

Pencaitland Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 26 October at 7.30pm in Trevelyan Hall, Pencaitland

Present Ralph Averbuch (In Chair), Bill Balfour, Lynne Donohoe , Jean McCormack (Treasurer), Nicky Neighbour (Secretary), Sheena Richardson, Tom Steele, Phil Summerfield , Fiona Tennick (Vice-Chair)

In attendance

Councillors Jim Gillies, Donald Grant, PC Scott Robertson

Item	Title	Action by
1	Apologies Stuart Lyness , Bob Rees, Frank Stacey, Cllrs Ruth Currie and Kenny McLeod	
2	Approval of Minutes Minor amendment to minutes – Jean McCormack was noted under Present and Apologies. Jean was not present at the meeting. Proposed by Tom Steele, Seconded by Bill Balfour	
3	Police Report PC Scott Roberston introduced himself to the group. Two incidents reported in Pencaitland in October; the sudden death of an elderly resident and the theft of a motor vehicle. PC Robertson then updated us on the success in reducing underage drinking in the Fa’side ward and related antisocial behaviour. Adults who were purchasing alcohol for under 18s have been targeted and dealt with as appropriate. Weekend incidents are analysed and pursued immediately. Monthly calls have been reduced from 111 in May to 38 in September. A recent article in the East Lothian News reported on PC Roberston’s success in this area. A pub watch scheme (RASP) has also been introduced in the ward and has linked with Musselburgh, Wallyford and Whitecraig with 41 premises signed up. If an individual is banned from one pub, their details are circulated to all pubs in the scheme and they are banned from all those establishments for a period of four years. This ban can be reduced if the individual in question agrees to have their photograph circulated together with other details. Arrangements have been made for presence of traffic wardens and police at annual fireworks on 5 th November. Access to cars will be restricted by cones in the area around the field.	
4	Follow up on Previous Minutes Raising Profile – Ralph suggested a Community Council business card. Would contain Community Council contact details on one side, with a message (or ‘call to action’) on the flip side. Could be distributed at events where we have a presence, or to all newcomers to the area. Ralph to price printing of these cards and to present design ideas at December meeting. Lynne suggested a flyer which could be posted on all local notice boards. Ralph indicated he could produce this. Suggestions for PCC logo included Mercat Cross (as used in newsletters) or logo from Millenium medallion. Nicky to send image of Mercat cross to Ralph; Tom to send image from Millenium medallion. Severe Weather Review – Jim Gillies was able to view inside one storage shed at Trevelyan Hall;	<p>Ralph A</p> <p>Nicky N</p> <p>Tom S</p>

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	<p>contains chairs and old wheelbarrow which could be removed to allow room for snow shovels. Ralph to follow up obtaining key to find out what is in other storage shed. Decision re snow shovels and grit bins now urgent as Council are beginning to place orders and distribute. Elizabeth Dobson has indicated that 20 snow shovels would be sufficient for the area. Placing of large grit bin to be established. Nicky to check correct process for allocation of grit bins. Ralph to gain access to other storage shed.</p> <p>Equipment at play park – this was painted very soon after September meeting. Thanks to Jim Gillies for arranging this. Fencing at football park – this remains outstanding. Jim Gillies will follow up.</p> <p>Heavy Lorries through village – Ralph waiting on response from Brian Cooper about this.</p> <p>PTA fireworks – Nicky reported that records show that we made a donation to this event in March and it was felt inappropriate to make a further contribution at this time. PTA have been informed.</p> <p>LEAP – Nicky to complete and submit form. Application to request that strip of land westwards from Winton gates be cleared of weeds and turfed. At a later stage a decision may be made to plant bulbs to add colour.</p>	<p>Nicky N Ralph A Jim G Nicky N</p>
5	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Dial – A-Ride Ambulance service - to be scanned and put on website, Mud in your eye, Homefront tenants newsletter, Scottish Natural Heritage Magazine, John Gray Centre Publicity (to be scanned and added to website), letter and poster from Fiona O’Donnell MP and from Iain Gray MSP. Posters re surgeries to be scanned and added to website (Ralph) and posted to notice board (Nicky). Fiona O’Donnell is moving into Pencaitland in November. CAPS report (email)</p>	
6	<p>General Business</p> <p>Festive Lights Quotation of £900 received for testing, installation, dismantling and storage of lights. Council has confirmed that in recent years the Christmas Lights process has been running at a loss; the price increase reflects the true cost of all admin and work involved in providing the lights. It is anticipated that cost for trees will be around £200 per tree. All agreed that provision of trees and lights is now a substantial proportion of the annual funding allocation. We will continue as normal this year, but for next year will consider looking for sponsorship for trees and lights, something other areas have been doing in recent years, and will explore other ways of cutting the cost.</p> <p>Civic Pride Fund Application Form received. Deadline of 30 November. After some discussion it was agreed to offer the Church the opportunity to apply for this funding to assist with their repair work.</p> <p>General Funding Update Clarification of funding available to Community Council. Annual grant awarded to cover admin and other expenses which arise throughout the year. This year the grant amounts to £506. Administered by the Treasurer. Reserve in the bank account which is held for special events we may be asked to contribute towards. Each Community Council is</p>	<p>Nicky N Ralph A</p>

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	<p>awarded an annual sum from the Local Priorities Scheme (LPS) based on the population within the Community Council area. This year Pencaitland was awarded £3330. This money must be used within the year and can cover the cost of many things including Christmas Trees and Lights, Litter Pick Up, Poppy Wreath, production of newsletters and requests for donations from local groups. At the end of the year any remaining funds are distributed to organisations within the local community. There are also two funds from which the Community Council can apply for grants twice a year; the Civic Pride Fund (CPF) and the Community Environment Fund (CEF). CPF requires match funding and in recent years Pencaitland has made no application for funds. Each year we have made successful applications to the CEF for bulb and container planting.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Error message when trying to email Community Councillors. Several residents have reported an error message when clicking the email link on the website. The error relates to the user's email software set up, not the PCC website.</p> <p>Condition of land around the village. Concerns have been raised about the condition of a strip of land behind Marchgate and about the strip of land running from the Bowling Club past the cemetery and continuing between the housing estates. These areas are property of East Lothian Council. Jim Gillies and Donald Grant offered to look into this.</p> <p>Concerns raised by residents of the Glebe about possible increase in traffic caused by the most recent footpath and parking proposal. Residents will have the opportunity to formally raise concerns at a public consultation and during the normal planning process.</p> <p>Milk is being stolen from doorsteps in Bruce Grove. Residents to be aware that this is happening.</p> <p>Several residents have commented on the build up of litter at the additional parking area near the Nursing Home. This is private land so not normally the responsibility of the Council to clean it up. However, Jim Gillies will explore the possibility of the Council clearing it. This led to a general discussion about litter pick up in the village. It has been proposed that we attempt two annual litter pick ups; one in the Spring as usual and another at the end of Autumn. With sufficient notice given to the Primary School (tie in with their Green Flag) and organisations including Brownies and Guides we may be able to involve greater numbers within the community. To be explored further at a future meeting.</p> <p>Concerns raised about vehicles driving too quickly towards the Nursing Home in the morning as children are walking to school. The possibility of speed bumps or signage to be raised with the Nursing Home, Tyneholme and East Lothian Council who are all believed to be responsible for maintaining this route.</p> <p>New Signatories. It was unanimously agreed that the new Chair Ralph Averbuch, new Deputy Chair Fiona Tennick and sitting Treasurer Jean McCormack should all be cheque signatories to the Pencaitland Community Council bank account following Janet Bassett's retirement. Currently the only sitting community councillor with this power is Jean.</p>	<p style="color: red;">Jim G Donald G</p> <p style="color: red;">Jim G</p> <p style="color: red;">Ralph A</p> <p style="color: red;">Ralph A</p>

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8	Date of Next meeting 7 December. Wine and snacks after meeting as is normal for Christmas meet. Suggestion that partners could be invited for drinks and snacks or could be opportunity to invite community to 'meet their Community Councillors' . To be agreed by members.	
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