

**CURRIE EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
GIBSON CRAIG HALL
TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.30PM**

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1. WELCOME

Margaret Michie, Chair, welcomed 25 members of the Watch to the meeting and welcomed the guest speakers for the evening Gordon MacDonald MSP and local councillors Bill Henderson and Ricky Henderson.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:-
David Eatock, Iona MacKinlay, Ann Proudfoot, Tim Shepherd, Gordon Laing, Phil Hutchison, Madge Hutchison, Hamish Sutherland, Duncan Law, Sheila Gordon and Elizabeth Wightman.

3. MINUTES OF A.G.M. 24TH OCTOBER 2012

Chair asked the meeting if the Minutes were a true reflection of the AGM held in 2012. Meeting agreed that the Minutes were a true reflection. Chair asked for a proposer and seconder. Proposer George Ballantyne Seconded by Andrew Craigie

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES. No points raised.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Elizabeth Wightman, Treasurer, was not present to provide a report to the meeting. An Income and Expenditure Statement was provided. Questions regarding the Statement were requested and George Ballantyne asked if subscriptions collected were in line with those collected in previous years. Iain Proudfoot indicated that monies received were in line but that the Committee were to look at the amount received compared to the number of households in the Watch area to ascertain if any discrepancies/shortfall could be identified.

5. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

An amendment to extend the boundary to include the houses on the north side of Lanark Road West from Muir Wood Road to the Juniper Green boundary was proposed. The reason for the extended boundary was provided by Iain Proudfoot. Hamish Leal then advised the meeting that there were several houses on the south side of Lanark Road West that should have been included. Advices were received that there had been no mention of these houses in discussions regarding this amendment. It was felt that these houses should be included and the Constitution Amendment be revised. It was indicated that under Clause 11 of the Constitution the 28 day notice period had not been carried out and the Amendment either had to be passed or rejected.

The meeting passed the Amendment but this matter was to be dealt with by the Committee and presented at the Annual General Meeting in 2014

6. REPORT FROM CHAIR

This is a Word Document attached to these Minutes

7. GUEST SPEAKERS

Ricky Henderson, local councillor, was introduced by Margaret Michie, who commended the CENW for the assistance to Community Safety. He continued by saying the Community Policing has had confirmation that resources will be provided to continue this service. On local issues, the Planning Application at Muir Wood Field was rejected. A Regulation Order to extend the yellow lines on Muir Wood Road at the junction with Lanark Road West was being dealt with through the due legal process and can take from 6 to 9 months to be completed. On Council services the proposed Budget was available for residents to make comments. There is a reduction of £10 million with continuing reductions envisaged. A link on the Edinburgh Council website is available for comments. Currie Community Council has had people come forward to join and it may be appropriate that a representative from CENW attends CCC meetings.

A question was raised regarding the service provided on the Lothian Buses 44 route. This matter will be raised by Ricky Henderson with Lothian Buses.

Bill Henderson, Local Councillor, was introduced by Margaret Michie and he thanked CENW for the invitation to the meeting. Bill spoke about the local roads and that Muir Wood Road had recently been resurfaced with 20mph roundels being painted on the surface. The Road Repair System that had been in place mainly dealt with the repair of major bus routes but not the side roads. A working party was set up to review all roads with 25% of the budget being allocated to country/local roads. Pavements will also be dealt with and improvements will take place and are being made. There are plans for housing developments within the Green Belt, mainly in Balerno and Bill was of the opinion that any further expansion will erode the Community Spirit felt in Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green. Currie Community Council may have to take a more active role in this regard.

A question was asked regarding a Crossing being placed at the top of Bryce Road. This was not considered to be feasible, at this time, as there has to be a balance between traffic flow and pedestrian safety. Any discussion regarding this would also have to ensure the crossing was suitable for children.

Gordon MacDonald, MSP, was introduced by Margaret Michie and advised that he would talk about the changes in the Police Force. In England and Wales by 2015 there will be a budget cut of 20% and numbers will be reduced. No compulsory redundancy but compulsory retirement after 30 years service will see this process implemented. The Scottish Government has decided not to follow this path and maintain the front line police officers. This has been done by an integration process of taking all 8 Scottish forces and now only having one Scottish force. The hope is to save £30 million with any job losses being in the support staff. There has been a Traffic Warden review with the proposal that there will be no Traffic Wardens but only Local Authority Parking Attendants. This will allow any monies raised from fines and penalties to be retained by the Local Authority. A Front Counter Review of Police Stations has shown that there are 14 stations in Edinburgh with a front counter. Some of these are used sparingly by the public e.g. Balerno. The intention may be to close this counter but the station will be maintained as a base.

A question was raised regarding the timescales that elapse for evidence to be tested and results received from a base in Dundee. There is a review of this process being undertaken which will provide timescales and procedures for items to be processed thereby allowing a shorter period of time to bring cases to court.

The safety of children/young adults in city centre locations was asked and the visible presence of police in this locality. Gordon advised that there are more Police in the 'hotspots' and that this is a visible presence.

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

All Committee Members indicated they would continue Margaret Michie asked if anyone at the Meeting would wish to join the Committee. No further nominations were forthcoming.

Proposed Douglas Scrimger Seconded Bob Kerr
Margaret Michie then advised that all were elected.

Hamish Leal was proposed for the Committee and agreed to join.
Proposed George Ballantyne Seconded Archie Clark

9. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Margaret Michie (Chair) demits office as a result of completing her term of office
Iain Proudfoot (Vice-Chair) demits office as a result of completing his term of office

TREASURER Elizabeth Wightman
SECRETARY Dee Johns
VICE-CHAIR Neil Dickson
CHAIR Iain Proudfoot

Proposed Bob Kerr
Seconded Gill Burnside

Iain Proudfoot thanked Margaret Michie for her time as Vice-Chair and Chair. Iain also said that the Committee is not the Neighbourhood Watch but the members are the Watch. Ideas are welcomed from all members and contact points are the Website, Lookout and telephone numbers.

10. A.O.C.B

No items were raised. Iain Proudfoot then closed the meeting and invited all present to enjoy the refreshments provided.

Minutes compiled by Iain Proudfoot
31st October 2013.
E&OE