JUNIPER GREEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

Baberton Avenue, on Wednesday 24th August 2016 starting at 7pm.

**Attendees:** Ian Gilmour, Vic Stewart, Neil Ingram, Cliff Beevers, Helen Ogg, Richard Watt, Ken Davies, Norma McGeever, PC Ali Murdoch, Councillor Dominic Heslop,

**Visitors:** Serena Broadway, Alison Walker, Gordon Lindhurst MSP, Darren Cormack.

**1. Apologies:** Anthea Grierson, Gordon Miller, Russell Salton, Anne Wimberley, Susan Perriss and Councillors Ricky Henderson and Bill Henderson.

**2. Minutes of 22nd June 2016, Meeting and Matters Arising:** the minutes of 22nd June were accepted as a true record.

• Following the June meeting, Ricky Henderson had explained by email that he had arranged a meeting with Margaret Follon on Wed 31st August to discuss local issues and the idea of a residents’ group.

• In another action Ricky had also emailed Crawford McGhie, CEC Assets Planning Manager, seeking assurances about CC involvement in any consultation about catchment boundary reviews. He was awaiting a response and would provide an update as soon as possible.

• Scottish Heritage Angel Awards: Richard had applied for an award to be given to the Baberton Mains History Group for their project. Helen took the opportunity to bring the meeting up to date with progress on the Group’s website.

• Update on the repairs at the JG Village Hall: it appeared that repairs to the village hall would be completed at the end of November. Pressure from the community had led to the Committee Room being opened for business, though the eastern end of the hall would remain closed. New glass and protective grilles would be fitted to the windows and problems with the floor lifting would be addressed as part of the repair programme. The City Council had devised a five-year plan for the maintenance and upgrading of the building. Dominic would ask for an update on the work and would continue to press for an urgent approach to making the planned improvements.

**3. Reports and recent meetings**

**3.1 Secretary:** there had been no licensing applications for the JGCC area. Richard, who was standing down at the September elections, was thanked by the Chair on behalf of JGCC for his past work as secretary.

**3.2 Treasurer:** cash in the No.1 account stood at £748.79 and at £8,148.33 in the No.2 account. Some of the money in the No.2 account had been earmarked for the cost of developing the Baberton Mains History Group website. Malcolm, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, said that next term’s fees for village hall lets would be waived in compensation for the closure for repairs. The Chair thanked Ken, who was also demitting office at the upcoming elections, for his services as treasurer to the Community Council.

**3.3 Monthly local planning matters** … report sent separately: After thanking all who had helped and advised him over the past seven years, Neil drew attention to the Scottish Government’s review of the planning system which would be followed by a White Paper allowing for full consultation towards the end of 2016. A Planning Bill would be brought forward in 2017. It appeared that development along arterial roads into Edinburgh would be favoured in the new SESplan. Despite approval in principle by CEC for proposals to build on land east of Millburn Tower, ministers had called in the proposal for further consideration. JGCC had been invited to send a representative to the discussions; Neil was asked to write an acceptance. Plans for building on Curriemuirend Park had not been withdrawn despite the strength of local opposition and the obvious disadvantages of the site. Several local planning issues were still unresolved, notably the Forrester’s Hall application, which JGCC had objected to on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site; adoption of the road to the Golf Club, and concerns about the virtual reconstruction of a house in Baberton Mains Loan. The Baberton Loan development was almost complete.

Cliff thanked Neil for his invaluable contribution over seven years to our understanding of planning matters, observing that in future, without his expertise, JGCC would have difficulty in dealing with them. He suggested that it would be useful if community councils could be funded to engage expert help with planning.

**3.4 Meetings:** no members had attended meetings except those reported later in these notes.

4. Police report: Ali said that in future the CC would receive a written police report. Over the past month there had been no housebreakings in Juniper Green. There had been some thefts, notably of a motorcycle from Tanners’ car park, and one case of vandalism. Road safety issues at the primary school would continue to be monitored from the start of the new term. Ali had no report of crime in Baberton Mains, but would send details to the secretary (received: one case of vandalism to a car).

**4.1 Safety committee meeting:** the next meeting would take place on 5th September and Vic hoped to attend.

**5. JGCC matters**

**5.1 JG Farmers Market:** Cliff reminded the meeting that the farmers’ market licence remained valid until the end of September. However, the outlook for reviving the market was poor since it had not been well supported, normally attracting fewer than 200 customers, which compared badly with Balerno’s usual footfall of 380. A food fair in September had been suggested and Nick Paul had been holding the date. However, the Village Hall would be closed until the end of November. Malcolm suggested the possibility of holding a food fair twice a year, but the objection to this was that an annual licence costing £100 would still be required. In response to Malcolm’s question about holding a Gala Day, perhaps to coincide with the School Fair, Cliff thought the school was less keen on the idea. Previous Galas had been held five years apart, so 2017 could be considered.

**5.2 Walkabout:** Vic reported on the walkabout of Tuesday 23rd August. The Council proposed to inspect the effectiveness of street lighting on Belmont Road. Viewfield Road would get its speed bumps and 20mph limit. The growth of vegetation which could obscure the view of drivers emerging from Baberton Mains View on to Wester Hailes Road was being monitored. The condition of the pavement on Lanark Road’s north side west of Iceland had been looked at. A letter had been delivered to the owner of the property in Woodhall Drive whose hedge had been obstructing the pavement demanding that he cut it back, with the alternative that CEC would do the work and charge him for it. Malcolm asked for the footpath to Baberton Mains to be looked at next time as it was breaking up again. However, the good news about the footpath was that it would be gritted by CEC in future, though it would not be adopted.

**5.3 Local Development Plan:** Cliff had forwarded a draft letter, in the form of an email prepared by the Friends of Curriemuirend Park, which challenged the section of the LDP report referring to the Park. Ken observed that the reporter’s conclusions had been based on inconsistencies and errors and that no other park had been assigned to the LDP. The Friends’ letter had gone to Councillors, MPs and MSPs, asking for the Reporter’s decision to be overturned. Dominic said that CEC would have to sell Curriemuirend Park for development to proceed. Helen commented that JGCC needed an update on the potential effect on school catchment areas. The meeting voted unanimously to support the views of the Friends of Curriemuirend Park.

**5.4 Resilient Community:** There had been a meeting at the South-West offices on Wednesday 10th August which Vic, Russell and Cliff had attended. A summary of Vic’s report is appended here: two CCs, Juniper Green and Ratho, had offered to pilot the Resilient Communities initiative. Volunteers had been recruited, risk maps were being prepared and storage for snow-clearing equipment was being arranged at the Village Hall. Vulnerable people needed to be identified. Malcolm added that the Village Hall was to receive a new defibrillator. Vic outlined the Power Energy Network scheme for ensuring vulnerable people would not suffer unduly from the effects of power outages. He said that Resilient Communities volunteers would be covered by CEC’s insurance policy and that Scout Groups might be contacted to see if they could offer assistance.

**5.5 Village Trust update/Progress on asset transfer:** A small group had been steadily progressing the plans for the transfer of the abandoned toilets site into the ownership of the Juniper Green community. A consultation at a number of venues around the village had taken place over several days in July: thanks were due to Helen, Vic, Ian, Cliff, Richard, Neil, Thelma, Margaret and Anne for putting in various stints on these consultations. In addition, they had collected some 60 signed forms from those wishing to join the Juniper Green Village Development Trust if and when it was formed. Russell had worked on an updated constitution and was in ongoing discussions with OSCR. We had received great assistance from Nicky Donald of Community Ownership Scotland and her advice to date had been invaluable. In the previous week Cliff had attended a meeting chaired by Councillor Ricky Henderson in which CEC had formally accepted JGCC’s request for an asset transfer of the toilet site including the garden in front of the building. At the meeting we had been asked by the committee to continue the consultation and, at the end of September, provided we were able to establish what the community would like as an enhanced facility on the site, then CEC would be likely to ask JGCC to make a formal proposal as part of stage 2 of the asset transfer programme.

**6. Councillors’ Corner:** Dominic said he understood that evening meals were to be served in future at the Juniper Green (Railway) Inn.

Gordon L. said he was pleased printed police reports were now to be released to CCs: he had made the point that the information had already been made public at a meeting open to all. There was a possibility that police personnel might be taken away from front-line duty to deal with cyber crime, but the force was trying to ensure continuity of attendance at CC meetings.

**7. AOCB**

**7.1** Gordon Miller had requested backing for the cross-country event at the beginning of October. Cliff had suggested that in the current year that could be a joint project financed by the Friends of Curriemuirend Park and JGCC and this was agreed.

**7.2** Cliff reminded the meeting of the Pentlands Book Festival which would run again in 2016 across the villages of Currie, JG and Colinton. The PBF16 committee had met several times over the summer and a varied programme was nearing completion; a programme that would again serve all ages in our communities, with venues at the church, Al Borgo, Tanners, the Bowling Club and Porteous’s Service room all being used for events stretching from Friday 11th November to Saturday 26th November.

**8. Date and venue of the Next Meeting, walkabouts etc**.: Wed 28 Sept at 7pm for JGCC meeting. Dominic would act as Returning Officer for the CC elections. Nominations had to be in between 5-26 September.

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