

EDINBURGH ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

25th November 2017, Business Centre, Edinburgh City Chambers

Present:

Eric Dobbie*	Gilmerton/Inch	Ian Clement.....	Merchiston
David Bewsey*	Colinton	Euan Klein	Merchiston
Allister McKillop*	Currie CC	Arne Strid*	Morningside
Judy Wightman*	Ratho & District	Robert Hodgart	Southside
Andrew Fournet	Craigentenny & Meadowbank	John Clark*	Craigmillar
Patricia Eason.....	Cramond & Barnton	Susan Carr	Craigmillar
Andrew Brough*	Tollcross	Anne Denholm*	Wester Hailes
Roger Colkett	Tollcross	Tim Parker*	Trinity
Tony Harris*	Grange/Prestonfield	Emma Philips	Craigmillar & Blackhall
Janet Sidaway.....	Grange/Prestonfield	Lesley Gibson-Eaglesham	Gilmerton/Inch
Nick Marshall	Northfield & Willowbrae	Andy Lippok	Fairmilehead

*Denotes CC Representative

Also in Attendance: Cllr Donald Wilson (CEC) & Paul Lawrence (CEC)

Apologies: Janis Hope* (Sighthill, Broomhouse & Parkhead), Warren Hope* (Corstorphine), Martyn Whyte* (Granton & District), Robert Scott & Ian Williamson* (Cramond & Barnton)

1. The Chair, Eric Dobbie welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved.** Proposed, Arne Strid, seconded Tim Parker.
3. **Reports:** These were noted.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
Judy Wightman presented the accounts. These were approved. Prop Tim Parker: Second: Tony Harris. Christine Cameron was approved as examiner.
5. **Election of Office Bearers.** Cllr Wilson read out the nominations. Eric Dobbie (Gilmerton & Inch) for Chair, Allister McKillop (Currie) for Vice Chair, Judy Wightman (Ratho & District) Treasurer and David Bewsey (Colinton) Secretary. All were elected unopposed.
Representative to the Edinburgh Partnership (EP): David Bewsey was elected unopposed.

The Office Bearers for 2017/18 are:

Chair	Eric Dobbie
Vice-Chair	Allister McKillop
Secretary	David Bewsey
Treasurer	Judy Wightman
Edinburgh Partnership	David Bewsey

It was agreed that EACC should join the Scottish Older Persons Association (SOPA) with Allister McKillop elected to represent EACC.

6. Representation on the Edinburgh Partnership Board

The Secretary reported that EACC is an advisory body representing community councils on the Edinburgh Partnership at their quarterly meetings and input from representatives to this meeting is important as it gives communities an additional voice. Meetings would be arranged to coincide with the release of Board papers in order to ascertain views from representatives.

7. Presentation by Paul Lawrence, Executive Director of Place

Paul reported that Nick Croft, who had given much support to EACC, had left his post in Strategy & Insight and would be taking up a post with Edinburgh College. Paul went on to outline the new arrangements for the four new Locality Committees who would have executive powers each with a team of officers, and funds to deal with Locality issues. Participatory Budgeting would also be under each Locality.

Paul went on to say that there was a desire that all of these committees meet before Christmas, however the delay in getting final approval for the Locality Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIP) had created difficulties in arranging these meetings. He stated that the LOIPs were living documents and would be amended to suit changes within Localities.

The Edinburgh Partnership was to be reformed, ensuring all partners were included at a high level and ensuring that communities would be represented. Michele Mulvaney would be presenting a paper to the Edinburgh Partnership with thematic reforms at neighbourhood level including Health and Wellbeing, Economy and Employability, Community Improvement Partnership, Children's Services Management Group, and Team around the Place.

Paul introduced Councillor Donald Wilson who reported that there would be no diminution of input from the voluntary sector and that neighbourhood level discussions would continue and could include other groups. Neighbourhood Partnerships were now advisory bodies.

In questions from the floor, concerns were raised about Social Care integration. Paul Lawrence reported that Michele Miller had been appointed as new Integrated Joint Board Director. Concerns were raised about whether Community Councils would work well together in the new Locality structure. It was suggested that this has to be encouraged and reviewed over the next year.

8. Locality Governance:

The Secretary gave a brief overview of the current status of this suggesting that there was a lack of clarity as to where communities were in the new Locality structure. He cited two diagrams showing the old structure and the one presented to his Neighbourhood Partnership in September. Paul Lawrence indicated that greater clarity would come from discussions at the Edinburgh Partnership and that EACC would have a strong input into this in addition to all Community Councils.

Paul Lawrence had to leave the meeting at this point and the Chair thanked him for attending.

9. Taking EACC Forward

The Secretary suggested there needed to be another group to examine engagement with Community Councils who so far haven't returned. There was still concern we hadn't moved forward much in the past three years, but it was stated that in fact substantially it had. There was now a Health and Wellbeing group to add to the excellent Planning support given by Tony Harris and Jim Henry. They both needed additional support in dealing with new planning legislation. The Secretary went on to say that while we did have an active communications group, that had rather dissipated over the last two years. There followed an open discussion on how best to improve EACCs visibility. It was suggested a short synopsis of what EACC represents be supplied to each Community Council to encourage involvement. The use of CEC resources to encourage engagement might be useful. It was reiterated that other representatives needed to

step forward in the coming year to be in a position to take over as Office Bearers. It was vital to bring in new people with new ideas.

10. AOCB & Future Meetings

The Secretary suggested four meeting dates to align with release of Edinburgh Partnership papers in order to ensure suitable input to the EP in addition to the AGM. The EACC representative to the Licensing Forum was mentioned. The Secretary informed the meeting that he had made attempts to contact the council officer responsible without success, but now that the Licensing Report and Forum Constitution had been approved by Council, things might move forward. The Secretary will attempt to make contact again. **ACTION: Secretary**

11. Closing remarks

Councillor Donald Wilson stated that there should be no detracting from the current discussions on moving things forward and there was full cross party agreement. He also said the Culture & Communities Committee was coming together well.

The Chair closed the meeting saying that the current Office Bearer's wouldn't all be walking away at the next AGM and EACC needed more input from Community Councils to make improvements to how it operated. He went on to say that Unity, Motivation and Empowerment were all important in continuing what EACC did.

The meeting closed at 12 noon

Draft minutes updated 05 February 2018