

West End Community Council. – Annual General Meeting

12 October 2021 at 1900h

Blackness Library, 225 Perth Road, Dundee DD2 1EJ

PRESENT:

Russell Pepper (RP, Chair)	WECC	Rowan Jack (RJ)	WECC
Sam Crouch (SC)	WECC	Ann Prescott (AP)	WECC
Rob Evans (RE)	WECC	Sarah Barham (SB)	DCC
Harrison Frame (HF)	WECC	Natalie Mackland (NM)	DCC
Suzie Harrold (SH)	WECC	Bailie Fraser Macpherson (FM)	DCC Councillors
Nick Marra (NJM)	WECC	Cllr Richard McCready (RM)	DCC Councillors
Crawford Morton (CM)	WECC	Cllr Donald Hay (DH)	DCC Councillors
Lynsey Penny (LP)	WECC		

4 members of the public

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Russell Pepper welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from AD and II.

2 CODE OF CONDUCT

Draft copies distributed to all in attendance. Code of Conduct agreed upon, proposed by HF and seconded by SC.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM FEB 2019

Proposed by II prior to meeting and seconded by AP.

4 CHAIR'S REPORT (Russell Pepper)

Since I took over as chair last year – informally in September, and formally in December – the community council has faced a number of challenges. First, due to a number of resignations, community councillors dropped below required numbers, and so community council elections were held. I was very pleased to see great interest in this and as a result, a number of new community councillors were elected – I would like to thank Sam Crouch, Robert Evans, Anna Day, Crawford Morton, Suzie Harrold and Harrison Frame for all joining the WECC and helping us carry on our work in the community.

Next, the most obvious challenge is the ongoing pandemic. This affected everyone in the community and left the WECC unable to engage with the community in our usual way. It's certainly been a learning process – and we're still working on how best to engage with the public with our limited resources – but through regular online meetings and contact via email, we did manage to continue our work, albeit it a reduced capacity.

For instance, we managed to spearhead a consultation into retaining some of the grass areas which had been allowed to grow long due to the pandemic. The council survey showed people were broadly in favour of allowing this, and a more recent city-wide survey showed that 2/3 of people in Dundee are in favour of retaining the wild areas. Going further, the WECC would like to work with the council and local community so that a group can be set up in the west end to take care of these areas within the West End, creating areas that are both a biodiverse and attractive, able to be enjoyed by everyone.

Our work within planning has been able to continue, more or less as normal, with a team being set up to look at planning applications, gathering community feedback and making comment on applications as appropriate. This is an important aspect of our work, and we're also keen to ensure that the public are enabled to navigate and engage with the planning process on an individual level as well.

We continued to apply for funding to provide improvements in the area, with funding being awarded for planters and a bench at the Western Cemetery, and a cycle rack at West Port. We also worked with SSE who agreed to pay for an artwork on the substation at Magdalen Green, transforming it from a drab grey to a beautiful artwork of Goldfinches, celebrating the biodiversity in the area. The community

councillors working as part of the Christmas Fortnight committee are also continuing their work, with exciting developments in the pipeline, including a market at Miller's Wynd car park.

A constant concern of the public and community councillors alike is that of traffic management, especially of the volume and speed of traffic in the area. Parking is also an ongoing issue, with the council having introduced charges at the previously free car parks in the West End, without consultation and without also introducing a residents' permit scheme. We have therefore been in regular contact with the transport team at DCC, and are hoping to work with them on making our streets safer and more equitable for all users, with the needs of local residents put first.

Overall, despite the challenges of the past year, I really feel that the WECC has done very well in managing to continue its work. Of course there are issues – as there always are - with ensuring we obtain maximum reach within our community, and of indeed knowing what the local community wish us to focus on. To that end, now that the pandemic seems to be easing, we will all be meeting up to set a plan for meaningful community engagement so that we can set community-focussed priorities for the community council going forwards. This will ensure that we can do the best possible work in our area, and really represent the views and wishes of our community.

As well as all of the community councillors, I'd very much like to thank all of the elected members for their valuable contributions and tireless work in the west end, to our community offices for their support and expertise in all community council matters to the police for their support and information at meetings, and of course to all of the members of public who have engaged with us and also care about the West End as much as we do.

5 TREASURERS REPORT (Harrison Frame)

The treasurer's report was independently audited and handed over by Laurie Edmonds (previous Treasurer).

2020 Balance £1515.00

Opening Balance £6786.00

£6002.00 spent

£400.00 Cemetery Grant received

2021 Balance £2099.00

Proposed by Harrison Frame and seconded by Ann Prescott

Thanks goes to Laurie Edmonds for taking care of the finance over the years.

6 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS (Natalie Mackland)

- **Chairperson** – Russell Pepper nominated by AP and seconded by RE
- **Vice Chair** – no nomination
- **Secretary** – Sam Crouch nominated by SH and seconded by HF
- **Treasurer** – Harrison Frame nominated by RP and seconded by SC
- **Planning and Licencing Reps** – 1st rep Harrison Frame nominated by RP and seconded by RE. 2nd rep Russell Pepper nominated by LP and seconded by SC
- **Communication Officers** – Anna Day and Lynsey Penny nominated by SH and seconded by HF
- **Co-option** of Elaine Kuwahara - Proposed by SH and seconded by AP

7 AOCB

Nick Marra – Regarding traffic management asked when anyone from Traffic Department will be attending WECC. Ewan Gourlay has been nominated for a face-to-face meeting, however, the council are currently not conducting these due to COVID 19. NM suggests it will be in the New Year before face-to-face meetings resume. A 'site visit' was proposed by FM.

There was discussion regarding the EVENTBRITE ticketed event and making it accessible to all. Covid 19 restrictions remain in place and WECC are adhering to these. A vote was taken on whether the WECC meetings should be face-to-face or online. Vote was in favour of face to face 7 to 2.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 9th November 2021, Logie and St Johns Hall, 1900 h.