

THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER

Founded 1972

Scottish Charity No SCO12262

Minutes of meeting held in the South Side Community Education Centre on Tuesday 1 November 2011, at 7pm

PRESENT: Sandra McCormick (Chair), Vera Anderson, Caroline Barr, Tom Bonallo, Acting Sergeant Steve Cairns, Colin Christison (Secretary), Jan Fraser, Bob Hodgart, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, David Raine, Molly Ross, Peter Ross, Fiona Scott (Treasurer), Jo Scott, Lisa Sibbald (Vice Chair), Pamela Spiers, Colin Symes, Ola Uduku, and Joan Young.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Membership cards were distributed; some renewals were outstanding. Apologies for absence were received from Maggie Bagan, Robert Beaton, Margaret Dalziel, Mary Devine, Linda Femister, Tom King, May Linton, Cllr Gordon Mackenzie, Jean Miller, George Pitcher, Keith Smith, and Louise Smith. It was agreed to send a card to the Centre's Service Support Officer, Jim Cairns, who was off work due to illness.

2. Police Report

Acting Sergeant Steve Cairns gave a report, saying that there were crimes of theft, violence, and vandalism in the area last month. He had chaired the meeting of the Safer Neighbourhood Group for Ward 15 that afternoon, and new priorities had been set for the next three months: tackling anti-social behaviour in Dumbiedykes, graffiti, and safe cycling. Some officers patrol the city on pedal cycles, and their ability to cover a bigger area has been regarded as a success. The misuse of drugs is an on-going problem and intelligence gathering is an important tool, and people were urged to report any suspicious behaviour. However there were very few problems connected with the three local squares.

There were questions about the misuse of fireworks, cycling on pavements, and street begging. Ola was concerned about inconsiderate parking near the Indian restaurant in St Leonard's Street, which meant difficulties for motorists entering or leaving Hamilton's Folly Mews. Steve said that the traffic wardens operate a 24 hour service and they should be contacted. He advised against taking photographs of persistent offenders.

Colin Symes said that members appreciated the presence of the police at the meeting, and Steve replied that he hoped to attend most meetings in the future, particularly until the future of the Community Council was decided.

3. Film: *Zombie or not Zombie*

A short film had been made earlier in the year by Pilton Video for Places for People Scotland, Care and Support. At the Association's June meeting the guest speaker was a support worker from Places for People and the film was discussed, with a suggestion that it could be screened at a future date. Accordingly the film was shown, and its director, Peter Ross, attended the screening and led a discussion about it with one of the stars, Caroline Barr. The actors were all locals and most of them also helped with various aspects of the film's production. The film highlighted the negative attitude and fears which some people have towards people with various disabilities. A short documentary about the making of the film followed, and members of the Association greatly enjoyed the showings. Members who missed the film may borrow a copy from Colin.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 4 October 2011

Approved; proposed by Fiona Scott and seconded by Jan Fraser.

5. Matters arising

- 5.1 Item 2: *St Patrick Square garden* – David Doig still has to complete his consultation with other local groups, but he has said that the Council will not repair the coping stones and re-instate the fence without carrying out all the other ideas, such as paths, notice-boards, new gate, and replacing the existing trees with rowans.

After some discussion, it was agreed to write to David Doig, expressing the Association's disappointment that the Council did not seem to take the views of the local people seriously, in spite of appearing to consult, and to ask for a breakdown of the proposed expenditure.

- 5.2 Item 7: *Status of bank account* – The Southside Association's account is termed a Business Account by the Clydesdale Bank, and not a Treasurer's Account.

6. Secretary's report and correspondence

- 6.1 Most of the arrangements were in place for the Christmas Lights ceremony, and a committee meeting would be arranged in the very near future.

- 6.2 Nominations for the interim election of the Southside Community Council opened on 31 October and close on 21 November, and members were asked to contact Colin for more information.

7. Treasurer's report

Fiona said that the most recent balance remained at £2526.37.

8. Environmental matters

Vera mentioned that there appeared to be a hole in the pavement outside a flat in St Leonard's Street, and that this hole was covered by a loose piece of wood. CC would ask the Council to investigate.

9. Question and Answer Session with the attending Councillor

Cllr Gordon Mackenzie had been unable to attend at the last minute, and none of the other local Councillors were free to attend in his place.

10 Any other business

None.

11 Date of next meeting

Christmas Lights Ceremony, Tuesday 6 December 2011. 6pm at St Patrick Square, followed by a get-together in the Centre. Weather permitting.

The first meeting in the New Year will be on Tuesday **10 January 2012**.
