

Minutes of Castlehill and Pittodrie Community Council Meeting

29.8.12, 6pm, Fittie Bar

In attendance:

Mike Mc Connell

Mike Heaney

Evan Budge

Finlay Bennet

Dale Arey

Pauline Brown

William Rae

Absent/Apologies:

Kate Bailey

Pat Chilton

Alex Gemie

Chris Third

Member, Chris Third, has indicated that he will be resigning from the community council.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes was proposed by Mike Heaney and seconded by William Rae. Approval is subject to investigation of a minor discrepancy in total of fund as indicated by Treasurer's report.

Matters Arising/Actions:

*The controversial planters donated to Fittie by Council have now been removed and replaced by the original models. It was agreed that this was a successful resolution to a contentious issue.

*The visit to Fittie by Britain in Bloom judges went ahead as planned on August 7th. Judges and Council representatives were shown around by Mike Heaney and Kate Bailey; despite inclement weather, the visit went well.

Judges appeared to be interested in the Fittie environment and engaged by tour commentary. They were particularly complimentary about one shed/garden in North Square, commenting that it would be worthy of a prize at the Chelsea Flower Show. We await the outcome of the competition with interest.

*The matter of the forthcoming Community Council elections was discussed and members were reminded of the need to submit applications before 20th September. The Council is keen to attract more representatives from the wider catchment area and Mike McConnell accepted an action to deliver an application form to a friend of Alex's who fits into that category.

*Mike McConnell accepted an action to contact the Community Warden and invite him/her to attend our meetings.

*Concern was expressed about the growing number floral tributes to the deceased that are left on benches along beachfront. These are left to decay with unsightly results. This issue will be raised with a member of Community Police.

Communication

The Council is keen to improve its means of communicating with all residents in the Castlehill and Pittodrie catchment area.

Discussion explored possible avenues that might serve that purpose and ideas included: renovation of the notice board in Fittie car park (action accepted by Mike H, Dale and William), 'piggy backing' on existing pamphlets in circulation and using supermarkets as info hubs (action accepted by Pauline).

As Community Council meetings are open to public and not all residents are keen to attend meetings held in a public house, the Council considered alternative venues for meetings likely to be well attended. Venue suggested included: Hanover Street School/Community Centre, Peacock printmakers, Salvation Army Citadel, The Aberdeen Sports Village, La Lombarda and Amadeus.

Play Area:

Dale Arey gave a report on the progress of the Play Park renovation project. Phase one is now complete and Phase two, which comprises the installation of a climbing tower, two sets of swings and a model harbour featuring a miniature Harbour Control Tower, will be started at a date yet to be identified.

Discussion agreed that, anecdotally, the Play park renovation is being well received by Fittie residents. However, the decision to use sand instead of grass as ground cover is still contentious. Dale pointed out that rabbits do not like sand so this reduced their droppings near the play are.

The 'wave' bench is agreed to look well in situ; the point was raised that, initially, we were offered two. Dale is to enquire about the second bench when he next speaks to the council. A query was raised about the plaque attached to the bench that advertises "The Academy" shopping centre.

It was also mentioned that the height of the roundabout precludes its use by young children and that there is a need to ensure the installation of robust swings that will not give way under the weight of an adult.

Ian Jessiman of the Harbour Board is also reported to be pleased with developments and is still intending to give the project £10,000.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer reported a standing sum of £2735.26 in the account. Mike Heaney raised the point that this did not tally with a sum mentioned in previous minutes. Treasurer to investigate.

AOB:

Brief discussion was held on the recent news that First Bus intends to change the bus route that serves Fittie. No agreement was reached on whether this change represents an improvement in service for users or not.

Next meeting will be on 26.9.12, 6pm, Fittie bar.