

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
20th October 2010
Minutes

Present: Tony Harris(**TH**)(Vice-Chair), Andreas Grothey(**AG**)(Treasurer), Sue Tritton(**ST**) (Secretary), David Stevenson(**DS**), Mike Hunter(**MH**), Graham Muir(**GM**), Maureen Bishop (**MB**), Alistair Pugh(**AP**), Maureen Edwards(**ME**),

In Attendance: Cllr Gordon Mackenzie (**GMac**) (from 8pm), Alan Stewart (**AS**)(CEC), PC Janie Kay (**JK**), PS Allan Campbell (**AC**)

Apologies: Gillian Dennis(**GD**), John Fulford(**JF**), Ray Footman(**RF**), Bill Reid(**BR**),

Public (4): Mansour Ahmadian(**MA**), John Palmer (**JP**), Dale Finlayson(**JP**), David Giles(**DG**)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Due to the temporary absence (as a community councillor) of John Palmer, Tony Harris took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 15th September 2010

These were approved proposed by DS, seconded by MB.

3. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

○ **Prestonfield House Hotel.** There was an error in the June minutes; no licence had been refused as a result of GPCC comments. An apology had been sent to the hotel.

○ **Dalkeith Road Pharmacy.** A letter supporting the pharmacy had been sent.

○ **Advertising in Post Offices.** ME said that she had sent information for the September meeting which appeared to have been ignored. Publicity should be an agenda item in November.

Action ST

○ **Private Parking Companies.** TH will bring this up at the next meeting of the EACC and report back. Sgt Campbell said it only became a police matter if the company refuses to release a clamped vehicle. JP reported that a private warden had told him that those who didn't pay fines were not taken to court but interest was added to the amount owing – this could affect personal credit rating. PC Dickson will check the legality and report back.

Action Police

○ **Youths in Rankin Drive.** AP, AG and MB had had problems with youths and some had been reported. All these incidents should be reported to the SNT - the contact details are – Tel: 662 5093 (*incorrect – see November minutes for correct number*) Email:

ADivSNTSouthsideNewington@lbp.pnn.police.uk

4. External Reports

A. Council Report: AS updated the meeting on projects approved for Capital Roads Funding – West Savile Road is scheduled for next Feb/March; Blackford Avenue is waiting for Scottish Power to complete work there. He reported that bus shelters are made from iroko – a durable African hardwood. He also said that there was no information about an accident near the Travelodge.

GM said that neighbours had not been notified about changes to the Planning Application submitted in 2009. TH said this may be correct under present legislation as this was a

revision of the original application and those who had submitted material comments previously were notified but had limited time to comment. GPCC had objected to the revised scheme. GM also reported that advertising banners are up all year although these should only be in place for 30 days.

B. Police Report: PC Janie Kay said that there had been 247 calls to the Police in September for the Sciennes/Grange and Prestonfield beats – this was a typical number. Of these 35 related to crimes in Sciennes/Grange and 25 to crimes in Prestonfield. In Sciennes/Grange there were 12 housebreakings of which 8 had been solved. Several 4x4 vehicles had their tyres let down and notes (from a Climate Change group) left with the vehicles.

Test purchasing for underage sale of alcohol using 16 year-olds had not resulted in any problems. There is a new bye-law in Nicolson Square and Bristo Square prohibiting drinking of alcohol. An operation to check the sale of fireworks will continue until early November.

GM said that he had been robbed recently but no Police Officer came to see him. DG said that when his wife surprised an intruder in their garden the Police were helpful.

ME asked whether caravans needed a tax disc to park in the street. AC said no licence is required and the van will only be removed if it is causing an obstruction.

DG said the entry signs at Prestonfield Gate had changed recently and were unclear – he also asked if there could be insurance problems if a vehicle ignored the signs. AS and the Police would check this. **Action Police and AS**

5. **SNT** – no report due to the absence of JF.

The Police reminded the meeting that the SNT meeting for setting priorities was on Tuesday October 26th. JF is the GPCC rep on this group but probably unavailable. A possible substitute should be identified. **Action ST**

6. **Reports of Interest Groups**

A. Planning (TH): A report had been circulated. Additional information:

5 Alfred Place An application for variation on the consent did not seem to cause concern for GPCC.

Cllr Mackenzie arrived.

B. Roads and Transport: GMac reported that there was, as yet, no update on parking or the 20mph proposal. Andrew Mackay (CEC) is drawing up plans for the Waverley Park area and these are expected shortly (*arrived within the week*). There are 3 separate “Residents’ Priority” areas with the proposals at different stages of development although all should be formally advertised together. A Public Meeting (probably hosted by GPCC) could consider these together with the 20mph proposal – possibly late November and possibly at Mayfield Salisbury Church (*not available so Marchmont St Giles and/or the Royal Blind School are being investigated*). The secretary to check venues. **Action ST**

GMac explained that a “20mph zone” is controlled by features (e.g. speed bumps) whereas a “20mph limit” is controlled by signage and is 90% cheaper. In Portsmouth a 20mph limit

resulted in very little reduction in speed in streets where the average was 20-24mph but a reduction of about 7mph where the average had been about 30mph. GMac handed out tables showing the results of traffic volume and speed surveys for selected streets in the proposed 20mph area. Other cities introducing similar schemes include Bristol, Norwich and Aberdeen. The Police support the proposal and will devote the same resources as they do now to enforcing 30mph limits. The main roads (usually bus routes) would remain at 30mph. TH said this was an encouraging idea to try.

GM again mentioned accidents which are not recorded including 5 deaths (3 in the past 5 years). JP reminded GM that he had been asked to provide exact details of these accidents so that records could be checked. **Action GM**

ST said there seemed to be no restricted waiting for the Blackford Avenue shops although there had been many concerns about the effect on these shops if no restriction was introduced (e.g. “30 minutes, no return with 1 hour”). GMac agreed to check this. **Action GMac**

C. Environment: Report circulated as part of the Secretary’s report. ST reminded the meeting about the Forum meeting on October 27th (Agenda items include the Quality Bike corridor and Open Space Strategy).

GM said he had read about a survey suggesting that the Council would change from weekly to 2-weekly rubbish collection. GMac said that the suggestion was to alternate recycling and waste collections and could be commented on in the budget debate papers.

MB and GM said that there is a serious problem with rats in the area under the railway bridge at Cameron Toll – rubbish collects in the area past the entrance to the allotments. AS will check this. **Action AS**

D. Licensing: MB reported no applications for concern in our area.

Open Space Strategy

Due to lack of time TH suggested that this item be deferred to November when it should be a min item for discussion. He had circulated a document which all should read – especially the part relating to Newington Cemetery. **Action TH & ST**

7. Reports of Office Bearers

A. Chair’s Report: TH said he had nothing additional to report under this item.

B. Treasurer’s Report: AG reported £1729.65 in the bank – funds available to spend are £1572.68.

C. Secretary’s Report: A written report had been circulated.

Correspondence received (circulated):

Closure of Mayfield Road BoS branch 55 Mayfield Road

TH had received an email forwarding correspondence about the closure of this branch and the effect this could have on local businesses and the Blind school. A letter should be sent to the Bank, copied to the RBS.

Action ST

Disabled Persons Parking spaces. A list from the Council showing all the on street disabled bays had been circulated. Any errors should be reported. DF asked if this means that these bays will be regulated - G Mac said he would check; he also said that the Council doesn't enforce bays on private property.

Action GMac

Petition on "Special Uplifts". A request had been received from Pilton Residents asking all CCs to support their petition to the Council to remove the charge introduced in April on special uplifts. The meeting wanted (by a vote of 3:1) to get more information before making a decision.

Action ST

TRO Kirkhill Terrace/Priestfield Road

Cashback for Communities

Quality Bike Corridor - update

James Gillespies School Decant

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Mansour Ahmadian had submitted a short CV to rejoin the CC, which had been circulated, and he brought a fuller CV to the meeting. AP proposed and AG seconded that Mansour join the CC; GM objected. MA was accepted by 8:1.

8. Suggestions for projects for Roads Capital Funding

Suggestions for projects to be considered at the November meeting should be forwarded to JF/ST. All applications have to be submitted by the end of December.

Action All

9. Reports from GPCC representatives on other groups

HMO Working Group. ST reported about a meeting that day – main point of interest for this CC was that there are 3116 HMOs in the SCNP out of about 5350 in the city. Various issues, including common repairs and stair cleaning, had been addressed in a recent meeting held for landlords

10. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 17th November 2010

11. AOCB and Open Forum

- GMac informed the meeting that the proposed closure of Princess Elizabeth Nursery was out for consultation.
- ASCC National ballot. TH had circulated a paper; ballot papers for officers had been received (closing date November 19th); several emails about this had been received. TH asked the GPCC to read the information and suggested that a decision on how to vote should be made at the next meeting.

Action TH

- DG commented on problems with Cameron Toll planning applications – difficult to understand; only previous objectors had received notification and there would be adverse impact on Lady Road. TH said the GPCC had objected to the revised application.
- ME said residents in Dalkeith Road wanted to know what was happening to the land adjacent to the shops which had been taken over by Scottish Gas. There had been landscaping proposals but nothing had happened for some time. GMac suggested contacting Mike Pringle, MSP. **Action ST**
- There will be an update on beggars at the NP meeting on November 8th.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm