

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** John Palmer (**JP**)(Chair), Tony Harris(**TH**)(Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton(**ST**)(Secretary), Graham Muir(**GM**), Maureen Bishop (**MB**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Ray Footman (**RF**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Bill Reid(**BR**), Alison Bramley (**AB**), Mike Hunter(**MH**), Gillian Dennis(**GD**), Mansour Ahmadian (**MA**)

**In Attendance:** Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (CEC), PC Mark Dickson (**MD**), Cllr Steve Burgess (**SB**), Cllr Gordon Mackenzie (**GMac**)

**Apologies:** Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Alistair Pugh (**AP**), Alasdair Smith (**AS**)

**Public (1):** Douglas Dalglish (SARA)

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

As at the AGM just held.

**2. Declarations of Interest. None**

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

These were approved; proposed by AB, seconded by MB.

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

JP said he still had to write about Tram Line 3 and the South Sub.

**Action JP**

**5. External Reports**

**a) Council Report:** ASt said that he still didn't know what the £25k Section 75 agreement with the Travelodge had been spent on. TH suspected it had been used for the pedestrian crossing near St Margaret's. GMac and ASt agreed to check

**Action GMac and ASt**

**b) Police Report:** PC Mark Dickson said that the May newsletter had just been circulated and explained that he had details for both Prestonfield and Grange areas:

- 419 incidents in the past month (28 housebreaking, 6 thefts of motor vehicles, 10 bike thefts, 19 vandalism, 9 youth incidents, 42 noise complaints, 13 suspicious people seen wandering).
- 107 of the incidents were crimes – 17 have been solved including 2 housebreakings, 3 males have been charged.
- Noted the article in the newsletter about bogus workmen

GM said there had been 2 car crashes in Lady Road – MD was not aware of these but would check. He confirmed that there is no obligation to report a car accident if there are no injuries. GMac said that there is often a timelag before accident reports reach CEC. GM insisted again that he knew of 5 accidents resulting in deaths which are not on the Council record.

ME asked if the vandalism at the Lady Road allotments were recorded. MD confirmed these were included in the statistics he had given. ME thanked the Police for attending the allotments; she also said that perpetrators may enter the allotments from Newington Cemetery and then steal tools etc.

MB had provided a short report on the Safer Neighbourhood Meeting she had attended on 26<sup>th</sup> April – see the Police Newsletter which gives details the priorities for the next three months. She was the only CC rep attending this group which covers the Southside/Newington ward (Southside CC decided not to send a rep). The possibility of merging the group with the Environmental Forums had been raised again. The issue of inconsiderate parking (especially on pavements) had been raised – people should phone 0131 311 3131 to report such parking and wardens in the area will attend.

RF asked if there is guidance about phone call and email scams. MD will check and perhaps an article on this could be included in a future newsletter.

(Cllr Mackenzie left)

## **6. Reports of Interest Groups**

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

- 65 Mayfield Road – change of use to takeaway (from greengrocers). Concerns were raised about increased litter and noise and the fact that this would be the third takeaway in a small row of shops. On the whole it was felt that it was better to have the premises used and the general feeling was not to object.
- There was discussion about the importance of maintaining local shopping parades which give local people shopping options and convenience. The closure of the Bank of Scotland branch and ATM on Mayfield Road had affected trade in the newsagents. BR mentioned that the Grey Horse pub on Dalkeith Road was about to reopen. JP thought this was also why it was important to continue to press for a pharmacy there.
- Care Home at 6 East Suffolk Road. There was no objection to the proposed use but concerns were raised about some of the extensions which would overlook Crawford Road. Neighbours are concerned – there will be a meeting with residents and TH will then consult the Planning Group about a possible objection.
- There are several applications in the CPA area (mainly due to the closure of St Margaret's School). JP asked if there was a masterplan for the area; TH said this had been asked for but rejected by the planners (too busy?). GPCC agreed that all these applications needed to be seen together and in context – the school had been one entity (which caused particular problems) – the piecemeal applications now being submitted could cause different (and more) problems.

**b) Roads and Transport:**

- Residents Priority Parking – report had been passed and Gavin Brown (of City Dev) had said the plan is to start implementing them in August.
- 20mph limit and QBC. The TRO for the 20mph limit is out for consultation until June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Main concern of GPCC (and other associations) relates to the proliferation of signage required. Some reps from GPCC will meet the officials from City Dev on May 26<sup>th</sup> to look at the current plans for these two proposals.

DD asked if GPCC had commented on the proposal for 60 new all-day bays – no, as outwith our area. DD also concerned about knock on effects to “south of the railway” when the RPP is introduced. JP said we had pushed for monitoring of the effects of introducing the scheme. TH commented that there should be proposals for RPP schemes south of the railway and east of Dalkeith Road. Gavin Brown had informed JP that these were being prepared.

Cllr SB said that 500 more all day parking bays are being introduced across all CPZs to take pressure off other areas; the officers do have an action plan for the areas about to get RPP if there are problems. AB asked if Brakesafe could still park cars nearby – TH said this had been considered.

JP said there were 2 other reports at the recent TIE meeting which were of interest:

- “Talking buses” – inside buses is the responsibility of Lothian Buses – works well with well spaced stops – less useful when stops are close together. Talking displays at busstops – will be done “when funds available”. BR said there had been no improvement for several years.
- There will be a new pedestrian crossing at the Cluny Gardens/Oswald Road junction.

**c) Environment:** nothing to report

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

## 7. Office Bearers Reports

**a) Chair’s Report:** none

**b) Treasurer’s Report:** AG reported £1408.34 in the bank of which £1336.46 is available to spend

**c) Secretary’s Report:**

- **Ambulance Noise** – ST had written about this and been assured that ambulance crews had been instructed recently to limit the use of sirens at night. GM said this was a national issue and that other areas suffered from inappropriate use as well. MA said that he had witnessed ambulances using sirens appropriately. It was agreed that the situation needs to be monitored.
- **Attendance of CEC officials.** ST had received messages from other CCs suggesting that it is a waste of CEC officer’s time to attend CC meetings. TH said that continuity of having the same CEC rep is valuable particularly now that the ward councillors rotate their attendance. SB said that he appreciated the importance of continuity and said that it was important for the 4 councillors to work out a way of communicating effectively. JP said that the CC appreciated the contribution of ASt and hoped that he could remain as a point of contact if, mainly as a result of the need to reduce costs, the Council could no longer provide an officer at CC meetings.
- **Meadows Festival.** Confirmed that GPCC would not take part.

## 8. Publicity (including website etc.)

**Communication group.** MA had circulated a report detailing updates to the website.

**Newsletter:** RF will draft a newsletter using information from the minutes, reports etc. in time for the next meeting. ST will get a quote for printing the newsletter and AG will get a quote from the Scout Post to deliver it. JP reiterated that we would need volunteers from CC members to help with distribution. **Action RF, ST, AG**

**Notice Boards:** The Com Ed Centre will display GPCC notices on a local notice board

## **9. Neighbourhood Partnership**

**Community Plan.** JP had attended a workshop on May 13<sup>th</sup> which reported on achievements of the present Community Plan and priorities for the next 3 years. The present priorities of improved quality of life in Dumbiedykes and better services for Older People and Young People were likely to continue. Further consultation events are planned for the summer with a report to the September NP meeting.

**Older People Event.** This is the next SCNP event and will be held on the afternoon of June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Kings Hall. **JP** encouraged people to attend.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

## **11. AOCB and Open Forum**

**EACC matters.** GPCC agreed to nominate TH to continue as the rep and to continue as treasurer of the EACC.

**Dalkeith Road Medical Practice.** DS raised the matter of the Practice's present premises which are inadequate and need more space and disabled access. The possibility of a new building on land opposite the Com Ed Centre was raised; JP will raise this with contacts in NHS Lothian and inform the GPCC. **Action JP**

**Broken Manhole Cover.** DD reported that there is a hole in the pavement of WST near the junction which had a plastic cover, also broken. The repair is apparently the responsibility of those who installed the lights and ASt was asked to pursue this. **Action ASt**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm