

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
21st January 2010
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**), Lucia Barrett(**LB**), Leyla Usmani(**LU**)

In Attendance: Cllr Cameron Rose, Alan Stewart (**AS**)(CEC), PC Denise Clucas, PC John Leadbetter

Apologies: PC Mark Dickson

Public (7): including Norman Dryden, Andrew Bell, Douglas Dalglish, Dale Finlayson

1) Welcome and Apologies

John Palmer welcomed all those present.

2) Minutes of the Meeting of 18th November 2009

These were approved - proposed by John Fulford and seconded by Alistair Pugh.

3) Matters Arising

a) West Savile Terrace/Mayfield Road Junction

JF reported that GPCC had asked that the junction be as compact as possible, that parking restrictions should be as few as possible, that the guardrail should be removed, that the timing of audible signals should be restricted and that there should be warning signs for cyclists. The hard copy of the design for the junction (received today) was not as compact as we would like and differed slightly from the design attached to the letter previously circulated. GPCC would write again to CEC.

b) Constitution

The Chair said that the concern with the draft Constitution concerned the timing of the minutes. He suggested that this clause should be altered to read “the draft minutes should be circulated at least 7 days before the next meeting” – with this agreement the Constitution could be signed and sent to CEC.

4) New Parking Proposals for “S6”

The Chair described the Public Meeting held at the Royal Blind School on December 1st and thanked Kate Arnott for chairing the meeting and Tony Harris for making comprehensive notes.

The Chair had also circulated a paper which detailed the discussions at the meeting and put forward a variety of suggestions for improvements to the area. The suggestion of “short term” single yellow lines to deter commuters had caused concern for some residents who felt they might have to move their cars unnecessarily or at times which caused inconvenience. Apparently it is not possible to provide residents with a permit allowing

them to park on these lines. The paper therefore suggested that there should either be residents' parking zones instead of the single yellow lines or limited "shared use" bays for which residents could buy a permit (perhaps for about a quarter the cost of a normal permit). All residents in the "S6" zone should be able to buy permits which would be valid in the whole "S6" zone. Points raised at the meeting (by community councillors and the public) included

- € Pricing needs to be set so that commuters cannot simply pay a nominal fee and take up parking space
- € Concern that commuter parking would simply be displaced to the West Savile Terrace area (which is more convenient than the Sherriff Hall Park and Ride)
- € Implementation needs to be done in an incremental fashion to enable changes to the scheme to be made if necessary
- € Local shops must be protected
- € Longer parking in Ratcliffe Terrace (30 minutes at present)
- € Any changes to zone "S1" should be made first
- € The scheme must be properly monitored and regularly checked by wardens.
- € Any parking controls should facilitate economic life
- € Recognition that residents in "S1" might not welcome changes to their area – Marchmont-Sciennes CC might wish to comment.

The paper would be rewritten (by JP and JF), submitted to the City Councillors and put on the website.

Cllr Burgess reminded the meeting that the proposals were due to be discussed at a TIE meeting on Feb 9th – a very tight timescale for the CC suggestions to be considered. The next scheduled TIE meeting is May 4th but a special meeting could possibly be arranged (this has happened before).

5) External Reports

a) Police Report: PC Denise Clucas listed some of the recent incidents in the Prestonfield and Newington areas – these include: a number of thefts (mainly laptops) for which a suspect has been arrested, thefts of handbags and purses in the Prestonfield area, break ins at Newington Library, St Margaret's and the Royal Observatory, and details about bogus callers from "Done and Dusted". The occupants of a house in Prestonfield had been arrested for possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply. *(More details are in the Police newsletters which have been distributed since the meeting.)*

ME asked about the status of "disabled spaces" on the street and asked if anyone could park in them with a disabled badge – these are dealt with by parking wardens and not the Police.

GM asked PC Leadbetter for statistics of accidents in the Newington area as he considered that all are not being forwarded to the Council by the Police. The Chair said that there was a complex procedure between the Police and the Council about statistics and accuracy etc. He asked GM to pass on any information he felt was not being reported to the Council.

GM said he had a letter from the Chief Constable saying that sirens should only be used in a dire emergency after 11pm. PC Leadbetter said the Police would always use lights and sirens. JF said he thought sirens were being used more often than necessary.

b) CEC Report: Alan Stewart reported that the bin at the bus stop near Cameron Toll had been replaced and that the reported street lights were now working.

The matter about identifying the owners of 216-218 Dalkeith Road had been passed to Property Services but there was no response yet due to a backlog of work. ME said that dry (or wet) rot in one of these properties had resulted in other owners having to pay for work to be done. Alan Stewart will check up on this. He also announced that there would be a Drop-In session about anti-social behaviour at the Community Centre of Feb 5th from 10-12pm for all residents in the area.

AP commented that some elderly residents on Observatory Road had been unable to go out during the recent bad weather due to the state of the pavements and asked if more priority could be given to clearing pavements. He also asked if grit bins could be kept topped up. AS said that because of continual falls of snow the main roads had to be cleared repeatedly. There are 1600 grit bins in the city but it was felt that more should be supplied. Cllr Burgess said that different equipment is used to clear roads and pavements. Clarity on the responsibility of householders to clear pavements etc. was requested (could one be sued if a path was cleared and then someone fell?).

AP and ME both commended the Council for its efforts in clearing the snow.

6) Reports of Interest Groups

a) Planning: TH had circulated a report. Updates since then:

The CC had submitted a formal objection to the RBS Planning application, due to the inadequacies of the master plan, although we supported in principle most of the proposals.

There is a new application for 5 Alfred Place with a closing date of 19th February. TH had attended a presentation of the proposals and felt that the application was more acceptable to local residents than the previous (approved) application. He would be in contact with other associations (Blacket) and consider if the GPCC might wish to comment.

b) Roads and Transport: JP called for suggestions for the Capital Roads Funding project – the closing date for proposals is 19th February – suggestions to JP or JF.

c) Environment: Report had been circulated. ST reminded the meeting that the next meeting of Environmental Forum would be on January 28th.

d) Licensing: No applications in our area.

7) Reports of Office Bearers

a) Chair's Report: JP mentioned a national study on the monitoring of disability – he had been interviewed for this and it made him realise we should consider how we could support people with disabilities to be involved in the CC.

He also said that there is a paper on the South Patient Participation Forum going to the NPs. This is being reformed – it has daytime meetings. Anyone interested in joining should give names to JP.

b) Treasurer's Report: There was still £1100 in the bank. Two new signatories (JP and TH) are required to replace Kate Arnott and Douglas Fisher.

c) Secretary's Report: Circulated together with the Environment Report. A new consultation on palliative care had been received. The award of £73,125 to Prestonfield Neighbourhood Project from the Fairer Scotland Fund was welcomed.

8) Reports from Representatives on other Groups

LU and AS had attended meetings of the Children and Young People's Group (CYPG) of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership and tabled a report of the meeting. This had been a first meeting so there was discussion about the remit of the group and they would then go on to look at the provision of services for young people in the area.

The Chair said that there is a lack of provision for young people in the area. He was concerned about how little there was for the young people who congregated in the garden at the junction of West Savile Terrace and Mayfield Road and also in the open space in the Rankins to do. Douglas Dalglish said Savile Area Residents Association were relatively relaxed about the young people's use of the garden. JP accepted this, but hoped that LU and AS could keep the issue on the agenda, particularly the advertising of holiday provision to the young people in the area.

9) Ambulance Sirens

A previous reply from the Ambulance Service was tabled – it was agreed to write again.

10) Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 17th February 2010

11) AOCB and Open Forum

ST raised various matters relating to publicity for the CC and asked if all members of the CC could display notices such as the agenda. The possibility of obtaining a CC Notice Board was mentioned. A newsletter should be written soon to publicise the work of the CC and the list of community councillors. The problem of distribution was also mentioned. The Chair asked for someone to volunteer to take the minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm