

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
16th February 2011
Minutes

Present: John Palmer (**JP**)(Chair), Tony Harris(**TH**)(Vice-Chair), Andreas Grothey(**AG**) (Treasurer), 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**), Maureen Bishop (**MB**), Leyla Usmani(**LU**), Alasdair Smith (**AS**)

In Attendance: Cllr Cameron Rose (**CR**), Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (CEC), APS Scott Casey (LBP), PC Zoe Martin (LBP)

Apologies, John Fulford (**JF**), Alison Bramley (**AB**)

Public (2):

1. Welcome and Apologies

John Palmer welcomed everyone and thanked the CC for granting him leave of absence while he was living outwith the CC area. He particularly thanked TH for acting as Chair during his absence and the other office bearers for their hard work.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 19th January 2011

These were approved with one addition; proposed by DS, seconded by MH.

JP reminded everyone to comment on errors or omissions in the minutes in advance so that a correct version to be presented for approval.

3. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

○ TH said he had read the Grundy article referred to at the last meeting. He stressed that the comments made to the CEC 20mph proposal were on that consultation rather than on the merits of 20mph zones in general.

4. External Reports

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

○ The cameras at the pedestrian crossing in Craigmillar Park were temporary and installed at the request of the Police to monitor use of the crossing. Cameras at the junction with Lady Road are for number plate recognition. It was not clear exactly which cameras were being referred to at the previous meeting.

○ Communal bins on Dalkeith Road. The smaller bins were not large enough for the amount of rubbish. Anyone with problems accessing the bins should contact Margaret Williamson. A complaint about bins not being securely fastened after emptying would be forwarded to Margaret Williamson. JP asked if there are enough recycling bins – ME said individual recycling boxes could be provided on request. Requests should go to the contact centre on 529 3030 or email to waste@edinburgh.gov.uk.

- Blackford Avenue improvements. Nearby work by Scottish Power was completed today. The resurfacing of the pavement could not now be done this year and the scheme would be resubmitted to the Capital Roads programme for 2011/12.
- Gullies in Lady Road had been cleared last October. One needs to be jetted – this can only be done in warm weather. It was commented that there are several blocked gullies in Craigmillar Park – specific gully problems should be reported to Stuart Smith on 529 3686 or email stuart.smith@edinburgh.gov.uk .

b). Police Report: Sgt Scott Casey introduced himself as a member of the SNT based at St Leonard's working mainly in the Sciennes and Grange area. He gave Mark Dickson's apologies and listed the following:

- Most incidents in the Grange Prestonfield area had been of a minor nature. The problem of thefts of cars by thieves stealing car keys from houses continues.
- A man has been arrested and charged with the murder and attempted murder in Chalmers Crescent (just outside our area). This murder was a very unusual occurrence in the area. CR said that neighbours welcomed the Police doorknocking nearby properties.
- A man has been seen exposing himself in Dick Place. Police have a suspect in mind but identification is proving difficult.
- Police newsletters will continue but will be more generic and not area specific. The local PC will have local details which will be provided at CC meetings.

GM asked about breakins in Craigmillar Park. Housebreaking in the area is still an issue with many happening in daylight.

MH commented that a Neighbourhood Watch member had resigned because it is so difficult to get information and support from the Police. In particular a regular, specific area up-date from the local SNT officer would be welcome. He said that his NW had not been advised of breakins on the opposite side of Minto Street. People are feeling that their efforts for the NW are a waste of time. Sgt Casey said he would refer this view to his superiors.

5. Traffic and Parking matters

a) QBC and 20mph limit. TH had submitted further comments for consideration at the Feb 8th TIE meeting. The CC had welcomed the inclusion of Ratcliffe Terrace in the 20mph zone and said that Blackford Ave and Kilgraston Road should also be included. However, there are still several inconsistencies in these 2 schemes and the Priority Parking proposals and these need to be looked at again.

CR said he had not attended the TIE meeting; however the formal proposals had been passed and there were some additions including Kilgraston Road etc. in the 20mph area. He also stressed that the responses to the consultation were overwhelmingly in favour. GM wondered why this scheme was not being introduced in more deprived areas where the accident rate is higher. JP welcomed the pilot scheme and hoped that, if successful, it could be extended to other areas.

AG asked when speeding issues were followed up – such as 15% of drivers in Mayfield Road exceeded 37mph. Sgt Casey said that this was a matter for the Road Police. CR said the Police had been reluctant to support the 20mph proposals because of the drain on resources which were targeted at casualty spots.

b) Tram Line 3. This is the protected route down the Bridges to the RIE via Cameron Toll. The discussion paper by Moray Grigor (which had been circulated) looked at integrating this with the South Sub – particularly at the Cameron Toll Intersection. There is no finance for this project but it is important to plan for the future. The CC agreed (with 2 opposing) to invite Lawrence Marshall to the April 20th meeting for further discussion and information.

c) Possible Public Meeting for Parking Proposals in the Kirkhill area. Although Prestonfield residents, in general, had said they didn't want parking restrictions there are problem areas in Kirkhill, Priestfield and Marchhall where residents would like restrictions. This had been very apparent at the Nov 2010 meeting and CEC is now drawing up plans for "priority parking" proposals for the Kirkhill area and also for "south of the railway". JP said that the public meetings had been very successful both for residents and for publicising the CC. The meeting agreed to hold public meetings at appropriate times when the plans are available.

6 Council Budget

CR said that the Administration budget had been approved.

FSF Funding: This 3-year plan to alleviate deprivation and health inequalities had been funded by the Scottish Government. The transition to Council funding would involve an overall 8% cut. However, in Prestonfield all the 3-year funding for "Health Inequalities" had been spent in the 3rd year so this would have to suffer a much larger cut. Susan Bruce (CEC Neighbourhood Manager) is discussing with colleagues in the Council exactly where the cuts will fall and to preserve as much as possible of the work done in the Prestonfield Neighbourhood Centre, the 'Connecting Communities' project and SEAG's transport.. JP encouraged people to contact the projects for help.

7. Open Space Actions

TH tabled suggested initiatives for GPCC to get involved in SCNP action plans. Two projects are particularly relevant and he asked for volunteers to help and to contact other local residents.

Newington Cemetery: The working group would consist of TH, ME and GD (+ others). It was not clear if the original £10k on offer to this area was still available

Green Network: This needs to be done in collaboration with other CCs in the area. JP will provide contact details for people involved in the action plans. BR and AG are interested in this group.

8. Reports of Interest Groups

a) Planning: A report had been circulated: Points to note included:

- Cameron Toll application has been approved with a Section 75 agreement
- Royal Blind School application was approved but has been suspended until at least 2013 due to lack of funding.
- Goods Corner – just outside the CC area but very visible. GPCC wouldn't comment unless we received requests for action.

b) Roads and Transport: dealt with in (5)

c) Environment: (included in Secretary's Report). Points to note:

- Community Back Green project. TH,ME,ST and CR had met Greig Robertson at the back green at 2 Prestonfield Crescent. This area could provide about 6 standard allotments or about 40 raised beds for residents to use. A shed and all tools would be supplied. The immediate neighbours need to be consulted and the matter will be discussed at a meeting of the Prestonfield Tenants and Residents Association on Feb 21st. CR said there is a huge overdemand and undersupply of allotments in the city. GPCC welcomed this initiative and Greig Robertson can come to the March meeting to update us. GPCC might also hold a public meeting for the wider Prestonfield community.
- Blackford Avenue junction and Capital Roads programme. The meeting was unhappy about the deferment of this project and the loss of the environmental aspect. ST to pursue.
- Hermitage of Braid Consultation. Individuals should comment if they wish. There could be a presentation on this area at a later meeting.

d) Licensing. Nothing to report.

9 Office Bearers Reports

a) Chair's Report: JP reported on the latest in the Dalkeith Road pharmacy saga. The appeal had been turned down but Mr Yousaf will "try again". We will wait to hear if he wants further support from us.

b) Treasurer's Report: AG reported £1483.14 in the bank. The meeting was asked to think about uses for the money. As we get our meeting space free it was suggested that we might buy some item for the Community Education Centre. ST would contact Deidre McCann.

c) Secretary's Report: A written report had been circulated. The Capital Roads Programme meeting to select proposals for 2011/12 funding would be on Thursday March 24th with ST and MB as our representatives. The papers should be available for discussion at the March meeting.

10 . ASCC Matters

TH reminded the meeting that the insurance premium and ASCC membership fee for each "opted in" Edinburgh CC (41 out of 43) are paid by CEC and deducted from the annual grant and he summarised a recent meeting between EACC and CEC Officers when these arrangements were discussed. TH also informed the meeting that, following the resignation of the elected Area Representative Norman Bonney, ASCC is calling for nominations from eligible Edinburgh CC Members to be elected to replace him. The closing date for nominations is noon on 9th April and TH has a copy of the nomination notice and form should any GPCC Member wish to stand for election or details can be downloaded from ASCC. Also there is to be a "common ground" meeting of ASCC Members in Glasgow on Saturday 26 March from 1-5pm, TH has registered to go and has details if anyone else from GPCC wishes to attend, registration closing date 7 March.

11. Neighbourhood Partnership

The next meeting is Monday March 14th with the Business meeting on Tuesday February 22nd.

12. Publicity

MA had pointed out that the website is not used, the Forum hasn't been used for years and he volunteered to help make it more active. The Communications subgroup should be reformed (AG, MA, MH) and discuss improvements. TH would like local Planning Applications to be available.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 16th March 2011

14. AOCB and Open Forum

- BR asked about the “Talking busstops” and why the scheme hadn't been spread further. ASt to ask about this.
- GM referred again to the “stolen busstop” in Lady Road. It was not clear to others of the exact location of this matter.
- GM asked why there was no Police Report about an accident in August. PC Martin said there is not always Police involvement – especially if there are no casualties. Sgt Casey will ask Mark Dickson for details etc.
- GM asked for information about who notifies a relative when someone dies in hospital. The meeting said that this was not a relevant matter for the CC.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm