

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre – 21st September 2011
Minutes

Present: John Palmer (**JP**)(Chair), Tony Harris(**TH**)(Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton(**ST**)(Secretary), Graham Muir(**GM**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Mike Hunter(**MH**), Gillian Dennis(**GD**), John Fulford (**JF**), Bill Reid(**BR**)

In Attendance: Cllr Cameron Rose(**CR**), PC Lynsey Collins, PC Evelyn Hagarty

Public: G.A.Thom, G.W.Hall, E. Bauchop, Miss L. Murray (Prestonfield Bank)

Apologies: Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Alistair Pugh (**AP**), Maureen Bishop (**MB**), Alison Bramley (**AB**), Ray Footman (**RF**), Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (CEC)

1. Welcome and Apologies

John Palmer welcomed everyone to the first meeting after the summer break. He informed the meeting that Cllr Gordon Mackenzie had been scheduled to attend but his father had recently died and he was away at the funeral. JP would send a note of condolence on behalf of the CC. JP also raised the issue of future membership on the CC of the two young representatives – Leyla Usmani (now at Dundee University) and Alasdair Smith. He will check if they can remain as members (as their permanent residences are still in the area) provided that they attend at least once every 6 months.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 15th June 2011

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

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

○ Dalkeith Road Pharmacy: JP has written again but no reply yet. ME had written twice, the second time saying that the CC hadn't been consulted - a reply had said that there had been communication with the CC (after GPCC had made contact with the NHS). A letter had also been written to the NHS by Kezia Dugdale, MSP (no reply yet).

○ Dalkeith Road Medical Practice (possible move): JP had written – reply said “there are no plans at present” – however other practices don't have suitable premises and these could combine but there are no funds for this. CR said CEC are selling vacant premises in Luton Court; NHS Lothian had previously been interested. Other suggestions included the premises opposite the Com Ed Centre and Cameron House. JP will raise again with the CHP.

JP

○ Ambulance Noise: GM said that this continues at night and 40 separate complaints had been made. The matter had also been raised in Parliament. Suggested that the Council Noise team could be consulted (CR said this is probably not relevant to them). Agreed to contact Ambulance Service again and the City Council.

ST

5. External Reports

a) **Council Report:** No report as ASt absent. CR provided the following information:

- Statutory Notices: A TV programme the previous night had detailed problems with the contractors increasing work being done with subsequent huge increases in costs to residents. CR said all the detail in the programme was known to the Council and a Police inquiry had started in October 2010 and was expected to report shortly. In the meantime several members of staff had been suspended and all statutory notice work had stopped.
- Gas work in Minto Street: MH said he had information indicating that work would start in May – nothing happened. Then signs appeared indicating that work would start on 12th September for 23 weeks (which happened). CR said there had been meetings in March and the repair work is required. The Gas company should have applied for TROs - had now applied for an “emergency TRO” to suspend parking and reroute bus routes etc. MH said the main complaint was lack of information to residents and asked how to find out. CR said the main Council contact is Derek Roden (529 3720).
- GM reported sewage backing up into houses and gardens in Lady Road. CR said he had been aware of problems 2 years ago but not recently.

b) **Police Report:** PC Hegarty reported the following:

- PC Mark Dickson will hold a surgery on Friday 18th November at 11am at the Com Ed Centre.
 - Several breakins to garden sheds especially in the Clearburn area – a person had been caught with tools the previous night.
 - Pollock Halls had been targeted for theft – 3 people arrested.
 - Vandalism to cars – in one night several cars were vandalised.
 - Across the 3 beats pedal cycle theft had been low and stable over the past 3 months.
- PC Collins reported on the Safer Neighbourhood Team which had been targeting drugs and alcohol abuse especially in Nicolson Square, double parking in Marchmont and inconsiderate cycling; 12 officers are now trained for the SNT.

The following points were made and questions asked:

- GM commented that people with addictions had just moved to the Royal Mile – CR agreed but said that moving on does reduce the problem in the short term. JP said a range of services are required to help these people.
- JF said there is lack of communication between Neighbourhood Watch areas and the Police – several breakins over the summer hadn't been notified. This needs to be raised at SNGs.

MB (or sub)

- Police newsletter – still production problems and none over the summer.

6. Traffic and Parking matters

Parking – Introduction of “B1”.

- JP said that there seem to be enough residents parking in most areas; if more priority spaces are required then residents need to apply to the Council. TH said residents in Mentone area are pleased with the scheme. He also said the end of September is too early to decide if more spaces are needed and it was agreed to ask for a delay before any alterations are made to the scheme.

TH

- Kilmaurs Road is now blocked; residents cannot park nearby and there is dangerous parking on double yellow lines.
 - MH said that there are more problems in zone 7 – particularly with tradesmen (there are no “visitor permits”). Spaces in “S1” are available but not free. In 2008 they were promised visitor permits but this hasn’t happened.
 - CR said there are 2 issues in the queue – visitor permits and the Kilmaurs Road problems.
 - A recent TIE report had put the introduction of Priority Parking in the “Priestfield” area lower than in Blackford or Rankins due to flaws in the methodology. GPCC needs to press for Priestfield to have its priority raised.
 - JF said “B1” is good and the next areas should be introduced quickly; also more parking needs to be moved northwards.
 - GM said that residents of Pollock Halls (where there is little parking) park in Priestfield and add to the problem there. Would the Priestfield scheme include Pollock Halls and allow residents to buy permits.
- Agreed to write about additions to “B1” and ordering of further implementations. **JP**

20mph Limit (pilot):

- GPCC was very disappointed that TIE removed the E-W and N-S (Grange Road etc, Kilgraston Road etc.) routes from the area to be included – this would result in more signage. Marchmont Sciennes CC also disappointed.
- This decision seems to conflict with the SNT who want to prevent accidents rather than react and with the Transport Department which wants to extend cycle routes to these streets.
- UK Government and Transport Scotland are looking at reducing the need for so much signage – should we wait for this to happen.
- Council officials and GPCC reps will meet on 5th October to look at signage proposals for the Blasket area.
- GM asked (again) why this is being introduced in an area with no fatal accidents and when it will result in increased pollution.
- CR commented that we could write to upset the TIE decision but pointed out that there will be a new Council in May 2012 which could stop the pilot (if not already implemented)

General view (with some objections) was to write to ask that the scheme should be delayed until Transport Scotland has reported on signage requirements – also pointing out that less signage should reduce the cost. **JP**

Quality Bike Corridor: TROs are being issued. JP learnt at a recent meeting that the Transport Department was looking at ways to improve conditions for cycling along West Mains Road, Kilgraston Road etc. The proposals for the junction West Mains Road/Mayfield Road were being discussed with the University.

7. Neighbourhood Partnership

Papers had been circulated detailing the Community Plan for 2011-14 and proposals that the number of subgroups (currently 14) should be reduced to about 5 and that these would support the Community Plan. The NP had also moved from “Public meetings” which were attended by members of the public, as well as Partnership members (who include community reps) to holding “Themed events” and Business meetings (to which the public could come but could not participate). This had been (apparently) decided at the NP Business meeting in May (TH had

attended) – however, community reps hadn't understood the full implications (they had thought that some Public meetings would be replaced by themed events but not all). There was concern that some important local concerns which had led to debates at Partnership meetings (e.g. problems with HMOs, the Meadows) could no longer be raised. The next Business meeting is scheduled for 10th October and the GPCC rep (ST) asked for guidance from the CC about the proposals.

Safer Neighbourhood Team: MB had sent an email reporting that the last meeting had been well attended – priorities as given in the Police Report. Concerns also raised about fruit shops in Marchmont blocking the pavement, cars ignoring the existing 20mph limit in Sciennes Road and double parking. MB cannot attend the next meeting (Tuesday 1st November at 2pm) – sub wanted.

8. Reports of Interest Groups

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

- 65 Mayfield Road – change to hot food takeaway was refused
- Significant applications still under consideration are for a pre-school nursery at 4 East Suffolk Road and a 59 bed Care Home on the north side of East Suffolk Road
- Iqra Academy – welcomed in the area and there have been no problems.
- SESplan will shortly be out for formal consultation
- ST reported that the Grange Association had been concerned about breaches of consent at 5 Lauder Road (an application to which GPCC had sent an objection).
- 35 Fountainhall Road – new application for parking in the front garden – TH to check.

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

c) Environment: nothing to report

d) Licensing. No applications in our area.

e) Communications: nothing to report.

9. Office Bearers Reports

a) Chair's Report: circulated – mainly roads and transport matters.

b) Treasurer's Report: AG reported £1658.10 in the bank. CEC grant £795.42 had been received and £474 for the Badgemaker had been paid. Cost of the newsletter still to be paid.

c) Secretary's Report: Previously circulated. Points:

- Winter Weather: Report had been discussed by the Council in August. Suggestions for sites for additional grit bins and “salt dumps” can be made. CEC may appoint local “snow wardens” who would be supplied with shovels etc. JF asked that the classification of roads for priority snow clearing (1, 2, 3) should be published so that residents knew if their road was likely to be cleared by the Council.

- Capital Roads Fund: Agreed to resubmit Rankin Drive for 2012/3. Also top part of Findhorn Place. Other suggestions should be made for consideration.

10. Newsletter

The newsletter had been printed at the beginning of September and most of the 7,500 copies had now been delivered – thanks to a few committee members and several outsiders who had agreed to help. GD suggested that the Scouts could help with delivery and agreed to find contact details.

11. EACC and ASCC matters

TH had attended a meeting of EACC on 8th September – agreed to have subgroups to deal with specific issues. The Planning subgroup would look at concerns city-wide, changes to procedures etc. (not individual applications). ASCC will close down in April 2012 – says it cannot function on the reduced grant from the Scottish Government. ASCC will continue to provide insurance until then (GPCC changed insurance provider). There is a feeling that some kind of Scotland wide body is required – perhaps with more regional or city based groupings. Suggestions to TH for next meeting on 1st October.

12. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 19th October 2011

Meeting reminded that we have Jessica Morgado (Countryside Ranger) to speak.

13. AOCB and Open Forum

- GM asked if a licence is required to keep chickens. ASt to be asked to check this
- GM said he suspected there was an unlicensed HMO in Crawford Road and that this would be reported.
- Suggested that the Ambulance Service should be asked to attend the November meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm