

THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

117 Nicolson Street

Edinburgh

EH8 9ER

Minutes of meeting held in the South Side Community Education Centre on Tuesday 13 September 2011, at 7pm

PRESENT: Sandra McCormick (Chair), Vera Anderson, Maggie Bagan, Caroline Barr, Tom Bonallo, Cllr Steve Burgess, Pauline Calder, Colin Christison (Secretary), Linda Femister, Jan Fraser, Tom King, May Linton (Membership Secretary), Kenny McLeod, Molly Ross, Fiona Scott (Treasurer), Lisa Sibbald (Vice Chair), Random Switch, and Joan Young.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. She paid tribute to Ruby Player, who died on 22 July.

Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Dalziel, Mary Devine, Bob Hodgart, Jean Miller, Ethel Murray, George Pitcher, Robert Ross, Jo Scott, Pamela Spiers, Colin Symes, Ola Uduku, and Marjory Watson.

2. Police Report

No officer present.

3. Guest Speaker: Tom King

Sandra introduced Tom, who described in his interest in nostalgia and vintage magazines and comics; he had brought many examples and members enjoyed seeing and discussing them, especially the ones from the 1920s to the 1960s.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 7 June 2011

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

5. Matters arising

Item 6.2 (Odeon) – the planning application had been refused. Cllr Burgess said that he understood that the Planning Dept was trying to encourage Duddingston House Properties to take matters forward.

6. Secretary's report and correspondence

- 6.1 Christmas Lights – Weather permitting the events ceremony would be held at St Patrick Square at 6pm on Tuesday 6 December. Some of the preparatory paperwork had already been submitted. A committee meeting would be arranged for late October or early November.
- 6.2 OSCR Annual Return – submitted, with great assistance from Raymond Scott.
- 6.3 The Draft Action Plan for the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site has been prepared by Edinburgh World Heritage, Historic Scotland, and the Council. The consultation papers can be viewed online using the link <http://tinyurl.com/44brp93> with comments required by the end of October.
- 6.4 The Canongate Youth Project is holding an open day on Thursday 22 September, from 3pm to 6pm.
- 6.5 George IV Bridge to King’s Buildings Bike Corridor: The Council proposes to promote an order which will introduce sections of bus lane and significant extensions to the cycle lane network.
- 6.6 The Macmillan Cancer Support World’s Biggest Coffee Morning is on Friday 30 September. The Community Centre café will host one from 10am to 12 noon.
- 6.7 The AGM of the Community Centre will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 20 September.
- 6.8 George Pitcher hopes to produce the next edition of *The Southsider* in November, in time for Christmas.
- 6.9 May Linton gave an update on membership numbers; current renewals amount to 33.

7. Treasurer’s report

Fiona said that the balance at the end of July was £2526.37. This included the funds of £1301.39 from the TSB bank account which was closed on 28 July.

8. Environmental matters

Sheila Gilmore MP had forwarded the reply she had received from the Council in reply to her question about dog fouling in St Patrick Square. Four anti dog-fouling notices were placed and the Environmental Wardens will continue to monitor the Square.

9. Question and Answer Session with the attending Councillor

- 9.1 Craggs Sports Centre – Cllr Burgess said that the centre had been unused since December 2010. The Council had leased the premises for a peppercorn rent to Basketball Scotland (<http://www.basketballscotland.co.uk/>) on a full maintenance 25 year lease. While the centre will be used for basketball in the evenings and weekends, it is hoped that it can be used for primary school pupils and others during the day. The centre should be open fairly soon. Caroline hoped that the grounds would be restored and maintained.
- 9.2 Vera asked about the former Wolfson building in Bernard Terrace; plans to build a medical centre on the site had been postponed.
- 9.3 Tom Bonallo asked if Mike Shields from the Parks Dept could arrange for a supply of bark to be delivered to the Brown Street nature garden; Cllr Burgess would enquire. Tom looks after the garden and the bark is for the paths.
- 9.4 Pauline was concerned about the poor state of the roads and pavements in Drummond and South College Streets, where there is great disrepair and missing setts. She also said that the pavement grill outside the Black Medicine Coffee shop allowed smells to penetrate onto the street.
- 9.5 May said that there was a blocked drain in Hill Place outside the hotel.

10 Any other business

- 10.1 Pauline wished to express her thanks to the local councillors, council officials, the police, and locals for their help in getting the noise and disruption from the Roxy and Pleasance Fringe venues greatly reduced. Kenny echoed her thanks. The Roxy had not been granted a late drinks licence this year, which was a major factor in keeping things quiet.
- 10.2 Random asked about the redevelopment of the former Deaconess and wondered if there would be an element of social housing; Cllr Burgess said that although developments had to include a minimum of 25% for social housing, this rule did not apply to student accommodation. There was disquiet at the thought of more such accommodation in the Southside.

11 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 4 October 2011. David Doig, Local Environment Manager, will outline the proposals for the refurbishment of St Patrick Square.
