**JUNIPER GREEN AND BABERTON MAINS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Community Council Meeting 4 December 2017

In attendance: Members – Vic Stewart (Chairing), Russell Salton, Alison Walker, Nigel Rickard, Jim Ferguson, Cliff Beevers, Lynn Elliott, (attended for later part of meeting)

Ex officio - Cllr Susan Webber, Cllr Neil Gardiner, Cllr Ricky Henderson, PC Oliver Ford

Visitors: Ken Davies, Jeanette Campbell, Robert Anderson, Aonghas McIntosh, Gordon Miller, Hilary Riddell, David Riddell, Gordon Millar

1. Apologies: Anthea Grierson, Ian Gilmour, Anne Wimberley

Items

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting of 25 October** were accepted. Matters arising would be covered under other items

3 . Reports and Recent Meetings

**3.1 School Notes.** Cliff mentioned that the ‘Safe Routes to School’ initiative is being partially successful at persuading parents not to use their cars to deliver children to school. Cliff also mentioned that the date for the traffic survey (to be conducted by members of the community) has not yet been set but it would probably take place in February.

**3.2 Secretary.** Russell referred to an email received from CC containing a guidance note for Edinburgh Community Councils on Information Governance in light of the new General Data Protection Regulations. He will summarise and circulate the action the CC needs to take.

**3.3 Treasurer.** Ali presented her monthly accounts which indicated that funds had been raised by the Groundwork Grant; sale of Baberton History books; donation from Rotary. Expenses were made to print leaflets and to pay insurance

Present balances: No1 A/C £2237.78 No 2 £8943.37

**3.4 Monthly local planning matters**

VS made the following comments:

* Objections to various planning issues were made at the last meeting
* Some Edinburgh planning issues are being ‘farmed out’ to other councils (EG Aberdeen). It was unclear whether this has impacted on decisions in Edinburgh.
* The CC has made a complaint to Edinburgh Council re. the decision to award planning permission for a home(s) at 16 Belmont Road
* The former RBS site has been offered by the purchaser for office accommodation

The consultation on the proposed change of school catchment area was the focus of lengthy discussion. An SW Forum has already met to discuss the proposals (CB attended).

Cllr Susan Webber informed CC that the original catchment area review was only intended to include primary schools. This was then changed for the review to include only the secondary schools. She said that very little time ha(s)d been given to discuss the proposals. She explained that changes to catchment in the areas to west and north of Balerno will potentially reduce Balerno HS catchment

to only Dean Park PS. This would affect the viability of BHS. It was therefore being proposed to include primary schools in Currie.

The viability of Currie HS has caused a great deal of anxiety in the community with a proposal to close Currie HS and WHEC and replace them with a new school in Curriemuirend. Cllr Gardener told the CC that CHS currently requires £6.8m of urgent repairs based on a recent structural review. The consultation papers do not allow for the reconstruction of CHS which at current rates wouId cost in the region of £45m

It was stressed in the meeting that the closure of CHS would have a very damaging effect on the community of Currie if children were potentially split into 2 other school locations.

CC and members of the community are urged to make contributions on the consultation website <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/forms/form/428/en/edinburgh_schools_review>, which closes for comments on 9 February, or email [schoolsreview@Ed.Gov.UK](mailto:schoolsreview@Ed.Gov.UK).

One suggestion was that consideration should be made for locating a new secondary school on the green field site between Bloomiehall Park and Muirwood Road. The CC felt this was a far better location that Curriemuirend. However, there is a major issue here concerning the electricity pylons and cables

**3.5 Baberton Living Landscape**. Cllr Webber reported that an area of rough ground near Baberton Mains Hill is being landscaped and improved by the council

**4 Police Report**

PC Ford reported that the SW Area had a recent focus on 1) Road Safety 2) Crime Prevention. A ‘speed trap’ police van was being used sporadically on Lanark Road.

There has been a spate of crime in Juniper Green recently involving minor break ins and thefts from parked cars. Many of these had happened over a 24/48 period around 23 November and it was speculated that one individual might be the perpetrator.

5 **JGBMCC matters**

**5.1 Update on traffic issues**. CB mentioned that he has recently written an article for Konect inviting people to volunteer to help with the traffic survey (see 3.1 above)

**5.2 Banking without bankers**. CB has recently circulated an email to CC members advising them that the report from the consultants is still expected later this month

**5.3 Dementia Project**. This is still ongoing with VS and CB keen to support

**5.5 Pentland Book Festival**. This has been progressing very well with an especially entertaining evening of ‘Paul Temple’ drama at Porteous

**5.6 ‘Ribbon of Poppies’**. An invitation to support an initiative to commemorate the 100 anniversary of WW1 has been received. CC agreed to support by purchasing poppy seed for appropriate planting around the village

**5.7 Grant Funding meeting.**  This meeting will be taking place on 13 December

**5.8 Baberton History Project.** CB reported that the website continues to be developed and is hoped to be finished early next year.

**5.9 New Seat at Dr Mackay’s Wood.** CB reported that Craig Dunlop (CEC) has overseen the positioning of this seat – which was welcomes

**6 Councillors Corner** – (issues covered previously in minutes)

**7 AOB** Mr **A**onghas McIntosh was co-opted onto the CC. Mr McIntosh is particularly interested in the school boundary issue and he will attend a meeting on behalf of the CC on Tuesday 5 December

**8. Next meeting:** Wednesday 24 January 2018 at 7pm in JGVH committee room