

**Grange/Prestonfield Community Council  
Cameron House Community Education Centre  
Meeting 16 June 2010  
Minutes**

**Present:** John Palmer (JP) (Chair), Tony Harris (TH) (Vice-chair), Maureen Bishop (MB), Gillian Dennis (GD), Maureen Edwards (ME), John Fulford (JF), Mike Hunter (MH), Graeme Muir (GM), Alasdair Smith (AS), David Stephenson (DS), Leyla Usmani (LU).

**In Attendance:** Councillor Steve Burgess (SB), Alan Stewart (AS) (CEC).

**Members of the Public:** Nil.

**Apologies:** Mike Pringle MSP, Sue Tritton, Andreas Grothey, Alastair Pugh., Ray Footman

**1. Welcome and apologies**

JP welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting there were no representatives of the Police present.

**2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 19 May 2010**

These were approved, proposed by JF, seconded by GD.

**3. Matters arising not on the Agenda**

JP reported that he had written to Ian Murray MP and Sheila Gilmore MP to congratulate them on their election. JP will email them with the list of future GPCC meetings with an invitation to attend when duties permit. See External Reports (AS) for matters arising on the Lady Road By-law, the garage in West Mains Road, liveried van parking, giant Hogweed and bus shelter seats and the Secretary's Report for the Meadows Festival. JF had circulated a draft of a letter to Nigel Griffiths, which was agreed with additional material contributed by GM to be signed by JP.

**4. Reports (External)**

**a) Police** No Police Report as none were present.

**b) CEC** AS gave a comprehensive report on matters raised at previous meetings and this is summarised as an annex to these minutes, with comments made by GPCC Members as follows.

**Garage in West Mains Road:** MB stated that the positive and timely intervention with a limit of 2 hours for the barbecue and agreed relocation had improved matters at the recent event and thanks were due for the effective action. Better to deal with concerns beforehand and get agreement than complain after.

**Giant Hogweed:** GM said that the wall bounding the railway is not railway property, but is individually owned by those Crawford Road residents backing onto it.

**Lady Road By-law:** GM had been informed by a resident that the wording is considered to be effective.

## **5. Reports of Interest Groups**

**a) Planning** The Report had been circulated, additional information and comments as follows:-

**Royal Blind School:** TH said the Case Officer had notified that no revised drawings had been submitted and there is no date yet for a decision on this application.

**Travelodge 43 Craigmillar Park:** TH expanded on the various matters notified to the Enforcement Team although not all were of an enforcement nature, but it was a suitable means of raising some issues of concern. If a response is received during the recess this will be notified to GPCC Members concerned. GM stated that coaches and other traffic had been observed entering the site from Lady Road causing serious congestion whilst the driver arranged for the exit barrier to be opened.

**SESplan – Main Issues Report:** TH drew attention to this and the documents which had been tabled at the meeting. Although not affecting GPCC directly, JP thought the possible SE Edinburgh development “spoke” and options for housing development encroaching on some green belt may be of concern. The interface between Edinburgh and Midlothian Development Plans may be crucial for the green belt with a number of business park schemes already underway. TH said that the upcoming Civic Forum might help understanding of the issues and he would liaise with JP and any other concerned members about a possible GPCC response and he referred to a recent EACC meeting with some Midlothian CC members.

**Edinburgh Planning Guideline – Building Heights and Roofscape:** JP queried if this revised draft would make it more difficult for energy saving measures to be implemented on visible frontages and roofs. SB and TH said that permitted development rights for such measures did not apply in conservation areas and to listed buildings and so planning permission in these cases would always have to be sought. TH agreed to examine this draft guideline to see what the implications might be and would if necessary liaise further with JP.

**Bridgend Farmhouse:** JP referred to the public meeting he had attended about the deterioration of this CEC owned building with historic connections and the efforts of an enthusiastic local group to try to bring it back into use for community purposes. It could be in CEC’s interest to allow the building to become derelict followed by demolition as maybe 2 or 3 dwellings could be put on the site. JP had spoken to a local builder who said it would not cost much to repair the roof and stop further decay. Although not in the GPCC area, many of our residents are concerned and there was some discussion as to whether CEC could serve a notice on itself to effect essential repairs. We agreed to raise the matter with the appropriate Ward Councillors, including Ian Murray MP who had not yet resigned as a Councillor.

**St Margaret's School closure:** This could become a significant planning issue if other uses for the school buildings and playing field are considered. JP stated that at present there is nothing which GPCC can do, but we are concerned at the impact of the closure on children and parents and the local economy and especially on the staff who have lost their jobs.

**b) Roads and Transport:** No written report, but JP referred to positive feedback received about the traffic signals at the Mayfield Road/ West Savile Terrace junction. JP and TH referred to a discussion with Cllr Gordon Mackenzie, who confirmed that an informal consultation on the limited hours parking restriction scheme "south of S1" is to go ahead. If this happens during the recess GPCC Members and others concerned will be notified.

**c) Environment:** Nothing to report.

**d) Licensing:** MB reported verbally that there had been nothing on recent lists of concern to GPCC. TH referred to a letter sent to Sue Tritton by the Licensing Clerk about an objection by GPCC last year to a licensing application. The address reference in Priestfield Road is not obvious, but is that of the Prestonfield House Hotel. GPCC had objected to an extension of hours and this licence application was refused. The letter was passed to MB.

## **6. Vacancies on the Community Council**

JP referred to the paper already circulated and to the need to try to increase the number of GPCC Members particularly where we are under represented either geographically or in other groupings. DS suggested existing members should approach friends and neighbours and previous GPCC members; TH suggested members present should distribute the surplus Meadows Festival Leaflets and pointed out that local businesses were not represented on GPCC. GD suggested approaching student groups (EUSA) and schools/parents and undertook to contact Prestonfield School parents. JP referred to under representation in the Gordon Terrace and Mayfield Road to Blackford Ave areas and suggested we approach Savile Area Residents Association, Grange Association etc.

JP said there may be a need to establish criteria for selection if several candidates come forward and whether the election or co-option route would be more suitable - Eileen Hewitt may be able to assist in this. ME said that some groups are especially hard to contact but are often those in greatest need of community support. All GPCC Members were asked to consider further during the recess how to fill vacancies.

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

**a) Chair's:** JP said his report had already in effect been covered (see elsewhere in these Minutes for references to St. Margaret's School – Item 5a, Vacancies – Item 6, Bridgend Farm – 5a, Roads and Transport – 5b).

**b) Treasurer's:** Andreas's Report had been emailed earlier, as follows:-

Amount in Bank Account:	£1025.88
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Of which available to spend:	£893.91
Change since last month:	+£0.08

**c) Secretary's:** Already circulated and additional points as follows:-

**Meadows Festival:** Saturday fine, good attendance GD and MH present, Sunday wet, low turnout TH present. Impressions from GD and MH that it is not easy to attract visitors to the CC tent and a GPCC dedicated notice board would have greater impact. TH said that the dispersed arrangement of stands did not create a sense of space or occasion this year. As we find it difficult to get enough volunteers to attend both days and if no changes are to be made to the Festival arrangements TH suggested we review at the appropriate time whether we should take part next year.

**EACC Question Time:** Some members said they found it difficult to understand the main speakers' presentations in the Notes circulated of the meeting on 20 May TH said that in his view the Notes were an accurate record.

**Health & Well-being NP sub-group:** MB gave a verbal report of the meeting on 9 June. As this was the first meeting most of the time was taken up establishing procedures and getting to know those attending. She felt that the group had the potential to be of value in improving understanding and liaison and would be attending the next meeting.

**Parking & Safer Neighbourhood NP sub-groups:** JF said no meeting dates had been set.

**Capital Roads Fund:** review carried forward to September meeting. (see AS notes)

**HMO Working Group:** June 16 meeting attended by TH in Sue's absence. The life of this group has been extended for a year and valuable work is being done to collate and present statistics on HMOs and non-authorized accommodation and enforcement action.

**Future meetings & Events:** See list circulated with report. JP will attend the SCNP Business meeting on 23 June. Note changes to HMO Working Group provisional dates:- 18 August cancelled, 20 October confirmed, 15 Dec. postponed to Jan/Feb 2011 TBA.

## **8. Reports from Representatives on other Groups**

LU & AS reported on the last meeting of the Children and Young People's Group of SCNB; no other group reports.

## **9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday September 15th 2010 after summer recess.**

## **10. AOCB**

**GM** expressed thanks to Cllr Cameron Rose for assistance given to Mr Davison.

**GPCC Notice Boards and Publicity:** ME referred to this item which had been raised in previous meetings and asked if we could look at possible notice board sites again.

Cameron House would be a good location and she offered to keep this one up to date if this went ahead. Other suggestions were at local churches and shops, including Blackford Avenue near the Dog Aid Society, Dalkeith Road etc.

TH said local associations already got the planning report, but there could be more scope to keep those not already on GPCC more fully informed. MH said post office advertising videos might offer good publicity whilst queuing and said he would try to find out the cost of this.

**Alterations to buildings:** ME asked what permissions are normally required for alterations to buildings, especially tenements where damage could be caused to adjoining dwellings. SB and TH stated that a Building Warrant is required for nearly all alterations to buildings to ensure that the work is carried in accordance with building standards and health and safety requirements and notice has to be given to neighbours. On completion the work has to be signed off by CEC building control. ME stated that the Noise Team had been very helpful when notified about noisy building work and unreasonable working hours. TH offered to look into a specific location for ME regarding building work already undertaken.

**Dalkeith Road derelict shop:** it is understood that a statutory notice has been served.

**Armed Forces Day:** TH drew attention to the UK-wide Armed Forces Day on 26 June which will start in Edinburgh at 12.30pm with a parade from the Castle Esplanade to the Mound.

**JP** closed the meeting at about 9.15pm.