

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**19<sup>th</sup> January 2011**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Tony Harris(**TH**)(Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton(**ST**)(Secretary), David Stevenson(**DS**), Mike Hunter(**MH**), Graham Muir(**GM**), Alistair Pugh(**AP**), Maureen Edwards(**ME**), Gillian Dennis(**GD**), Ray Footman(**RF**), Bill Reid(**BR**), Mansour Ahmadian (**MA**)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Steve Burgess (**SB**), Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (CEC), PC Michael Loudon, PC Douglas Mogg

**Apologies:** John Palmer (**JP**), Andreas Grothey(**AG**)(Treasurer), Maureen Bishop (**MB**), John Fulford(**JF**), Leyla Usmani(**LU**), Alistair Smith (**AS**)

**Public (1):** Colin Campbell (Chaplain, Cameron Toll Shopping Centre)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Tony Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

These were approved with one minor addition; proposed by RF, seconded by GD.

**3. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)**

○ Cameras in Lady Road. ASt reported that these were to check traffic movement at junctions and had been in place for some months. TH said he thought that the cameras were to monitor cars in buslanes and could be used as evidence of infringement. He commented that it would be helpful if CEC could notify CCs of such measures. There are also 4 new cameras in Craigmillar Park monitoring the crossing near St Margaret's School. ASt agreed to find out the situation about temporary cameras. **ASt**

○ MH asked if South Gray Street had been included in the GPCC list of proposals for Capital Roads Funding. ST couldn't remember the details (*later check revealed that this street had been included.*)

○ Communal bins in Dalkeith Road – difficult for many people to lift the lid. ASt and Cllr Burgess agreed to see if more convenient bins could be provided. **ASt,SB**

**5. External Reports**

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

○ Roads projects: West Savile Terrace has been completed. Blackford Avenue should start at the end of January once Scottish Power is off site. There was some discussion about the associated environmental improvements which should be discussed with the CC.

○ Cameron House Avenue is being resurfaced.

○ Otters in Cameron Toll. Confirmed that otters would not be affected by rat bait as their diet is different.

GM asked about gully cleaning and said that there should be coordination between the teams that unblock gullies and clear gutters of rubbish. He maintained that some gullies had not been cleaned for 10 years. CEC says all gullies are cleaned each year and timesheets show

when traps are cleaned ASt will find out what is happening with the gully programme and Cllr Burgess agreed to check the situation with the gully at the top end of Craigmillar Park.  
ASt, SB

**b). Police Report:** PC Michael Loudon introduced himself as a member of the SNT and mainly based in the Sciennes and Grange area.

- Housebreaking – a few people have been charged – a major culprit lives north of the city centre and was responsible for several housebreakings in the Grange and Prestonfield areas.
- In December 160 calls were received – 10 were grade 1.
- Car thieves from the Craigmillar area are targeting high value cars. Groups enter houses and steal car keys left inside jacket pockets or on hooks just inside front doors. Residents should be careful about keeping their car keys in a secure place.
- No-one has been charged by driving with snow on a car roof or bonnet – this is not a road traffic offence (despite rumours that this could attract 3 penalty points).
- Police newsletters are probably being phased out.

MA asked (again) about the legality of private parking companies clamping vehicles. PC Mogg replied saying that it is not an offence to put up a sign – parking on private property implies entering into an agreement with the owner. Clamping by these companies is an offence. Private collection companies may pursue car owners but this is a civil (not police) offence.

## 5. Reports of Interest Groups.

**a) Planning.** Written report had been circulated. Main points:

- 5 Alfred Place was approved with the affordable housing to be off site – agreement for this not yet signed.
- Cameron Toll and Royal Blind School applications are still to be decided.
- 5 Minto Street – application for house in back garden has been refused.
- 55 Mayfield Road (former Bank of Scotland) application for shop and flat seems OK.
- St Margaret's School – main interest is in the application for a Muslim Centre (may not need planning consent if it is still educational)
- Concern among many CCs at the CEC decision to limit time for speeches

There had been problems with the Planning Portal. This could cause concern if objectors were unaware that an application was on the Development Control list as they would not be able to lobby their councillors. Cllr Burgess said the problem had only happened once and was fixed. He also said that there is no legal obligation to provide the information on line – it is available at Waverley Court. He agreed to ask if the date of the committee meeting which will consider applications could be put on the portal. SB

**b) Roads and Transport.** See also Chair's and Secretary's reports. GPCC had held 2 public meetings and members had attended the drop-in sessions for priority parking, the Quality Bike Corridor and the proposed 20mph limit. GPCC had submitted comments to these three consultations.

**Priority Parking Scheme.** Modifications to the proposals to include the Waverley Park area and limited waiting near the Avenue Stores would be published shortly and the formal TROs

would then be issued. Draft plans for priority parking east of Dalkeith Road and south of the South Sub should be available in March and these areas could be completed in Spring 2012. The GPCC should consider a public meeting to consider these plans. **TH, ST**

**20mph Limit.** Report will go to the TIE committee on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> detailing responses to the consultation. Most comments were in favour of the scheme. GM asked why the response had not referred to the paper written by Chris Grundy et al. which is on the web. TH and ST had not been aware of this article.

**Quality Bike Corridor.** Report to go to the same TIE committee. More consultation, to include CCs would follow with formal TROs in the summer and work on the scheme (depending on budget decisions) could start in late 2011.

**Tram Line.** ST had received a paper making suggestions about the tram lines. TH, MH and RF asked for copies. This could be a possible agenda item at a future GPCC meeting.

GM asked why there were 11 identical signs advertising the bus lane on Dalkeith Road.

**c) Environment.** See secretary's report for dates for Forum 2 etc.

**d) Licensing.** Nothing to report.

## **6. Reports of Office Bearers**

**a) Chair's Report:** A report had been circulated. John Palmer is now living in the GPCC area and will resume as Chair from this date after his "leave of absence". Other matters:

- Edinburgh University – Strategy 2101-20. A copy of the Infrastructure Estates Strategy had been received. The meeting agreed to keep in contact with the University over proposed developments.
- Gas Work at 220 Dalkeith Road. Work is in progress but no replies had been received to emails sent to Scotia Gas Networks. BR commented that this work had resulted in the pedestrian phase at the traffic lights not operating and this caused problems for several people.
- Severe weather. A comprehensive debrief will be considered by CEC at the end of the winter. TH suggested that the CC should ask to see the draft report and have the opportunity to make constructive comments.
- Open Space Strategy. Working groups to discuss proposals for Newington Cemetery and access through Astley Ainslie have still to be established.

**b) Treasurer's Report:** AG had sent a report showing £1483.03 in the bank with £1408.03 available to spend

**c) Secretary's Report:** A written report had been circulated. Points to note included:

- The Grange Association had registered with the CEC as a "Local Interest Group" and the representative will be Alison Bramley.
- Information had been received about an event on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> for the Bridgend Inspiring Growth Farmhouse Renovation Group.

- Possibility of asking for a grant to install a freestanding Notice Board at the Library. Other possible sites were discussed.

**7. ASCC Matters**

See Chair's report. Ballot papers had been returned by GPCC for National Officers. The Edinburgh area representative, Norman Bonney, had since resigned

**8. Neighbourhood Partnership**

No meetings had been held since November. There was a meeting of the Parking Subgroup on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan – our rep, John Fulford, was away and ST would substitute.

DS would attend the next meeting of the ECRN on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**9. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

**10. AOCB and Open Forum**

- GM said a busstop opposite the Travelodge had been stolen and there is now a gap in the fence allowing people to cross the road at a dangerous place. ASt to investigate.
- BR said that piling snow up at the edge of pavements made it difficult to cross streets – particularly relevant for blind and handicapped people.
- GM had contact details for a fund to commemorate Mark Wright.
- Colin Campbell introduced himself as the chaplain at Cameron Toll. He had been in place since the autumn and was finding out about local groups.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm