

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre – 15th June 2011
Minutes

Present: Tony Harris(**TH**)(Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton(**ST**)(Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Graham Muir(**GM**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Mike Hunter(**MH**), Gillian Dennis(**GD**), John Fulford (**JF**) (from 7.45pm)

In Attendance: PC Mark Dickson (**MD**), David Baines (for Sheila Gilmore, MP)

Apologies: John Palmer (**JP**)(Chair), Alistair Pugh (**AP**), Maureen Bishop (**MB**), Bill Reid(**BR**), Alison Bramley (**AB**), Ray Footman (**RF**), Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (CEC),

1. Welcome and Apologies

In the absence of John Palmer, the Vice Chair, Tony Harris, welcomed everyone.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 18th May 2011

These were approved; proposed by GD, seconded by DS.

The AGM minutes were noted and no errors or omissions mentioned.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

- JP had written about Tram Line 3 and the South Sub – copy in circulation file.
- Dalkeith Road Pharmacy: ME asked if the CC had been officially consulted about the closure (as was said in a reply from the NHS). The CC had not been formally consulted and a letter from the CC (Chair or Secretary) should be written about this. Individuals were encouraged to write in a personal capacity. **Action JP/ST**
- DS asked if there was any further information about possible new premises for the Dalkeith Road Medical Practice. In the absence of JP nothing was known. ME had spoken to Dr Paterson about the premises opposite the Com Ed Centre. **Action JP**
- A thankyou note from the Cameron House Youth Clubs for the Badge Making machine had been received and a sample badge provided. The Youth Club will design a GPCC badge.

5. External Reports

a) Council Report: ASt had sent the following report by email:

- Hole in footway where new traffic signals have been installed at junction with West Savile Terrace/Mayfield Road. This was first raised as a problem with Roads and Transport Design (who installed the lights) in Aug/Sept last year and has been followed up 6-7 times since. Cllrs Snowdon and MacKenzie have also made enquiries. Problem arose as lightweight "box" used which has been crushed by an HGV mounting the pavement and will require to be replaced. Pleased to report this has now been repaired.
- Anti-slip surface at the pedestrian crossing on Craigmillar Park just to North of junction with Lady Road. This was laid as part of preparation work to install experimental flashing studs on the crossing, which will flash red when the crossing is at red. Reason for installation being drivers' vision of the traffic lights can be obscured if there are high sided vehicles like buses at the bus stop/queued up in the inside lanes. Still waiting for permission to install the actual

flashing studs - did have verbal agreement previously, however need formal permission before going ahead. This project is also being managed by Roads and Transport Design.

- Section 75 Notice - confirmation received that money available was used as Tony mentioned to upgrade the pedestrian crossing on Craigmillar Park just to South of East Suffolk Road/Suffolk Road. Overhead gantry removed and crossing upgraded with island in middle etc - I've been advised funds available were quoted at approx £33k.

- b) Police Report:** PC Dickson reported the following incidents:
 - Prestonfield area: 131 incidents which included 2 housebreakings, 9 bike thefts, 2 vandalisms and 1 youth call)
 - Grange area: 185 incidents which included 9 housebreakings, 12 thefts, 7 vandalisms, 7 youth calls. The Meadows off licence had been targeted again.
 - Rankin area: 131 incidents which included 5 housebreakings, 9 thefts, 4 vandalisms, 1 youth call.
 - Information about previous accidents in the proposed “20mph area” showed 4 in the Rankin area and 2 in the Prestonfield area – all very minor.

In response to questions MD confirmed again that minor vehicle accidents don't need to be reported - GM queried this and said that all accidents should be reported to the Council. MD also said that the “Rankin area” included the Craigmillar Park area and other streets south of the railway.

MD said that the Police are continuing to act on priorities set by the Safer Neighbourhood Group including pedal cycles and patrols on the Innocent Railway cycle path. Another recent incident had been a bag outside a charity shop in Summerhall Place being set on fire and causing over £4000 damage – 2 females had been charged with this.

MD also said that the newsletter is late this month but should be published soon and would include more details about some of these incidents.

Travelodge: GM reported that a tour bus had been parked outside his driveway for 2 hours with the engine running and no driver and another bus had been parked overnight on the bus lane in Craigmillar Park. MD said that he did not know of any motorist being charged for leaving the engine running but said that the police would attend such an incident if reported and they were in the area. He said that he had spoken to the Travelodge and asked that regular drivers be told not to leave engines running.

6. Traffic and Parking matters

20mph limit: JP, TH, ST and RF had met CEC officials on 26th May to discuss the scheme; in particular the wish to limit signage in the area. There are particular concerns about the numbers of signs legally required at entry and exit points. JP has written to the officials to confirm that GPCC members would walk through the area to look at signage proposals once the roads to be included in the 20mph area are confirmed. Could signs on the road surface be used instead of signs on poles? GM asked if the increase in pollution due to the lower speed would be known. MH asked if the tubes which had appeared recently on several roads were being used to monitor speeds and volume of traffic. GPCC had been assured that the scheme would be carefully monitored as it is a pilot but these particular details weren't definitely known.

Residents Priority Parking: Markings for parking bays etc. are appearing in kerbs – TH will ask for details of where signs are to be placed.

Action TH

TH has also asked for details of the further schemes to be introduced later (east of Dalkeith Road and south of the railway).

JF arrived and said that plans for signs etc. are being implemented in the Waverley Park area – plates have to be 1metre above ground level – if possible they will be put on walls/fences rather than on new poles. 11 new poles may be needed in this area – Council officials are working well

with residents in this area. Discussion about an “entrance sign” to RPP areas explaining the regulations.

Legal regulations determine the amount of signage required etc. David Baines to ask Sheila Gilmore to check as this is a reserved matter.

Quality Bike Corridor: No changes to report. New design for the Mayfield Road/West Mains Road junction and the pedestrian/cycle entrance to KB – further consultation is being done. Proposal to ban right turn for cars from Mayfield Road into West Mains Road.

7. Reports of Interest Groups

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

- Stop Press: New application for 4 East Suffolk Road – similar to previous but “softer” - original railings preserved with hedge and close boarded fence to protect children. Now 2 flats. CPA will be looking at this application and notify GPCC if an objection should be considered.
- Care Home – revised drawings available and there will be a meeting with Planning officials next week.
- PAN process had resulted in GPCC being notified about large applications in adjoining areas – see planning report.
- Civic Forum (previous day) had concentrated on the Canal strategy for the city (TH has documents to borrow if wanted – also available to download) – consultation closes on 19 August. Policy on driveways will be discussed in the autumn.

GM commented that owners of some properties do not adhere to conditions etc. and their applications should be opposed. TH said that this is not a material consideration when assessing a planning application.

b) Roads and Transport: dealt with in (6) above

c) Environment: nothing to report

d) Licensing. Nothing to report. Suggested that there should be an item in the newsletter asking residents to let us know about problem pubs etc. so that licence renewals could be looked at carefully.

e) Communications: nothing to report.

8. Office Bearers Reports

a) Chair’s Report: none

b) Treasurer’s Report: AG reported £1336.55 in the bank.

c) Secretary’s Report: ST reminded members of various meetings open to all.

9. Newsletter

No draft yet available (due to absence of RF). ST had a quote from the “Printing Society” for 7500 copies - £262 for A4 folded A5 (i.e. 4 A5 pages), £600 for 8 A5 pages. ST agreed to get further quotes and see if a community grant to help with costs is available. **Action ST**

The draft text should be emailed round when available. It was considered that a newsletter should be produced but that it was not urgent and could be done later in the summer.

10. Neighbourhood Partnership

TH had attended the Business meeting on 19 May as ST and JP were unavailable. The main item was the decision to change the format of meetings (as described in the letter in the circulation file): main meetings would now be “themed events” (to try to get more community and public involvement) with ordinary business being carried out at the Business meetings. Another item related to the role of NP officials at CC meetings with a feeling that attending meetings is a burden on officials. There is a move to identify a liaison officer for each CC rather than have an official attending. TH and AG both expressed appreciation of Alan Stewart’s presence at GPCC meetings. GM asked if councillors could fulfil this role. However, it was also noted that no councillor was present at this meeting and there was a feeling that with 4 councillors rotating there was no continuity. We need to wait and see what the proposals are.

11. EACC and ASCC matters

EACC AGM on Saturday June 18th (details in file) – TH will attend but would like support from others. EACC intends to invite a representative from ASCC to a meeting in the autumn. TH had also asked for details of the new insurance scheme – once received he will email details to all so that GPCC members know what we are covered for.

12. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 21st September 2011

13. AOCB and Open Forum

ME said the pavements near the Gas Works were in a very bad state and asked if the fence around the works needed planning permission. ST to ask about these. **Action ST**

GM said that the Ambulance noise at night was still going on with 40 complaints recently. He also said that multiple complaints from one person are recorded as a single complaint even if they refer to multiple incidents. The meeting agreed that sirens were used too frequently and residents were being unnecessarily disturbed. JF said that ambulances (and other emergency vehicles) should have data loggers to record when sirens were being used.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm