



OLD TOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairperson, C/o Peter Sharma, 12 St Mary's Street, Edinburgh. EH1 1SU

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Secretary, C/o John Stewart, 202/3 Canongate, Edinburgh. EH8 8DQ

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Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 12 June 2007, 7pm-7.50pm

Edinburgh City Chambers, Dean of Guild Room

MINUTES

Present: : Catriona Grant (Chair), Anja Amsel (Vice Chair), Julie Logan (Secretary, Planning), Peter Sharma (Treasurer), Bill Cowan (Planning), Sam Piacentini (Licensing), John Stewart, Sally Richardson, Bruce Borthwick, Jane Yeoman, John Thompson, Ken Smillie, Graeme Fairbrother, Murray Forgie.

CEC Councillors: *David Beckett (SNP), Joanna Mowatt (Con) and Charles Dundas (Lib Dems).*

Lothian & Borders Police: *Lesley Culbert, Community Beat Officer.*

Plus 2 public visitors

In attendance: *Mark Cummings, Associate Director PPS. Priscilla Heaton-Armstrong, Chairperson, Blackfriars Association and Angela M, Blackfriars Association. Ian Paton, Old St Paul's Episcopal Church and The Ark Trust.*

Catriona Chaired the meeting until the election of the Chair for the coming year, when *Anja* took over. *John Stewart* took the Minutes throughout.

Question from the floor – is the AGM and open meeting? Answer YES but only the Community Councillors can vote.

1 **Apologies:** *none*

2 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS Annual General Meeting (8 May 2006).**

The minutes for the last AGM were not available. Graeme Fairbrother, last years Chair, agreed to look through his papers to see if he still has them. The minutes will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

**Action
GF**

3 **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair has been in place since May 2006 since the make up of the new Old Town Community Council. The role has been a challenging role particularly regarding all the complexities a community council based in a capital city centre with World Heritage Status has. Our Community is a unique community and within the Community Council we have the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood house, residential areas mixed with areas of touristic attraction and where people wish to enjoy themselves i.e. restaurants, pubs and

nightclubs.

There have been many tensions in the area particularly with the development of the planning realm works in the Grassmarket and the Caltongate scheme in the Waverley Valley/Canongate.

The Community Council has been active in liaising with the community, responding to planning applications, projecting a media profile in regards to these projects and holding two very successful public meetings each with at least 100 attendance.

The Chair of the Community Council has attended three Planning Committee meetings and made a delegation on behalf of the Community Council at one of these meetings.

The Chair has submitted dozens of responses to planning applications however the credit must go to Julie Logan and Bill Cowan for their unfettered work and tenacity on planning issues, in reality it is only my name on the bottom of the letters.

The Chair has liaised with Eileen Hewitt from the Council, the Chair's and Secretaries of the neighbouring Community Councils and the new Neighbourhood Manager for the area on a regular basis.

There has been representation on the Caltongate Liaison Group from the Community Council however in my own opinion I am not convinced that this group is the correct way to liaise with the Community Council as it does not have a pathway into the local Neighbourhood Plan and the Community Council is treated as the same as all other groups despite the Community Council being a group that needs to be liaised with by statute (the other representatives do not). This tension needs to be clarified.

There are outstanding tasks for the Community Council – notice boards, newsletter and website to be developed in order that we can better communicate with the community, we need to ensure that the Xmas lights appear in the Canongate this Xmas time.

We have had little contact with the community police officer PC Ben Merrick and there has been no focus on young people, the Scottish Parliament should be approached regarding its role in relation to the Community Council these need to be a priority for the coming year.

Catriona Grant, Chair, 2006-2007

Matters arising from the Chairs Report – Cllr David Beckett is in discussions with the Scottish Parliament's Presiding Officer's Office regarding their involvement with the Old Town Community Council. We need to check correspondence from the year 2005-2006 for details which would make things easier to track down.

GF
PS

4 TREASURER’S REPORT:

**Old Town Community Council
Accounts Statement 2006/07**

Opening Balance

June 06 £671.13

Carried forward into 2006/07 £671.13

Income

August 07 £575
(City of Edinburgh Council)

Interest June 06 Apr 07 £10.09

Expenditure

Room Rent £40
Affiliation (CEC) £75
Tax £1.96

£1,256.22 **£116.96**

Account Balance
30 April 2007 £1139.26

Note
OTCC Expenditure since April 07 £134 approx £80 (Room rent) £24(Printing) £30(Cockburn)

Prepared
P Sharma June 07 OTCC

Accounts Statement included at the end of the minutes.
The statement was discussed and Peter stated the accounts need to be audited.
Peter pointed out we need to spend money, we cannot continue carrying forward monies. We need to get our spending in focus and budget our money.
Later in the year we will get our annual grant from the CEC.

**PS
BC
ALL**

Murray asked, will we continue to have our meetings in the City Chambers and for free? Cllr David Beckett said yes the room is booked for the next committee meeting in July. Peter confirmed the rooms in the City Chambers will be free if booked through one of our CEC councillors.

JS

5 SECRETARY’S REPORT

Julie had no formal report - problems with internet access and the closing of the IT Centre. Also, it is difficult regarding time spent doing planning applications. Murray suggested library and Southbridge Resource Centre. However Julie stated Library not possible since only one hour at a time and not permitted to print documents. Southbridge gives limited access

She highlighted the issue of office space for all Community Councils.
Julie informed the Council of her intention not to stand as the Secretary.

Matters arising out of the Secretary's Report – training regarding the New Neighbourhood Partnerships

JS

6 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are posts available for election. Volunteer posts are those for Planning and Licensing, these are not elected posts but people are appointed by the Community Council from the members.

Catriona passed the Chairing of the meeting to Anja (Vice-Chair).

Nominations for Chair were:

Peter Sharma - nominated by Bruce, seconded by Graeme
Catriona Grant - nominated by Sally, seconded by John Thompson.

Voting: 7 votes for Peter and 6 for Catriona.

PETER SHARMA WAS ELECTED CHAIR.

Peter took over Chairing the meeting.

Peter thanked Cat for her work as the Chair for the past year. He also thanked Julie for her work as the Secretary over the past year.

Nominations for Vice-Chair were:

Anja Amsel - nominated by John Thompson seconded by Sam.
Sally Richardson - nominated by Julie seconded by Cat.

Voting: 7 votes for Anja and 5 for Sally.

ANJA AMSEL WAS ELECTED VICE-CHAIR.

Nominations for Secretary were:

John Stewart - nominated by Catriona seconded by John Thompson.

No voting required.

JOHN STEWART WAS ELECTED SECRETARY.

Nominations for Treasurer were:

Bill Cowan - nominated by Bruce seconded by Anja.

No voting required

BILL COWAN WAS ELECTED TREASURER.

The volunteers who undertake the roles of Planning and licensing continue from last year – Julie and Bill are the Planners and Sam deals with licensing.

AGM closed at 7.50pm