

GRANGE AND PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of council meeting May17th, 2008

PRESENT -Kate Arnott- Interim Chairman, Sue Tritton-Interim Vice Chair; Douglas Fisher-Interim Secretary; Andreas Grothey-Interim Treasurer; Graham Brown, Joe Henderson, Alan Stewart, Mike Hunter, Mansour Ahmadian, Maureen Edwards, John Palmer, Myra Reid, Barbara Robertson, David Stevenson, Tony Harris.

GUESTS - Councillor Cameron Rose, Constable Tom Hopper

APOLOGIES – James Bryce, Cecilia Irvine, Erick Davidson Cllrs, Burgess, Mackenzie and Perry, Mike Pringle MSP

The business of the meeting was preceded by the following

Presentation.

The University of Edinburgh, King's Building estate management gave a presentation on Estate Strategy.

King's Buildings has 1400 staff, 4,000 undergraduates and 1300 post-graduates.

Ongoing projects include

*Consultations to enhance listed buildings on site, within a flexible framework for future developments. the public realm,

- campus zoning
- landscape strategy to provide a green heart to the campus.

Discussion ranged over

- the use of car parking within the site by both staff and students
- indiscriminate parking by persons who attend the university in whatever capacity. It was pointed out that a 'Green transport' plan is incorporated in the forward strategy to include a greater use of public transport (No 41 bus) to enter the campus, bicycles, and further enhancing pedestrian links.

The University also liaises with the police service (Secure by Design protocol) and the Fire service. The presentation stimulated a great deal of discussion amongst both member of the council and the public The chairman thanked the University Staff for giving such a positive insight into the future plans

Any further questions for the University Staff to be sent to the GPCC secretary, to forward to the university

In response the University staff welcomed the opportunity to speak to the council and stated they would be willing to answer questions regarding the future work.

They were part of the community and we should all work together for a better environment.

Item 1 Minutes of previous meeting. April 16, 2008

Approved. Proposed Joe Henderson, Seconded Tony Harris

Item 2 Matters arising not covered by agenda

There had been the question of the Royal Observatory being part of the Grange/Prestonfield Community Council area. It had been looked into and was in fact part of the Morningside area and out with our immediate remit. There were no other matters arising.

Item 3 Police Report. Constable Hopper thanked the committee for the opportunity to address the members and public present. He gave details of 'Operation Aura' that had commenced last weekend to combat under age drinking and anti-social behavior. The operation would normally be during Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and usually between 6pm and 2am although this was flexible and would be in the region of the Meadows, Newington, and Bruntsfield areas.

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A member of the public brought to the attention of Constable Hopper of an incident of a man with an axe in a public place and the police not attending? Constable Hopper said he had no knowledge of this incident but would make enquiries and report any further information.

He also spoke about the use of 'tags' (these are the spray paint graffiti markings left by persons in various parts of the city) A number of people had been reported for these offences and enquiries were ongoing to eradicate the problem

He was asked about the possibility of police reports of crimes being given on the council website for the information of the members and the public. He would make enquiries and would report back, he was of the opinion that this would be a first class method of promulgating information of crime in the area of the council. He thanked the council for their continuing support and at this stage left the meeting.

Item 4 Reports

Chairman: As the Chairman had been on holiday the Vice-chairman had undertaken a number of duties in her absence and made the following reports.

She had attended a conference where a community plan on 'improving the environment' had been produced.

She attended the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting, Monday 12 May

Items discussed included

- * the post office at Blackford had an attempted ram raid.
- * the improvement of the area at Tollcross and how such a scheme could be implemented throughout our council area.

Secretary: Reported that St Crispin's school (in our area and has children with learning support needs) had recently been awarded a green flag for achievement in the environment. A letter congratulating the school on behalf the council had been sent to the school

Treasurer: We have a balance on 29th April 2008 of £185.16

Communications: Andreas Grothey spoke about the setting up of the web site and was along with Mansour Ahmadian developing a strategy on how to make the best use of the resources available. They will keep the members up to date with developments. The Vice Chairman spoke about the Meadows Festival. Space had been allocated in one of the tent venues for community councils to participate and give the public attending details of their respective groups. The festival will run from 7/8th June and volunteers are required from the members attend at various times to assist in this venture.

Newsletter A newsletter in suggested format was given to members This document will give details of the members, the various working groups within the council and dates of future meetings, emphasising the volunteer role and work conducted by the members This publication will ensure a greater awareness amongst the public of our area.

A review of the number of households within the council area shows that there are 7,000 dwellings and that each household should receive a copy for their information. A further 500 copies would be available at Newington Library. This would require the members to deliver the newsletter to the respective areas they represent.

A member of the audience asked about the non-inclusion of Lady Road in the Grange/Prestonfield Community Council area. The chairman informed him that the matter was being referred to the Returning Officer

Planning.

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Tony Harris who had spoken earlier gave details of the ongoing planning application at 3, Craigmillar Park. He would keep members up to date with any further developments

Roads and Transport

Apart from the original report at the beginning of the meeting John Palmer had no further information.

Environment group the vice chair gave details of the problems with tree stumps at Blackford Station. Councillor Cameron Rose spoke about this issue and would pursue the matter further.

Item 7 The secretary asked that any items for discussion at the next meeting should be sent to him, and that discussion would take place for future dates of the meetings in 2009.

Item 8 A.O.C.B. There were no items other than the next meeting would be held on 18th June 2008 at the same venue and the following meeting on 17September, 2008 following the summer break.

Public forum: a member of the public questioned if Andreas Grothey and Mansour Ahmadian were on the electoral roll and therefore entitled to membership of the council The Chairman stated that all members were confirmed as on the roll by the Returning Officer.