**Ferryhill and Ruthrieston Community Council**

**Minutes of meeting of Wednesday 8th March 2023**

**Present:** Michael Winn (Chair), Kevin McIvor, William Rae, Ishbel Shand, Gregor McAbery.

Sergeant Ricky Burr

Karen Finch, ACC Community Council Liaison Officer

Councillors Derek Davidson from the Ruthrieston section of the boundary and Councillors Lee Fairfull and Michael Kusznir from the Ferryhill section of the boundary.

Fiona Rennie, Chair of City Centre Community Council

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was held in Ferryhill Community Centre.
3. Apologies were received from Catherine Campbell, Leanne Ferries, Miriam Martinez Lodin, Prema Arumugam, Rachel Martin, Cllr Ian Yuill and Cllr Christian Allard.
4. **Police Report**

Report received from Sgt Ricky Burr

* Support Sgt for Hazlehead & West End Community Policing Team CPT. Dual Located, officers in Whinhill and Cults.
* Sgt Burr supports all 5 community councils in the area
* Standard report to be issued monthly in advance of each community council meeting focussing on issues specific to the area.
* Sgt Burr ran through the previously circulated Police Report

1. **Councillors’ reports**

Councillor Lee Fairfull

1. Reported that some difficult decisions had to be made as part of the recent council budget setting process, with the focus being to minimise the impact on vulnerable communities as far as possible.
   * Question from Ishbel raised again on cost of debt repayments. ACC bond issue with LSE led to high debt repayments tied to RPI.

**Action**

Cllr Fairfull to advise Ishbel on the cost of debt repayment %.

Councillor Michael Kusznir

1. Reported significant negative feedback had been received from the local community following the announcement of the closure of Ferryhill library.
2. Reported the council is continuing to follow up on the empty property in Prospect Terrace with the empty homes team making contact with the owner’s power of attorney.
3. Noted that there was an online portal in place for reporting issues with communal bin emptying. In terms of Net Zero, noted that usage/overfilling of bins now being tracked to provide a data-driven approach to usage.
4. Noted that continuing to receive complaints from local businesses around South College St regarding ongoing works.

Councillor Derek Davidson

1. Reported a significant number of complaints had been received relating to the ongoing road closures on and around Holburn Street.

Councillor Simon Watson

1. Re-iterated the point raised by Cllr Kusznir relating to the concerns raised by the community following the announcement of the closure of Ferryhill library later in March and mentioned that a petition had been started to raise support for preventing closure of this facility. Noted it was also currently a “warm space”
2. Reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in Bon Accord Terrace Gardens
3. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting 8th February were duly approved by the community council.

Actions from previous meeting were discussed.

1. **Community Directory**

Members of the Ashley-Broomhill community council have created a similar directory for their area

The app “In Your Area” was recommended as a useful source of local community businesses and activities

Agreed it would be useful for us to create a directory for the area, initially take information from any existing lists and use the above mention app, and as a follow to split the area up and everyone to take a section to update.

**Actions**

Karen to share details of community directories set up by other community councils

Karen to provide a map of the area that can be used to split up and map a community directory

All to consider looking at “In Your Area” App and prep in advance of the next meeting to build a directory

1. **Publicising Meetings**

To prepare appropriate posters to be able to be used as notices and put up in relevant places, e.g. Ferryhill Community Centre and Ruthrieston Community Centre.

To also commence having minutes available at each of the community centres

Use the newly formed Facebook page to publicise meetings

**Action**

William to mock-up proposed poster to be used to publicise the community council using Canava app and present at the next meeting

1. **Planning, licensing and public transport update (William/Ishbel)**

**Planning –** Nothing significant to report

**Licensing** – Nothing significant to report

**Public Transport** – Nothing significant to report

1. **Financial Report** 
   * Full year funding for financial year 2023/24 to be paid into the CC bank account on 1st April
   * Council members are now expected to pay all invoices and other costs incurred from the funding provided in the CC bank account
2. **AOB**
3. Fiona Rennie, a representative from the City Centre Community Council was in attendance for the session. She mentioned their council meet online on the second Monday of every month. It was suggested that a representative of the F&R CC should attend one of their sessions to get an insight into the activities they are involved in to generate ideas for our community council, and also to take part in any joint activities and promotions
4. Ishbel also raised the consideration of shared gardens, including possible use of council/derelict land and that she had spoken to Steven Shand (Aberdeen City Council)
5. Karen Finch noted that the review of community council governance documentation had now started with informal consultations ni May, and a first report to the Council in August. There is to be 24 weeks of public consultation and the process takes about a year. Looking for any volunteers to help with review of documents.
6. William Rae raised the point that Ferryhill, South Holburn and St Marks churches are coming together with a formal vote on 26th March, and the three coming together around 28th May, and to be called Devanha.
7. Ishbel Shand raised various points around Zero Waste and sustainable/re-use activities. There was a discussion on the use of waste and agreed that instructions and activities could be publicised on the Facebook page.

* **Michael Winn, Chairperson**