

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Wednesday 18th March, 2009
Cameron House Community Education Centre

Prior to the meeting there was a tour of the building conducted by the community education officer.

Present:

Kate Arnott (chairman), Sue Tritton (vice-chair and acting secretary), Andreas Grothey (treasurer), Eric Davidson, Graham Brown, David Stevenson, Barbara Robertson, John Palmer, Mike Hunter, Mat Lopez, Myra Reid, James Bryce, Mansour Ahmadian, Tony Harris, Joe Henderson.

In Attendance:

Ian Perry (Councillor) Alan Stewart (C.E.C.) and three members of the public.

Apologies:

Kirsty Pacitti, Douglas Fisher, Alastair Pugh, Constable Merrick (Lothian and Borders police), Maureen Edwards

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes had been circulated and were a true record of the meeting held on 18th February 2009. This was proposed by Erick Davidson and seconded by Mike Hunter.

Reports (External):

There was an apology from Lothian and Borders police and the chairman reiterated that the police newsletter is available on the police web page.
Alan Stewart (Edinburgh Council) gave a brief outline on progress for projects that would be considered for Roads funding.

Reports of office bearers

A. The Chairman's Report

Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting on 23rd February. The Proposal put forward by chairman and Jo Scott (South Side CC) that the Voters for this year on the Roads Capital Funding would consist of twenty seven members, 8 City Councillor, 8 members from each forum and 3 from the Housing Board within the South Central NP was accepted.

John Palmer asked about the sum of money that would be available as part of the environmental fund.

The nature and history of the Housing Boards was discussed. Alan Stewart was asked if information regarding the amount of money from the housing budget and Neighbourhood partnership could be ascertained for the next meeting in May?

'Friends of the Meadows', the concerns raised about the damage caused by various events throughout the year had been addressed. Councillor Perry spoke about the City Council relocating some events such as the Moonwalk to reduce this problem.

South Side Week of action (Nicolson Square to Salisbury) This involved the police, environment and cleansing officers Education officers and local schools. It was running from the 16th to 20th March. Here the respective officials were working to enhance the area, by offering advice to businesses, deep cleaning of pavements and drainage and having a high visual presence. An information "hub" was in the Kings Hall and members were encouraged to visit.

Morningside library is to be upgraded with the opening of a crèche and café and other

facilities.

HMOs There are considerable numbers of HMOs in the NP area, especially Marchmont which has numerous tenement flats. Following a discussion on the problems that this caused a working party was established on which Sue-Tritton would represent GPCC.

B Treasurer's Report

The treasurer Andreas Grothey advised the meeting that there was a total of £691.14p in the account and no substantial bills outstanding.

C Secretary's Report

Correspondence

Sue Tritton reported that the following communications had been received.

1. Scottish Spring Clean initiative which was being held throughout the country from 1st to 30th April. Sue asked the council members if there was a particular area or areas which needs attention ?
2. Details were circulated to the members details of a Scottish Government funded initiative for people aged 60 years and over who may qualify for a government heating programme.
3. Details from Eileen Hewitt on the upgrading of the Neighbourhood Partnership website. On the website it was proposed that the post codes of residents would enable them to ascertain which community council they belonged to. It would also give further general information on community councils.
4. Details of a survey that had been conducted where 5,000 residents were asked what services in the neighbourhood they would like to see. This included landlord services, community facilities, libraries, schools. Details of the views can be found on the Edinburgh Council web site.
5. A meeting next Monday (23rd March) at the City Chambers would give details of funding available for community councils; Erick Davidson would attend for GPCC. John Palmer also offered to attend.

Sue also pointed out that on 28th March at 8.30pm throughout the World there was a light off period for one hour (Earth Hour). In Edinburgh this would involve various council buildings, the Castle, Forth Bridge, private businesses and individuals switching all lights off to conserve energy. She hoped if at all possible the council members would give consideration to taking part.

Sue asked that the council give consideration to producing a community council newsletter for distribution at this venue on the 6th June at the 09 Meadows Festival. This newsletter to be distributed to all households in the community council area. This would again involve the planning of the newsletter, printing costs and also as in the previous issued delivery by the members. This is a task that would take a great deal of planning

Interest groups:

Planning

A written report had been circulated by Tony Harris and copies were made available to the members. The paper covered such wide topics as Householder permitted development rights,

Edinburgh University King's building Campus Planning framework, and Cameron Toll Shopping Centre (renewal of existing consent for extensions) there were long discussions on various points raised on these topics and a very useful pamphlet 'modernising Planning' is available from libraries and is the first of three updates that will be issued by the City of Edinburgh Council. The planning pages within the Council's website will also be updated to provide more detailed information on the Modernising planning agenda to ensure all groups and individuals are aware how the changes will effect them.

Roads and Transport.

John Palmer reported on the meeting that had taken place with the proposed Council Parking Zone, for the Prestonfield/Priestfield area and details are available on the council website. A display outlining the proposals had been displayed in a local school and there was a good response from local residents.

Environment

Sue Tritton informed the meeting that she would be attending a joint meeting of Environmental Forums 1 and 2 at the City Chambers on Monday 23rd March and would report back to the council of any developments. She also spoke about the climate challenge fund which is encouraging local community groups to support initiatives such as cavity and loft insulation; the Grange Association are putting in an application. Sue suggested that the GPCC might wish to consider making an application and will be arranging a meeting to consider this proposal.

Communications. Andreas Grothey informed the members that he was arranging for further strengthening the security of the community council website.

Licensing

Mat Lopez had circulated to the council members a meeting he had with councillors from the licensing committee on 7th March within the city chambers. He had raised several points in relation to alcohol licence objectors and the time they had to wait for hours at committee meetings before the case is heard. The accessibility for the public on information as he had found that the current and historic licence applications link does not work and has not for some time. Staffing levels at the department and the current leaflets on complaints are out of date and does not include information on licensing officers and noise teams which could help objectors. He also spoke of parties on roofs, landlords and House of Multiple Occupancy. In order to voice these concerns to the council he proposed that a letter be drafted by him and endorsed by the community council. This was agreed by the members present and he was thanked by the chairman for a very thorough and detailed report.

Consultations

National Health services. A report had been prepared by Kirsty Pacitti on NHS Lothian strategy for maternity services in Lothian region. In this report some key questions were asked on taking the strategy forward and mothers were consulted in the nursery setting. The topics they emphasised ranged from woman who are vulnerable and from areas of multiple deprivation, how we can increase the number of mother's breastfeeding, improvement on parent education, both antenatal and postnatal, staffing levels to support mothers and facilities to make the hospital environment more comfortable and homely for mums, babies and families.. The members were asked if they had any further comments to submit them to the chairman before 14th April. Kirsty was thanked by the council for the report.

Publicity and AGM arrangements

A wide ranging discussion took place on the production and publishing of a second newsletter with emphasis on it being distributed at the Meadows Fair on the 6th June. There also followed talks on nominations for the community council for elections to be held this October, and the

need to publicise who would be willing to stand and to raise the profile of the community council members. There was general consensus that there needed to be two or three notice board sites where publicity could be easily accessed by the general public.

After discussion on the future dates which had been proposed as Tuesdays in the summer it was agreed to keep to the 3rd Wednesday in each meeting month.

Wednesday 20th May, 2009 will be the next meeting and will include the AGM.

The two following dates will be Wednesday 17th June and Wednesday 16th September,. As the elections for the Community Councils will take place in October, all the office bearers intimated that they would continue in their roles until the elections in October, 2009.

The chairman Kate Arnott informed the council members that she had enjoyed her role as chairman of the community council but was going to stand down from October 2009 in this role. She had a tremendous response from the members over the two years and felt that now was the right time to allow another member to take over.

AOCB and Open Forum

The chairman opened the meeting for any other business and as there was no other discussion formally closed the meeting. On a personal note one of the community council members had recently undergone an operation and the chairman asked that flowers be sent to her from the social fund which is not part of the grant from the council but is money supplied by each individual member on a voluntary basis. This was unanimously agreed. The chairman wished everyone a safe journey home and looked forward to the

AGM on Wednesday 20th May, 2009.