

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
17th November 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**), Gillian Dennis(**GD**), John Fulford(**JF**), Ray Footman(**RF**), Bill Reid(**BR**), Leyla Usmani(**LU**), Alistair Smith (**AS**)

In Attendance: Cllr Ian Perry (**IP**), Alan Stewart (**ASt**)(CEC), Chris Brace (**CB**)(CEC)
PC Mark Dickson (**MD**)

Apologies: Maureen Bishop

Public (1): John Palmer (JP)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Tony Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 20th October 2010

These were approved proposed by DS, seconded by AG.

3. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

It was noted that an incorrect contact number for the SNT had been given; the correct number is 662 5014.

4. Roads and Transport Consultations

Quality Bike Corridor – Chris Brace

CB described the scheme and said that the formal TRO will be in early 2011. Depending on the number of objections etc. it is hoped that this will be complete in late 2011 and that construction could start in November 2011. The following points were raised

- There should be cycle lanes on Liberton Brae. CB – there are bus lanes there.
- Are cyclists better off on a 30mph main road rather than on 20mph side streets?
CB- many prefer the most direct route.
- Parking restrictions on Mayfield Road will start at 7.30am (rather than the present 8.30am) and this may transfer overnight parking to side streets causing more parking difficulties. Useful for “priority parking” schemes to be introduced before the QBC. CB- 7.30am chosen to harmonise with other areas in the city – may consider changing this.
- Parking for shops on Mayfield Road. CB- aware of this and are discussing with shopkeepers – possibly free for 60mins with “no return within 60 mins”.
- Cycle lane outside parking bays causes problems in Marchmont Road. CB – Marchmont more heavily parked and this isn’t seen as a problem for Mayfield Road.
- Ratcliffe Terrace section. CB – have considered making this 20mph (need to consult Police), also “Gateway treatment”. (AG said there is a successful “gateway” on a road into Stirling.)

- Problems for blind pedestrians when cyclists use pavements. CB – we only consider shared footways as a last resort. Cyclists should have lights and use warnings – e.g. bells.
- Cost. CB – approx £200k for 2 miles.
- Important to get signage correct. Ask Spokes to produce a map.

East of Mayfield Road Parking proposals – Public Meeting November 15th

About 1000 letters had been delivered to residents in the Waverley Park and adjacent areas. JP reported that it was a very well attended and well organised meeting. It was chaired by TH. Cllrs Mackenzie and Rose and 2 CEC officials were there to explain the proposals and answer questions. The “priority parking” proposals were a good response by CEC after full CPZ proposals were rejected by residents. This scheme allows much greater flexibility. Main concerns came from residents in the Priestfield area (not yet included) where the parking pressures (often commuter parking by employees at Scottish Widows) are as bad as in the Waverley Park area. Cllr Mackenzie explained that consultation there had included much of Prestonfield where there isn’t a problem; he promised that Priestfield would be the next area to get proposals once the Waverley Park scheme was agreed.

TH commented that we should support the present scheme – a “fuzzy edge” to CPZ areas works well in e.g. south London. There is also pressure from residents south of the railway who are concerned that their area will get the displaced commuter parking. The CC needs to make a written response before the end of December – a formal TRO is expected in the New Year.

IP commented that Scottish Widows have a good “Travel to Work” policy but people prefer to use cars; the carpark there is also full. JP said the University also needs to get staff to use the KB carpark.

20mph Limit Proposals

TH noted the two public drop-in meetings on 1 and 2 December and that there seems to be public support for the proposals. IP commented that the Police used to insist on physical measure to reduce speeds before a 20mph limit could be introduced – now change of attitude. MD added that if there is a 20mph sign it is the Police duty to enforce this.

5. External Reports

a) Council Report: ASt updated the meeting on the following:

- Busgate signs – these are standard signs and had been in use since 1974
- West Savile Terrace project (Capital Roads funding) should start on Dec 6th and take 2-3 days (depending on weather)
- Blackford Avenue – delayed due to current road works (which will continue until Dec 17th)
- Scottish Gas will be working in Relugas Road (Findhorn Place to St Thomas Road) in January for 6 weeks.

- Rats at Cameron Toll – programme will last until the problem is under control. The litter under the rose bushes had been cleared. The rat poison boxes had been removed. Otters had been seen in the area.

b). Police Report: PC Mark Dickson reported 271 incidents in the Grange and Prestonfield areas. In Prestonfield 5 related to pedal cycles, 2 vandalisms and 2 laptop thefts – all student related. He listed the 3 SNT priorities for the following 3 months:

1. Anti social behaviour associated with drinking and drugs in 3 squares (Nicolson Square, Hill Square and St Patrick Square). Also Meadows (Middle Meadow Walk), Bristo Square and vagrants sleeping in common stairs.
2. Inconsiderate/dangerous cycling in Southside. Theft of cycles. Also cyclists to be made aware that they must be visible (e.g. wearing yellow vests).
3. Speeding in Peffermill Road and surrounding area.

Other issues:

- Crime prevention Officer – David Robertson – will visit private dwellings and offer advice.
- In the week ending 29 October a known bike thief was caught redhanded in Pollock Halls and arrested
- Newsletters (lack of). MD has written his section and passed it on. The whole matter is being addressed and a more generic newsletter will probably be produced.
- MD will be holding a Police Surgery at the Com Ed Centre on Friday 19th November 11am-1pm – open to all.

In response to questions from members:

- GM asked about cameras in the buslane on Craigmillar Park – he has photos of an accident on the 1st Saturday in August 5-7pm. Also the fatality outside the Labour Office 2 years ago which hadn't been reported. MD will check up.
- Inconsiderate cycling – does this include cycling without lights? MD has stopped cyclists without lights.
- AG asked if there is any evidence that bright clothing saves cyclists life – MD will check.
- “Spy” camera in Lady Road – is it a camera or motion detector – MD and ASt to check.
- Caravans (non-motorised) do not need a tax disc.

6. Safer Neighbourhood Team

Mo Bishop had attended the meeting on 26th October (substitute for JF).

MH said he had tried to contact the SNT – having been told there are always 2 beat officers available – took 3 weeks to get a reply. This is not a good advert for the SNT.

JF said it is important to report matters such as graffiti if they are to get action. The SNT is a good idea but there are still concerns about whether it will work. A unique contact point is needed – perhaps a note on the website.

7. Reports of Interest Groups

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

5 Alfred Place RF said there are continuing concerns about parking – 1 space for 4-6 bedroom flats – will this result in more on-street parking.

b). Roads and Transport: There was an appeal for members to help advertise the public meeting on 25th November (a leaflet drop was not practical for this).

MH reported that the change in position of a parking meter in Upper Gray Street (moved from 5 Upper Gray Street to the corner with Salisbury Place) is causing problems due to the narrow pavement. JF will chase this. **Action JF**

c) Environment: See secretary's report.

d) Licensing: ME reported no objection to the application for a hairdresser in Dalkeith Road.

8. Reports of Office Bearers

a) Chair's Report: A report had been circulated – additional matters

- Dalkeith Road Gas works (site adjacent to shops) – no response to email – TH had written again.
- Open Space – Newington Cemetery – a working group would be set up **Action TH**
- Green network – access through Astley Ainslie – liaise with Marchmont/Sciennes and Morningside CCs for action. **Action TH**

Bridgend Farmhouse – the CC fully supports this project to bring the building back into use for community purposes.

b) Treasurer's Report: AG reported £1647.80 in the bank. The meeting agreed to send £75 to the Royal Blind School for the meeting on 15th November and noted the £50 cost for Marchmont St Giles Church for the meeting on 25th November.

c) Secretary's Report: A written report had been circulated including information about the removal of free special uplifts. The meeting then voted on whether to support the petition from Pilton Residents to restore free special uplifts (see previous minutes). Voting was 3 to support the petition and 5 not to support.

9. Open Space Strategy

Dealt with under the Chair's report.

10. Capital Roads Funding Projects

JP had listed 4 possible projects

- Rankin Drive (road surface)
- Findhorn Place (road and pavement)
- West Savile Terrace (bus shelter)
- St Thomas Road (pavement)

It was agreed to support the first three and submit applications to the Capital Roads Fund. GD suggested East Mayfield and MH suggested South Gray Street (which might be already included). These would all be considered and, if appropriate, submitted.

Action JF, JP

11. Closure of Princess Elizabeth Nursery

The CC is a statutory consultee. TH said the report was thorough and made the case for closure. GD reported that she had attended a meeting at Prestonfield Primary School (which has a nursery) and they were campaigning for the closure of Princess Elizabeth.

12. ASCC Elections

The meeting agreed to support TH's proposal that we voted according to Norman Bonney's suggestion (vote against the president but support other office bearers). **Action TH**

13. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 19th January 2011

14. AOCB and Open Forum

- ME complained about the new larger communal bins on Dalkeith Road – these are large and high and residents cannot lift the heavy lids to put their rubbish in. IP agreed to follow this up. **Action IP**
- GM said the gullies in Craigmillar Park had not been cleared.
- TH announced that he would host a “Christmas Celebration” on Tuesday 14th December for CC members and partners. An invitation would be circulated.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm