

GRANGE PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CAMERON HOUSE COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE
WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2009, 7PM
Minutes

Present:

Kate Arnott Chairman, Sue Tritton Deputy/Secretary, Andreas Grothey ,Treasurer, Graham Brown, Minute Secretary, David Stevenson, Douglas Fisher, Tony Harris, Myra Reid, Mansour Ahmadian, Alastair Pugh, Maureen Edwards, John Palmer.

In attendance: Councillor Gordon Mackenzie, Constable Alan Hopper (Lothian and Borders Police), Thomas Graham (President Edinburgh University Students' Association).

Members of the public: Six

Apologies for Absence: Mat Lopez, Erick Davidson, Mike Hunter, Alan Stewart (CEC) Mike Pringle MSP.

Kate Arnott welcomed everyone present and introduced Thomas Graham, President EUSA, who had been invited to the meeting to give a presentation to the council on Edinburgh University Students Association. He utilised a power point presentation to inform the council and members present that one of the aims of the Association was to secure a world leading student experience. He gave details of a residents' survey that had been carried out in the Tollcross, Marchmont/ Sciennes, Grange/Prestonfield, Southside and Merchiston areas of the city where students reside. Both students and non-student residents had been interviewed about likes and dislikes about the area in which they live. The aim of the survey was to highlight successes and problems from a balanced point of view and to start addressing any problems that exist. He emphasised that the survey had been carried out by an independent body. (It was also noted that a student from Heriot Watt was in the audience at the council meeting.) It was a first class presentation and full details of the survey can be accessed on the web site www.eusa.ed.ac.uk

He stated that there were 64,000 students in this area and they carried out a vast amount of charity work and volunteering. Thomas also said that the Association was also in the process of publishing a community guide to students on 'How to live in Edinburgh'. There followed a question and answer session which covered topics such as fly-posting, litter and Houses of Multiple Occupancy. He also said that it could be useful if a student could be invited to future meetings. Kate at this point said that from the next meeting to be held on 21st October two new elected members of the council were of student age. It was also noted that a meeting to be held on 7th October would cover the topic 'How do students' interact with the local community' He was thanked by Kate for his attendance and it was felt that his presentation was very positive in putting the students' and residents' views into a wider forum.

Kate Arnott at this point spoke about this date being the last meeting of the first Grange/Prestonfield Community Council and that the new council comes into being at the next meeting on Wednesday 21st October, 2009. She wished everybody all the very best.

1. Minutes of Meeting on 17th June, 2009.

The minutes had been circulated and were agreed to be a true record of the meeting held on 17th June, 2009. This was proposed by Myra Reid and seconded by Andreas Grothey.

2. Matters arising not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising.

3. Reports.

A) Police Report Alan Hopper, Lothian and Borders Police, gave a breakdown of crimes that had been reported in the Prestonfield area, this was theft of motor vehicles, motor cycles, theft, and dangerous dogs. It was intimated that there had not been the usual newsletter issued by the police for a few months and he would make enquiries regarding its continuing publication. A member of the public also brought up a point regarding the parking of cars on double lines with their engines running in the vicinity of Lady Road near the new construction.

B) CEC Report. No report due the absence of Alan Stewart.

4. Reports of Office Bearers.

A) Chairman's Report: Kate Arnott said that due to other engagements she had not attended any meetings over the previous months and was grateful to her deputy Sue Tritton and Tony Harris who had attended on her behalf. She also spoke about two boundary changes that affected the council; at Blackford Hill the Observatory will now form part of the Grange/Prestonfield area; Lady Road has now been included within the boundary of the council.

B) Treasurer's report: Andreas Grothey gave details of the funds to date which are at present £1130.21p with the cost of the recent newsletter of £230 to be taken into account. He had received a letter from the Cockburn Association for the annual fee of £30.00. It was agreed from the members that this annual fee should be continued. He also said that there was a dispute over the costing of the graffiti kits and he would inform the council members when this was resolved. He also reminded everyone that 26th and 27th September were 'Doors Open Days' for various buildings throughout Edinburgh.

C) Secretary's report: Sue Tritton spoke of a meeting with the Edinburgh association of Community Councils and a meeting to be held on Thursday 24th. She was unable to attend and asked if there were any members who wished to take her place and intimate to her if they were available. There was also a meeting on 14th November by the association of Scottish Councils, details had been circulated to members and is being held in the Scottish Parliament. She also spoke about the Public realm strategy and would welcome any comments by the members.

5. Interest Groups.

A) Planning: Tony Harris had circulated to the members prior to the meeting a report on planning applications and details of progress regarding Cameron Toll Shopping centre, Edinburgh University and the Royal Blind School, Craigmillar Park Campus. It was felt that a representative from the Royal Blind School could be invited to a future community council meeting. He also said that he would contact the council re the planning application in St. Thomas Road and report back with any further details.

B) Roads and Transport. John Palmer had circulated a paper to the members prior to the meeting which included details of Capital Roads improvements and proposals from the council on topics such as new cycle facilities between George Square and King's Buildings, traffic lights at the junction of Mayfield Road and West Savile terrace and the Prestonfield cycle Path. Councillor Gordon Mackenzie intimated that in relation to the junction with West Savile Terrace funding had been identified for lights at this junction. He suggested that local residents should be asked to comment on this proposal. Councillor then spoke at some length about the Controlled Parking Zone extension. At present there was no budget to carry out the proposal and he was proposing that there was a proposal in the future to have a meeting in the local library and public meetings about the way forward. A member of the public also raised a point regarding the parking of cars on private property in Oswald Court. Councillor Mackenzie said that he would make enquiries and respond to the member of the public. John Palmer also spoke about the positive point that if parking patterns change the community council can convene a panel including the councillors, which was a very good for local democracy.

C) Environment. Sue Tritton said that Environmental Forum 2 would continue. She also spoke about a Community Grant proposal for an open space in Rankin Drive. There was a long discussion and it was felt that further consultation with the residents was very important. The neighbourhood partnership has funds and a grant would be of great benefit to carry out work (if agreed by the residents) at a future date.

D) Communications: All the newsletters had been delivered.

E) Licensing: There was nothing to report at this time.

6. Community Council elections: Kate Arnott said that nominations for the new council had finished on the 14th September, 2009. This was the last meeting of the first community council and the first meeting of the new council would take place on 21st October, 2009. Councillor Cameron Rose, as the returning officer, will chair the meeting before the election of office bearers. There will be induction training for members in November 2009. She was also pleased that there would be two new council members who were under the age of 18 years.

7. Dates of next meetings:

Wednesday 21st October, 2009

Wednesday 18th November, 2009.

John Palmer suggested that a spokesperson from Transition Edinburgh South be contacted to give a presentation to the council.

8. AOCB and Open Forum: A member of the public commented on an overflowing litter bin near the new hotel in Craigmillar Park. Sue promised to report this matter.

The chairman Kate Arnott thanked all the council members for the hard work they had carried out over her term as chairman and gave special thanks to her deputy, Sue and Tony, Andreas and John of the respective interest groups. Sue also thanked Kate for all her hard work over the years and at this point the Chairman formally closed the meeting.