

**Minutes of Members' Meeting  
held on Tuesday 7 June 2016 at 7pm**

**Present:** Colin Christison (Chair and Secretary), Jo Scott (Vice-Chair), Lisa Sibbald (Treasurer), Moira Gibson (Minutes Secretary), Tom King, Hilary McDowell, Isobel Leckie, Fran Gifford, Maggie Bagan, Tom Bonallo, Kenny McLeod, Ethel Murray, Stephen Carter, and Ola Uduku. Also present: PC Neil Mackay, and Cllr Jim Orr.

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Colin Christison welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Jan Fraser, May Linton, and David Wood.

**2. Guest speaker – Rob Arthur, Cinema Operations Director, G1 Group**

The Chair welcomed the speaker. Rob Arthur updated the group on the progress of the former *Odeon* cinema's refurbishment. The long-term investment was partly to honour the heritage of the cinema and the area, as well as to look to the future. Sympathetic restoration of the building is proceeding, and incorporating state-of-the-art technology which can both receive and broadcast via satellite. The Crush Hall will be designed to host major events including premières. A name for the building is not yet decided.

G1 Group is working with partners including Filmhouse, and will programme events from the Royal Opera House, ballet, live theatre and so on. The 450-seater main space can cater for live performance within the building (e.g. theatre, comedy), but will not be hosting loud rock bands. The four screening spaces, of different capacities, will be acoustically separate and all have disabled access. They will show mainstream and arthouse films.

Rob also envisages the venue as a cultural hub for the Southside, hosting community projects. They are working on a history/archive/reminiscence project and welcome contributions and local awareness-raising for the project. They are involving local schools. Further updates will be arranged.

**3. Police Report from Police Scotland**

PC Neil Mackay reported community successes, including days at the Central Mosque, local schools' sports days and presence at the Meadows Festival. They are planning for the festivals and, now that they are paired with Central, this should be smooth. The new Act on NPS/legal highs has made it an offence to supply or distribute these substances, so the incidence of related crime has dropped. From 1 July, there has been a campaign to surrender Air Weapons, as a licence to own them is now required, and this has resulted in 6,000 having been surrendered across Scotland.

In the last month, 154 crimes were reported, with 92 (60% solved). One person has been charged with bank robbery. There is no further news on initiatives on begging. Their new Twitter account is @EdinburghPolice

**4. Report on Environment and Community Safety from Kevin Hawes, Community Safety Officer, City of Edinburgh Council**

Kevin was unable to attend because of job restructuring at the Council.

**5. Minutes of meeting of 5 April 2016, and matters arising**

Agreed; proposed by Jo Scott and seconded by Maggie Bagan.

**6. Chair's Report**

**6.1 The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) administer the Scottish Charity Awards each year, and the Association has entered the Gifford Park Mural in their 'Celebrating Communities' section. This year's presentation is on Thursday 9 June and we wish Hilary and Kate good luck.**

**6.2 The Lord Provost is tonight hosting awards for Volunteer Edinburgh. Heather Goodare from Friends of the Meadows is nominated and we wish her luck.**

**6.2 The Causey AGM will take place on Monday 27 June at 7pm at Greyfriars and Buccleuch Church. All welcome.**

**6.3 The Living Streets AGM is on Tuesday 28 June at 6pm at the Quaker Meeting House. Paul Lawrence, the new Director of Place at the Council, will speak about the Vision for Edinburgh.**

**7. Treasurer's Report**

The audited accounts have been received from Helen Bourquin, showing a balance of £1,483.15. They will be sent to OSCR this week.

**8. Planning and Licensing Report**

**8.1 Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 - Consultation on statement of licensing policy, amplified music in licensed premises – comments requested by 22 July 2016.**

Discussion of this topic was lively. The proposal that there be direct interaction between landlords of pubs/music venues and those affected by the noise was firmly rejected. There was concern that if audible noise was deemed a nuisance, there was no way of enforcing pubs/venues to cease and desist. It was questioned why the Council's starting point was that 'music is audible' (in London, music venues are obliged to install soundproofing), and why the consultation had not been widely distributed and advertised. It was agreed that the Chair would respond objecting to the proposals which were deemed to be wrong-headed and not capable of implementation.

**8.2 On 30 July, the Southside Association and the Southside Community Council will have a joint walkabout.**

## **9. Environmental Matters**

**Hilary gave the following report:**

- 9.1 The BHF clothing donation and recycling container at the east end of Gilmour Street (opposite Deaconess) is too large and unsightly for its present location and currently has no consent/permit.**
- 9.2 Gullies need to be emptied and a list has been submitted to the Council. Road surfaces continue to be in a poor state. Nothing has been done about the over-sized bus stop in Buccleuch Street. Can railings at junctions be removed? It's not clear, because of restructuring, who is now dealing with any of these matters, so can Councillors provide clarity on this, please?**
- 9.3 The Southside Community Council is trying to reduce the number of unsightly, over-sized A-boards which present trip hazards. This matter, often raised previously, has also got lost in the Council re-structure. Can we explore why A-boards are not subject to licensing, like chairs and tables?**
- 9.4 There is a problem with the re-paving on Nicolson Street as parts of the pavement are public and others are private. This is causing delays to re-slabbing.**
- 9.5 There is an ambition to create a mural in Gibbs' Entry/Haddon Court, possibly raising funding through the Tesco Foundation (the Tesco store is adjacent) and the Co-op Foundation. The University is asked to give permission, if it owns this space, and Moira will find out.**
- 10. Report from, and Question and Answer session with, the attending Councillor**
- 10.1 Cllr Orr offered to help with any necessary renewal of bins.**
- 10.2 Objections to the India Buildings proposals can be made through the Cockburn Association and the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust.**
- 10.3 The new Chief Executive of the Council, Andrew Kerr, is developing a Vision for Edinburgh, to include the built environment, heritage, transport etc.**
- 10.4 Cllr Orr is working with Dumbiedykes Residents Association on a) a new Controlled Parking Zone to include Briery Bauks, b) on controlling dog fouling and c) on bus provision.**
- 10.5 Underbelly's second year on the Meadows is imminent. The consultation for 2017 will start soon. Concerns were raised that the £40,000 revenue to the Council was not allocated to the parks.**

**10.6 Crime in the city centre and Dalry is rising, much of it linked to licensing issues and over-provision of alcohol outlets.**

**11. Any other business**

**There was no further business.**

**12. Date of next meeting**

**Tuesday 6 September at 7pm in the Southside Community Centre.**