

Old Town Community Council

Meeting Minutes: 10.06.25

Present: Carolynn Reddell (CR), Patrick Keady (PK), John Mitchell (JM), Marie MacArthur (MM), Oonagh Gray (OG), Simon Byrom (SB), Sughan Subbiah (SS), Iona Scrimgeour (IS), Antonia Rolph (AR), Paul Penman (PP), Calim Renton (CR), Daniel Todd (DT),

Councillors: Finlay MacFarlane (FM)

Apologies: Karen DuPlesis, Jo Mowat, Margaret Graham, Clare Miller

Welcome and Apologies

Approval of the minutes

SS was added to previous minutes. JM proposed, MM seconded to accept the minutes.

Election of a Chair

Finlay went through the role of Chair.

Meetings can be run how the OTCC want but one specific person needed for Edinburgh Council Co-Chairs are currently not accepted by the council, but this matter has been brought to the council and be changed for the next election.

Chair elected is:

Paul - 3 votes

Marie - 9 votes

Marie voted in as Chair - PP proposed, seconded by PK

Planning and Licensing

Communications

OG not receiving emails from Governance - forward on emails.

CR to send out planning and licensing every week, any civic license notices, any requests that we have from businesses around planning permission. Can review how members are finding them soon. CR to send out STL list

Look into getting a website - DT and CR to work on website.

PK has passwords to social media.

Send out survey response to everyone about the community council elections

AOB:

AR - do we have funds that we give to different groups/community organisations?

OTCC are given a grant of £700 per year.

The Community Grants fund is available to apply for which is run by the council. Has a panel but currently does not have any Old town residents on it.

Thoughts on participatory budgeting. Potentially the visitor levy

Treasurer:

Banking - need to appoint a chair, need the governing doc, need the minutes from the meeting
Approve to open a new bank with RBS - proposed to open, Calim, seconded by Antonia

Date and Time of Next Meetings

8th July, 6.30-8pm - Marie to Chair

Optional meeting - 12th August (at West Port Garden)

9th September, 6.30-8pm

14th October, 6.30-8pm

11th November, 6.30-8pm

Any other Competent Business

Council policies on street trading. In person session - Wednesday 11th June at 7pm.

Consultation starting in June. JM to attend. To report back

Drug related businesses in IS tenement spaces. Provided evidence to the police but they haven't done anything. Concerns about the drug use in the Old Town echoed by members. FM suggested David Duthy could speak to the group, he is responsible for the policing strategy. Potentially October for a meeting

First time that in August there will be no increase in street cleaning. - Finlay to follow up.

Report drug paraphernalia service on the council website. - CR to email details to OTCC

SB - Millbank Pavilion is up to demolition Westside - Grange Loan. NHS want to get rid of the entire site, was originally a gift to the city of Edinburgh. Application expires Friday 20th June in the Sciennes ward. Simon endorsed to put in a planning comment - planning application no. 25/02523/con

PP - Tartan tat shops - putting out letter notifications regarding items on the street.

CR - Worried about the pedestrianisation of the Lawnmarket will become a space for busking etc.