

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**18<sup>th</sup> November 2009**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** John Palmer(**JP**) (Chair), Tony Harris(**TH**)(Vice-Chair), Andreas Grothey(**AG**) (Treasurer), Sue Tritton(**ST**)(Secretary), David Stevenson(**DS**), Mike Hunter(**MH**), Maureen Edwards(**ME**), Maureen Bishop(**MB**), Gillian Dennis (**GD**), Graham Muir(**GM**), Ray Footman(**RF**), John Fulford(**JF**), Alistair Pugh(**AP**), Alasdair Smith(**AS**).

**In Attendance:** Cllr Cameron Rose, Alan Stewart (CEC), Caroline Burwell (CEC)

**Apologies:** Lucia Barrett, Leyla Usmani, PC Mark Dickson

**Public (7):**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

John Palmer announced the death of a member of the Management Committee of the Centre. He then welcomed all those present and asked everyone to introduce themselves again as a few had not been at the previous meeting.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009**

With one minor correction these were approved. Proposed by John Fulford and seconded by Ray Footman.

**3. West Savile Terrace/Mayfield Road Junction**

The Chair said this item would be taken early to allow the guest speaker to leave. He then introduced Caroline Burwell (CB) Road Safety Manager, CEC Transport.

CB said that road safety is checked annually for accidents and this junction had been raised as a concern last year. The accident statistics at this junction are extremely serious with 20 accidents in the last 10 years, 16 of which have involved cyclists. Of these 16, there have been 9 in the last 3 years and 3 in 2009. 12 involved vehicles turning right into WST, in 2 cases vehicles turning left hadn't seen cyclists on the inside and one was caused by a car door being opened. CEC had looked at possible alterations to the cycle lane and altering the Give Way marking at the junction but felt this wouldn't help. There had also been requests for improved pedestrian facilities on WST from parents at Sciennes School and from the Royal Blind School. There were also requests for improved cycle facilities. It was felt that the only solution was to install traffic lights with full pedestrian facilities. Consultation had been carried out with the Police, Bus Companies, Sciennes School, Royal Blind School, the University and local residents.

GM asked why this junction was being treated rather than Lady Road where there have been three fatalities. CB promised to check this claim and report back to GM.

In response to other comments and questions CB said that this junction is the only one in the Southside being treated at present; that pupils at RBS found the existing crossing difficult; that the audible "green man" would be switched off at night (hours could be altered); that "build outs" are unlikely to be considered; the island to the south may go if more cycle lanes are introduced.

Members were concerned that the new proposals should not adversely affect the B&Bs and asked that the design of the junction be made as compact as possible to minimise parking restrictions. Removing the guardrails would allow pedestrian diagonal crossing which would aid flow and convenience.

CB also said that various matters, such as compatibility with the proposed Quality Bike Corridor, still need to be considered and accepted that further consultation on the exact design may take place. She also explained details about the funding of the scheme and that most comes from the Council.

Cllr Rose reminded the meeting that anyone can attend the TIE meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November when the junction will be debated.

The Chair commented that no-one had argued against the proposed scheme. GM disagreed and asked for a vote. The voting was 12 for the scheme with one (GM) opposed. JP would inform the Council that GPCC now supports the scheme and thanked CB for her very detailed presentation and explanation.

#### **4. Matters arising from previous minutes**

Constitution – some concerns had been raised about the advertising of meetings and timing of minutes. This should be checked and the model Constitution possibly modified. This needs to be done before the January meeting.

TH reminded Cllr Rose that concerns over the Planning Application for 12 St Thomas Road still need to be answered.

JP had visited Lady Road to see the difficulties GM is experiencing because of the building works at 41/43 Craigmillar Park and appreciated his concerns. JP had sent a note to GM about these problems for comment and would pass this to the appropriate officials.

#### **5. “Son of S6” – Public Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> December)**

Three members of the CC (JF, TH, ST) had met Cllr Mackenzie and Andrew Mackay (CEC Transport Officer) that afternoon to view the plans to try to alleviate parking problems in the area south of CPZ zone S1. JF briefly described the proposals; to the west of Mayfield Road a series of double yellow lines and new time-limited (one hour each day) single yellow lines should restrict commuter parking. The aim was to spread the commuter parking over the whole “South Grange” area and there should be sufficient road space for this. To the east of Mayfield Road there would be more short sections of double yellow lines, mainly on corners, to help large vehicles such as refuse lorries and emergency vehicles. The schemes had been designed to minimise signage and all but 2 signs would go on existing lampposts.

These proposals were for informal consultation. After receiving comments from the public the officials would then design a more formal scheme before going to formal consultation. Cllr Rose said that after the S6 proposals fell a group of the 4 councillors and transport officials under the chairmanship of Kate Arnott had met to identify the issues and this had resulted in the new proposals.

The Chair said that the proposals would be open for discussion at a Public Meeting in the Royal Blind School on Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup> when the councillors and transport officials would be present. The plans would be available in Newington Library from November 20<sup>th</sup>. He said that he would not be able to attend the meeting and proposed that Kate Arnott should be co-opted onto the CC for the period between this meeting and the subsequent one and should chair the meeting. GM objected to this suggestion. AP proposed that Kate should be co-opted and this was accepted.

GM complained that only two weeks notice had been given of the Public Meeting and also that Lady Road should be made parking for residents only.

## **6. External Reports**

**A. Police Report:** PC Dickson had sent the following message: There were several issues brought to my attention during the last meeting, not least of all parking in Lady Road, so I wanted to let you know what I have done about them.

**LADY RD:** I have asked the Parking Attendants to include this area as part of their daily rounds. This has already been the case and they have assured me that they will give it attention whenever they can. From 1/10/09 – 21/10/09 they visited Lady Road on 34 occasions at varying times from 07:58hrs to 14:00hrs. It is worth noting that contrary to common belief, the parking attendants can use discretion and can also give special dispensation for lengthy unloading periods etc as long as this is arranged in advance. In short the problem has been and is being addressed.

**WEST SAVILLE TERRACE GARDEN:** I walked around the garden referred to at the last meeting regarding a complaint of rowdy youths. Generally the gardens were well kept and aside for some minor vandalism on the park benches and bin, I did not see any great evidence of underage drinking sessions (no empty discarded bottles/cans). In fact the bin was full to capacity so I can only assume very tidy youths or a vigilant resident. I have checked the police computers and cannot find any reported incidents of youths drinking at that locus from May 2009. During my time as a member of the Youth Action Team, I recall attending at the locus several times, although not as a result of a reported incident, more as part of our routine patrol. Therefore I have asked our Neighbourhood Action Team if they could give the park some attention when available. It is important that incidents of anti-social behaviour (including youths drinking/vandalisms etc) are reported to us so that we can respond in an appropriate way.

**B. CEC Report.** Alan Stewart reported that the youth workers for the area are Deirdre McCann (at the Comm Ed Centre) and Lucy Howie (at the Eric Liddell Centre) – they could be contacted to suggest solutions for the youths gathering in the WST garden.

The Environmental wardens have checked the missing bin and mess at the bus stop in Craigmillar Park and the situation should be resolved.

Lights not working in Lady Road and Liberton have been reported to Clarence.

The order (1987) about non-residents parking in Lady Road is very vague and not enforceable. Parking is allowed for vehicles required for building etc. Building work is allowed at the site from 7am-7pm – any noise outwith those hours should be reported to the Noise Team; if noise is repeated an order can be served.

Kathy Evans (Community Safety Officer) had reported that CCTV is now monitoring the bus gate on Prestonfield Avenue. Drivers of cars seen abusing the gate would be cautioned.

GM made more complaints about non-residents parking in Lady Road. JP said the residents should object formally about such parking. There was debate about the legality of residents placing stickers on such cars. ME commented there was a problem with parking for the allotments; GM thought allotment users should park in Cameron March.

## **7. Reports of Office Bearers**

**A. Chair's Report:** Circulated as Roads and Transport Report.

**B. Treasurer's Report:** The £1100 in the bank included the grant.

**C. Secretary's Report:** Circulated together with the Environment Report. Thomas Graham (President EUSA) had requested a meeting with CC members about the recommendations of the HMO Working group. JP and ST would arrange a date.

ST circulated a sheet asking people to sign for various meetings which could be attended. MB, GD, LU and AS signed up for the Training Day on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. Reports of Interest Groups**

**A. Planning:** TH had circulated a report. Updates since then:

Cameron Toll application – A meeting was held last week between the applicant and Case Officer (Bruce Nicholson) as the Planning Department had raised concerns about the impact of various retail and other matters. A report is not expected before Christmas.

RBS Presentation – application expected in December. TH had circulated his personal views. GM asked about a new swimming pool – this will be included in the phase 2 application – GM complained that the old pool was used by St Margaret's pupils and not state school pupils. JP suggested that LU and AS should visit the school – AS said he had been trying to make contact. JP commented that the school had lots of excellent facilities.

**B. Roads and Transport:** Report circulated. Some discussion about the Quality Bike Corridor which was being introduced following a motion from Cllr Perry – JP reminded the meeting that this was our suggestion. ST said officials were unlikely to start detailed designs until February and that we should contact the Cycling Officer, Chris Brace about coming to the February meeting.

**C. Environment:** Report had been circulated.

**D. Communications:** Nothing to report.

**E. Licensing:** A report from Lucia Barrett was tabled – nothing of concern in our area.

The Chair had been contacted by Mr Yousaf who wished to reopen the pharmacy at 158 Dalkeith Road and was making an application to NHS Primary Care Contracts. ME spoke in support and said the previous pharmacist had left because the owner had wanted a 10-year lease. It was agreed to support this proposal.

There followed discussion about other shops in this part of Dalkeith Road. Peter Ritchie of Bookworm reported that No. 216 has been empty for about 15 years and is subject to flooding in the cellar – no-one can trace the owner. JP asked Alan Stewart to update the CC on the current situation. No 218 which had applied for a sauna is also empty.

**9. Reports from other groups – no reports**

**10. Capital Roads Funding**

Everyone was reminded to send suggestions to JF before the next meeting.

**11. Topics for Future Meetings**

GM said that Mr Stewart (of Lady Road) would like to discuss the problem of ambulance noise after 11pm

**12. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**13. AOCB and Open Forum**

GM said that three soldiers from the area had died in recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; one was from Lady Road and two had won the Military Cross. There was some discussion about whether it was appropriate for the CC to commemorate these men and GM was asked to provide more details, contact the regiments and report what might be appropriate (perhaps planting a tree?).

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

