

Minutes

Petitions Committee

2pm, Thursday, 8 September 2016

Present

Councillors Booth (Convener), Gardner, Donaldson, Edie, Fullerton, Keil, Key and Rose.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Petitions Committee meeting of 14 April 2016 as a correct record.

2. Rolling Actions Log

The Petitions Committee Rolling Actions Log updated to 8 September 2016 was presented.

Decision

To note the Rolling Actions Log and to agree to close actions 1, 2 & 3.

(References – Rolling Actions Log 8 September 2016, submitted)

3. Petitions Committee Business Bulletin 8 September 2016

The Petitions Committee Business Bulletin for 8 September 2016 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Petitions Committee Business Bulletin 8 September 2016, submitted.)

4. Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

The Committee was asked to consider two valid petitions.

(a) A plaque for the Melville monument

Mr Adam Ramsay (Principal Petitioner) felt that many people who pass the Melville monument in St Andrews Square were unaware of what a controversial figure he was. The acts that he had been associated with include using troops to quell rioters against the Highland Clearances and was also perceived to be reluctant in ending the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Mr Ramsey was eager that Melville is not judged by contemporary standards but asked that the Council add a plaque to the statue that reflects his career and acknowledges his actions that would help society to better understand its history.

Decision

- 1) To thank the Principal Petitioner for raising the issues contained within the petition.
- 2) To ask that officers meet with the Principal Petitioner to agree a form of words for inclusion on the Melville Monument and that this form of words be submitted to the Petitions Committee via the Business Bulletin for consideration and thereafter referred to Culture and Sport Committee for a decision

(b) Save Granton Castle Walled Garden

Ms Kirsty Sutherland, Ms Linda Garcia and Ms Gillean Paterson, on behalf of Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden, stated that the rare historical land use and social and environmental value of the Granton Castle Walled Garden was unique to Edinburgh.

The Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden were fearful for the future of the Garden as they had been notified that the EDI are preparing a revised master plan for Central Development Area and North Shore which include the Walled Garden Site.

Due to the threat posed by EDI's revised master plan, The Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden asked that the Council support them in their aims to ensure that the medieval walled garden is protected, accessible and well maintained to preserve the heritage environment for future generations.

Motion

To refer the petition to EDI for further consideration alongside the principal petitioners.

- moved by Councillor Keil, seconded by Councillor Rose

Amendment

To refer the petition to the Economy Committee and that the Economy Committee pass a motion of support regarding the aims and objectives of the Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden.

- moved by Councillor Donaldson, seconded by Councillor Booth

Voting

For the motion	-	2 votes
For the amendment	-	2 votes

The number of votes being equal, the Convener gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment.

Decision

- 1) To thank the Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden for raising the issues contained within the petition.

- 2) To refer the petition to the Economy Committee and that the Economy Committee pass a motion of support regarding the aims and objectives of the Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

5. Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

The Committee was asked to note that there were three petitions open for signatures on the Council website, three petitions did not receive the minimum number of signatures by the closing dates and that two invalid petitions had been received.

Decision

- 1) To note that there are currently three petitions open for signatures on the Council website, 'Gull de-nesting in North Merchiston', 'Edinburgh Music and exhibition arena' and 'Return Edinburgh's main roads to 30mph'.
- 2) To note that three petitions 'Edinburgh Council to Keep Our Trees!', 'Edinburgh Currency (Similar to that in Bristol)' and 'Statue of Thomas Aikenhead' did not receive the minimum number of signatures required by their closing dates and had now closed for signatures on the Council website.
- 3) To note that two petitions had been received which did not meet the petitions criteria set out in the table below.

Petition Name	Details
Lothian Bus Service No. 70	To note that the petition Lothian Bus Service No 70 is invalid in terms of Paragraph 1.3 of the Petitions criteria which states that we are unable to accept a petition was a decision of the Council or a committee within the previous six month period.
Save Our Inch House Community Centre	To note that the petition Save Our Inch House Community Centre invalid in terms of Paragraph 1.2 of the Petitions criteria which states that we are unable to accept a petition is a matter already being considered or scheduled to be considered by the Council or a committee

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)