record of how the meeting transpired

Website - No target set this month.

Air quality sensors - No data available at present.

Planters - to be ordered shortly and hopefully will be in place, later in the summer, both on the corner of Braid Crescent and Braid Road, and also in the cemetery.

3. Travelling safely- including Travel survey update

CMcK gave some interesting insights into the results of the survey.

- We had 755 responses and the respondents reflected a good range of different ages.
- Half of the people, who responded, live locally, and the other half, live in other areas of Edinburgh. 2/3 of the people come every day or a few times a week.

- Most people walk or cycle, only 15% had driven – The main reasons for driving were mobility or disability issues, people had come from further afield and/or the respondents were doing a large shop.
- Volume of traffic was the main thing that upset people, alongside pavements problems and cycle lanes.
- Reinstatement of the railway line was the most popular desire, followed by more cycle racks, safer crossings on the road, fewer parking spaces, and nice outside places to sit and chat.
- CMcK can carry out further research on the results.

4. Planning

GC – 3 Cluny Avenue want to demolish double garage and build a new one with studio and gym above it. No decision has yet been made.

JR – Phonemast installed at Falcon Road West

5. Presentation on Drain Clearing and Flood Prevention

- Stephen Knox summarised his role as overseeing the maintenance of 8 reservoirs within Edinburgh, the inspection of 100 km of water courses in the City, the maintenance of the flood prevention infrastructure, the refurbishment of the Queensferry harbour, and the Council's 24/7 flood response. He also works with nearby Councils, Scottish Water, SEPA and Scottish Government to develop a water plan for the region.
- Jamie Watson's presentation was on Edinburgh's drainage (drainage information sheet was distributed)
- The City's current draining infrastructure has served us well, but combined sewers can no longer cope with increased intense rainfall. To retrofit the city's sewers would cost billions. So as a city we have to find alternative solutions, focusing on above-ground solutions, keeping green spaces green to absorb extra rainfall and permitting residents to disconnect their own downpipe and install water butt.
- CEC is responsible for 56,063 gullies across the city.
- Drains are on a 2-year cyclic maintenance, with particularly sensitive gullies inspected every 6 months. The focus is on planned maintenance, as it 2.5 times more effective than responding to individual reports.
- With climate change and the increased rainfall, the gullies are not designed to cope with the amount/intensity of the rainfall.
- There are also issues arising through poor disposal of materials by contractors.

There followed a discussion where the officers responded to residents specific concerns.

6. Financial Position

WB reported - £5494 in the MCC account. However a number expenses are due

-£150 rent of Open Door

-£360 reimbursements of costs for survey

-£2,500 planters

-£100 contribution towards Edinburgh Association of Community Councils

Once these items are paid WB anticipates the account will be reduced to around £2,000.

7. AOCB

Concerns were raised about vans parking on the pavement on Comiston Rd. It was explained that it is Police issue as far as committing a crime is concerned but councillors would be best on preventative measures.

JR asked what are the road changes happening on Canaan Lane at the Astley Ainslie entrance. MCC to contact the Council.

8. Date of the next meeting. Wed 20th July 2022, 7:30pm at the Open Door.

