Minutes of the Meeting of the Mercat Cross & City Centre Community Council held on Thursday, 10 August, 2017, at 7.30pm in the Tolbooth, Stirling.

Present
Andrew Szwebs (Chair), Melanie Cowie (Treasurer), Kathleen Szwebs (Minute Taker), Stuart Baird, Jim Fisher, Linda Friel

Apologies
Karen Bellingham-Baird (Vice Chair), Naomi Ross (Secretary), Anton Immink

In Attendance
Andy Davis        Stirling Council
Stuart Geddes     Stirling Council
Cllr Susan McGill Stirling Council
John Rowbotham    Stirling Observer
Derek Foster      Resident
Jamie Grant       Resident
Jim Sandison      Resident

1. Welcome and Apologies
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. He mentioned that the guest speaker SG was a late insertion into the agenda and proposed that the CC hear from him first to allow him to leave early which was agreed.

Guest Speaker – Stuart Geddes (Stirling Council)
SG discussed the impact of road closures and updated the CC on the progress of the Kerse Rd bridge closure. CC praised the reduced time of full closure from 12 months – 6 months. Chair asked if any consultation had been done with local businesses and expressed his concerns over the potential impact to those businesses. SG explained that this was the responsibility of Network Rail and that SC has had conversations with some businesses. SG told CC that there was to be a planning meeting at the end of the month to either grant/refuse consent for bridge closure. Chair thanked SG for his attendance.

The Chair proposed that the CC hear from Cllr McGill next to allow her to leave early which was agreed.

6 (c) Councillor Report – Cllr Susan McGill (Stirling Council)
There was not a lot for her to report as SC was in recess. The Council leader been in meetings with David Mundell and was to meet with the Depute PM to discuss the Stirling City Deal. Council meetings were to resume soon.

At this point the normal order of business was resumed.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
Proposed: Stuart Baird
Seconded: Jim Fisher

3. Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.

4. Office Bearers Reports:
a) Chair: AS reported that he had attended the Darnley St Steps consultation on both
days, two ‘Walking the Marches’ meetings, a Citizenship Ceremony at Old Viewforth,
a LOIP Development event at the Albert Hall and also a meeting of the Licensing
Forum.

b) Secretary: A written report was circulated prior to meeting and was approved in
NR’s absence.

c) Treasurer: Nothing to report that wasn’t covered in the AGM.

d) Planning & Licensing: 1 planning application in Princes St of no significance.

5. Subgroups Report:
a) City Deal: Nothing to report.

b) Environment: Nothing to report.

c) Community Development Trust: Chair has investigated what it takes to set up a
community development trust, also registering as an SCIO and had circulated a copy
of the asset register for Mercat Cross area to members of the subgroup. AS said he
would like the CDT to meet as a group later this month. ACTION: Chair to have a
meeting of CDT later this month.

d) Baird Hardie 2020: Nothing to report.

e) Funding: Nothing to report due to absences. Chair requested details of Summer
Activities which were being organised so that he could bring this back to a future CC
meeting for formal approval. ACTION: KBB to send a copy of Summer Activities to
the Chair.

f) Resilience: AS has received the template for resilience plan, SB requested a copy
and said he would make a start on it. ACTION: Chair to send copy of resilience
template to SB.

6. External Reports:
a) Police: Not in attendance but a written report had been provided and was
circulated to members.
b) Community Wardens: Not in attendance and no report had been provided. LF praised their hard work.

c) Councillor Report: This had been taken at the start of the meeting as above.

7. Co-option of Community Councillor
AS gave a background to the vacancy. Jamie Grant (JG) had been the only resident to apply and he told CC about his strong links with Stirling University. Proposer: Linda Friel, Seconder: Stuart Baird. As over two-thirds of Community Councillors present agreed JG was co-opted onto the CC.

8. Approval and adoption of Constitution
9. Approval and adoption of Standing Orders
Both items were taken together.

The Chair stressed that as the current CC was relatively new and as he was not in possession of or had no knowledge of these documents being previously adopted that the CC should do this now as a matter of good practice. AS explained that these were model documents from the SC website and that the only addition necessary was the months that the CC would not meet. AS suggested no July meeting which was agreed by the CC. AS also proposed not to have a December meeting either. CC agreed. LF mentioned that she wasn’t sure about not having a December meeting. AS suggested that if required an emergency meeting could take place.

Both proposed by Jim Fisher. Both seconded by Jamie Grant.

10. Walking the Marches
AS explained the background to ‘Walking the Marches’ and how organisers of the event were looking to make it more inclusive for community groups and local stakeholders. He mentioned that all community councillors had been invited to go on the march on 16th September. He also mentioned that the CC had been e-mailed by organisers of the event with a request for a donation but as there was specific criteria on how funding could be spent this prevented the CC from doing so. AS then suggested that the CC could host a workshop for children in the community to learn about the history of ‘Walking the Marches’ which the marches organisers had agreed to present. CC agreed it would be better to do this next year as this would give us more time to organise it. **ACTION**: Organise educational workshop for next year’s Walking the Marches around early September 2018.

11. Residents Forum
New resident DF discussed issues he was having with his new residency in Princes St. Resident JS asked about passing places on Barn Rd – AS said he would enquire
further with SC on his behalf. **ACTION**: AS to contact SC about passing places on Barn Rd.

CC agreed it would be worthwhile to invite someone from Network Rail to the next meeting. LF said she had their contact details and would invite them. **ACTION**: LF to invite representative from Network Rail to next CC meeting.

**12. AOCB**

a) Noreen Boswell - LF suggested it would be a nice gesture to get a card signed by all community councillors. This was agreed and that also in future a card would be sent to anyone who had died whilst working for the benefit of the community. AS mentioned that a wreath was appropriate in tragic circumstances such as the recent death of the electrician David Taylor.

b) Wallace Forum – This is to take place on 31st August at 7:00pm in the Riverbank Centre, Stirling. Mercat Cross is the host CC this month and had secured 3 speakers to talk about the Scottish Youth Parliament.

c) AD explained that Fiona Buchanan has expressed an interest to come to the next CC meeting to introduce herself and talk about her new role. **ACTION**: NR to check diary and if space available contact FB and invite her to the next CC meeting.

d) AD circulated draft copies of our new community development plan.

**13. Date, time and place of next meeting**

Thursday 14th September at 7:00pm in the Tolbooth, Stirling.

*The meeting closed at 9.00pm.*