

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
17th March 2010
Minutes

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

In Attendance: Cllr Gordon Mackenzie, Alan Stewart (CEC), Kathy Evans (KE, CEC), Inspector Ian Moffat (IM), PC Graham Watt (GW)

Apologies: John Palmer, Ray Footman, Leyla Usmani, PC Mark Dickson

Public (2):

1. Welcome and Apologies

In the absence of the Chair, Tony Harris (Vice Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 17th February 2010

These were approved - proposed by DS, seconded by GD.

3. Matters Arising (not on the agenda) - None

4. Safer Neighbourhood Team

Inspector Ian Moffat introduced himself and said he had 18 years service and had been at St Leonard's for 2 years. He said that there is a new structure for the Police with 1000 extra officers for Scotland; in Edinburgh these will be used in the "Safer Neighbourhood Teams".

Up till now Community Beat Officers (CBOs) each had a specific beat; Action Officers formed a hit squad to support the CBOs. The new team, which started on 1st March, will consist of 9 officers and one sergeant for the Southside Newington Ward and will work with the Community Safety Officer for the area (Kathy Evans). The strong neighbourhood links will be maintained with 2 officers assigned to each area (Mark Dickson and Graham Watt for Prestonfield, Neill Sinclair and Janie Kay for Sciennes, John Leadbetter and Douglas Bryce in Newington) and will provide full 7 day coverage. The officers will be more community facing and will allow communities to have an input into policing priorities. A new group (probably a subgroup of the NP) will set priorities for the whole SSN ward but could make priorities very local such as litter near schools or problems at the Prestonfield Bus Gate. Benefits for the community include seeing more officers on foot in the area and one contact phone number for the whole team. This will allow IM to build up a picture of the whole ward, concentrate on problem areas and also give the community a greater say in policing.

In reply to questions the following additional information was given:

Community Safety: KE said she manages Community Safety Officers and Environmental Wardens at the Captains Road Office for South Edinburgh which is not very conveniently placed for the SSN ward. They will be working in partnership over issues such as the busgate, youths gathering in park areas, and see the teams as an opportunity for community involvement and to use resources more efficiently. She sited the issue of beggars in Morningside as an example of a community problem although there were no crime statistics relating to these beggars.

Priority setting: IM said that officers report on a daily basis about problems and concerns in the area. These are combined to produce a list of about 10 items; every 3 months the team will go to a ward-

based Forum to select the top 3 items for action. At the following meeting the Forum would see if the priority had been satisfied.

Forum?: KE said that in South Central there are 2 Environmental Forums (which had been suggested could be expanded to include this remit); in East Edinburgh there is already a Community Safety Forum. The Environmental Forums were seen as being most representative for the South Central area but it may be that separate groups need to be formed. This is an agenda item for the NP Business meeting (March 24th). The Police Sergeant and the Community Safety Officer would attend meetings to present items for discussion.

Traffic problems: IM said that traffic concerns about cars parked illegally or which don't stop at stop lines could be considered for selection as priorities.

5. External Reports

A. Police Report: GW reported in the absence of Mark Dickson. He said he had worked in Edinburgh South for 5 years at Howdenhall and St Leonards and had specialised in youth crime. The main recent crimes in the area included; (a) the "Grange Flasher" (at busstops in Grange Road) – this has been passed to the Sexual team in the Gyle – one detention but no charge – however no further reports. (b) Theft of pedal cycles – mainly at the University. One £1000 cycle had been stolen – it had been secured with a £5 chain. The main offenders are from Niddrie. (c) Car theft has increased in the past 2 weeks – probably because an offender has just been released from jail. As cars can no longer be hotwired offenders break into houses and steal car keys.

AS asked about youth crime in the area. GW said this was low in the area – main problem was kids on the school roof. Cllr Mackenzie asked about graffiti – this is dealt with by other officers.

GM said that several incidents in Lady Road had been reported by residents but no action had been taken. TH asked GM to give details to the Police Officers before they left.

The Police left at 8pm.

B. CEC Report (Alan Stewart). Snow problems: no "Priority 1" pavements in the area. The priority was to treat the main roads in the area. Cllr Mackenzie confirmed that the priority in the city was to treat roads. There was discussion about who was responsible for clearing snow on pavements – could householders be sued if they cleared pavements and then someone fell? Cllr Mackenzie said "no". Portfolios are being put together for the Capital Roads project. Applications for £400k of funding had been submitted for £100k – papers would be sent out on 1st April. AP welcomed the cycle lane along Melville Drive and the resurfacing of Observatory Road.

6. Communications

RF had previously complained about the website. MH said he thought the main page was OK but the discussion section was not used. AG said he had switched off discussion. TH asked everyone to think about how to make the CC better known.

7. Reports of Interest Groups

A. Planning (TH): A report had been circulated and TH expanded on some items. He considered the Allotment strategy was a good document; there is considerable demand for allotments in the city – there are 83 plots in the West Mains site. A small group should look at the document and consider our response (TH, AG, ME and ST). The Open Space strategy was presented at the Civic Forum held the

previous day. Consultation for this closes on May 21st. There are 12 separate action plans for the 12 NP areas.

B. Roads and Transport: Report by JP had been circulated. Also circulated was a response from Caroline Burwell to GPCC concerns about the new junction layout at Mayfield Road/ West Savile Terrace. The CC now understood the reasons for the layout and was satisfied with the proposal.

“S6 – parking proposals” – Cllr Mackenzie said that following the meeting on 1st December a meeting had been arranged for 25th March at Marchmont St Giles to consider further proposals for the Mayfield Road to Astley Ainslie area. This area was being considered as a large volume of comments had been received following the December 1st suggestions for the area whereas there had been very little response to the Mayfield Road to Mayfield Gardens section (~6) or to Mayfield Gardens to Dalkeith Road (~10). The 25th March meeting will also be for informal comments; formal proposals (to which formal objections can be made) will then be made later in the year. Recently, there has been more response from Waverley Park and he will be attend their AGM (on behalf of all 4 councillors) to see what changes are wanted there. TH commented that there is opposition in Mentone Terrace to the proposed double yellow lines as parking spaces are scarce there.

C. Environment: No written report as very little had happened. ST reminded everyone about Earth Hour on March 27th.

D. Licensing: LB had circulated details of one application in the area.

8. Reports of Office Bearers

A. Chair’s Report: Circulated as part of Roads Report.

B. Treasurer’s Report: There was £1025.65 in the bank (including 8p interest!) – one cheque was outstanding.

C. Secretary’s Report: No written report. The CC could vote for the Edinburgh representative on the ASCC. It was agreed to support Terry Tweed. ST reminded everyone about the Planning Aid Training event on 27th March (no takers), the Seminar on Financial issues and Older People on 23rd March (DS to attend), and World Heritage Day on April 18th.

9. Reports from other groups

DS said he had attended ECRN on January 25th

10. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 21st April 2010

11. AOCB

GM thanked Alan Stewart for his help with solving problems for some of his neighbours.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.