

THE SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

117 Nicolson Street
Edinburgh
EH8 9ER

Founded 1972

Scottish Charity No SCO12262

Minutes of meeting held in the South Side Community Centre on Tuesday 2 October 2012, at 7pm

PRESENT: Sandra McCormick (Chair), Margaret Bagan, Caroline Barr, Tom Bonallo, PC Scott Casey, Colin Christison (Secretary), Linda Femister, Jan Fraser, Moira Gibson, Sheila Gilmore MP, Tom King, Isobel Leckie, Kimberley Lewis, May Linton (Membership Secretary), Hilary McDowell, Philip McDowell, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, Cllr Jim Orr, Molly Ross, Lisa Sibbald, Random Switch, Colin Symes, Lynsey Tweedlie, and Joan Young.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Tributes were paid to Jean Miller, who died on 23 September.

Apologies for absence were received from Vera Anderson, Marco Biagi MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, PC Kenny Hall, Bob Hodgart, Fiona Scott (Treasurer), Jo Scott, Pamela Spiers, Margery Watson, PC Graham Watt, and David Wood.

Kimberley Lewis, the new Community Champion from Tesco Metro in Nicolson Street, was introduced, and she gave a brief description of her role.

2. Police Report

Sandra introduced PC Scott Casey, who made a brief report on the following items:

- 2.1 Shoplifting – some of the local charity shops have established a radio contact system to alert each other about shoplifters, and the Police are helping train the staff.
- 2.2 Following complaints about men urinating at Haddon's Court, the Police and Environmental Wardens are increasing their patrols; there are £40 fixed penalties and one person has been issued with an ASBO. There has been some improvement.
- 2.3 Operations Arable and Allegro are continuing. Questions answered.

3. Guest Speaker: Lynsey Tweedlie, project manager from Scottish Water

Sandra introduced Lynsey Tweedlie, Project Manager, Capital Investment Delivery, Scottish Water. Lynsey gave an illustrated talk about the new Glencorse water treatment works near Penicuik, which has replaced the treatment works at Alnwickhill and Fairmilehead. The works cost £130M, took about four years to construct, and supplies 350,000 people in the

city. She described in great detail the planning and design of the construction, mentioning the four buildings (intake tank, main treatment works, chlorine tank, and the clear water tank), pipelines, as well as the positive ecological and environmental aspects of the site. Sandra and the members thanked Lynsey warmly for her presentation.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 4 September 2012, and matters arising

Subject to the correction at Item 3, where Moira Gibson's name was recorded as 'Morag', the minutes were approved; proposed by Jan Fraser, and seconded by Lisa Sibbald.

- 4.1 Items 1 and 5.6 – member to represent the Association on the Community Centre's Management Committee – there were no volunteers.
- 4.2 Item 4.1 – Ground behind the railings at the front of the Woolfson building at Bernard Terrace cleared up on 17 September. Thanks to Cllr Burgess for his help.
- 4.3 Item 5.7 – OSCR return approved and on their website.
- 4.4 Item 8.1 – Volunteer (s) to join planning group. Sandra McCormick and Lisa Sibbald agreed to join.
- 4.5 Item 8.2 – Objection to the (third) advertising billboard at Parkside Bowling Club considered material. (See 7.1, below). Decision awaited.
- 4.6 Item 8.3 – Comments about East Meadows Pavilion considered material.
- 4.7 Item 9.4 – Nicolson Street (at the Square) water leak was to have been repaired on 30 September; this didn't happen, but the repair required at the West Nicolson Street crossroads was carried out.

5. Secretary's Report

- 5.1 The Craggs Sports Centre has formed a project group to facilitate the repair and upgrade of the outdoor multi-pitch, and is submitting an application for funding. The Craggs Trustee Eugene Mullan will attend the November meeting to make a brief statement about it.
- 5.2 The Public Liability Insurance is due for renewal in November.

6. Treasurer's Report

Fiona Scott had sent a message to say that the most recent balance was £1515.71.

7. Planning and Licensing

- 7.1 Following complaints about the size of two advertising billboards in the grounds of Parkside Bowling Club, the planning department had produced a delegated enforcement report into the alleged breach of control. Here is a copy of the report, with the conclusion at the causing great astonishment and dismay.

“3. Officer’s Assessment

The advertisement displayed is 21.9 square metres; advertisement consent was granted to display an advert 18.3 square metres, resulting in a discrepancy of 3.6 metres. The overall height of the advertisement is also 1.2 metres higher than approved. The principle of displaying an advertisement hoarding at the site has already been assessed and found to be acceptable.

National guidelines on advertisement control, circular 10/1984, state that properly displayed and well-designed advertisements are well accepted and approved by the general public, are an integral part of modern commercial life and their presence in many street scenes will enhance the environment by adding colour and interest. Planning authorities are encouraged to consider proposals for the display of advertisements in as favourable a light as possible and in particular to take full account of the positive effects of advertisement.

The difference between the advert approved and displayed is relatively minor, having regard to the relatively large scale of the advertisement approved.

When viewed from the south, the increase in height and scale does not create a perceptible difference, as it is seen against the backdrop of Chancellor’s Court, a modern hall of residence. The advertisement, as erected, has no adverse effect on amenity or public safety.

Accordingly no further action is recommended.”

8. Environmental matters and

9. Question and Answer session with the attending Councillor

There had been major problems with the refuse collection service in the city over the past two or three weeks after the introduction of new shifts, routes, teams, frequency, and collection patterns, following the decision to have fortnightly collections from many residential areas. There was much discussion about the matter, with many examples given, and a plea for more education about re-using and recycling. Cllr Orr said that work to clear the backlog was on-going, and it was to be hoped that matters would settle soon.

10. Any other business

10.1 There are two long-established water overflows at Haddon’s Court, and one at the side of Starbucks.

10.2 Copies of a new book ‘Kirk O’Field and the Churches of Edinburgh’s Southside’ by Roy M Pinkerton are available from the Church, priced at £9.50. More info from May Linton.

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6 November, in Room 1 of the Community Centre.
