

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre – 19th October 2011
Minutes

Present: John Palmer (**JP**)(Chair), Tony Harris(**TH**)(Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton(**ST**)(Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Graham Muir(**GM**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Mike Hunter(**MH**), Gillian Dennis(**GD**), Alison Bramley (**AB**), Bill Reid(**BR**)

In Attendance: Cllr Ian Perry (**IP**), Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (CEC),
PC Janie Harman, PC Steven Cairns

Public: G.A.Thom, Mrs E Hay

Apologies: David Stevenson (**DS**), Alistair Pugh (**AP**), Ray Footman (**RF**), Leyla Usmani(**LU**)

An illustrated talk on “The Countryside Ranger Service and the Hermitage of Braid” was given at the start of the meeting by Jessica Morgado, Countryside Ranger. Information in the talk was welcomed by those present; Jessica then answered questions and was thanked by the Chair.

1. Welcome and Apologies

After thanking Jessica for her most interesting talk JP welcomed everyone to the meeting (7.45pm).

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 21st September 2011

These were approved (with a minor amendment); proposed by MH, seconded by ME.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

GM raised three issues:

- Ambulance Noise – JP said this would come up under Chair’s report.
- Lady Road by-law. The by-law restricting parking to residents only is unenforceable, according to CEC, but Lady Road residents would like it to be enforced. IP said that new wording is required – text to be brought to the next meeting. A similar situation applies to the move to prevent parking on pavements currently being investigated by the Scottish Parliament – a copy of this act would be helpful and the CC should try to get this. **GM**
- Blocked drains. These should be cleaned every year but this doesn’t happen. GM reported sewage backing up into Lady Road properties. IP said that all drains now have a unique number (not marked on the drains) which will have details of when the drain was cleaned. IP suggested that all members of the CC should collect details of problem drains (location needed). These to be sent to ST who would collate and send to CEC. **All/ST**

5. External Reports

a) Council Report: ASt reported that no licence is required to keep chickens for fewer than 50. If a chicken is suspected of having bird flu this should be reported to Environmental Health.

b) Police Report: GM congratulated PC Cairns on coming 3rd in a recent marathon.

PC Harman reported the following:

- The Police are no longer allowed to publicise specific statistics – there is no change in the amount of crime in the area.
- In Sciennes/Grange there were 150 calls – 7 were grade 1.
- In Prestonfield there were 70 calls – 8 were grade 1
- 2 housebreakings in S/G and 2 in Prestonfield.
- A lot of vehicle damage in the S/G area at weekends – caused by people returning from a night out.
- SNTs had attended Freshers week and given advice to students
- Speeding in Sciennes Road – police had been out 12 times and found drivers were exceeding 20mph about 1/3 of the time – warning letters had been sent to owners of speeding cars.
- One incident of exposure in S/G had been reported to the Fiscal.
- SNT and safer cycling – working to educate cyclists – 250 had been given advice especially about jumping red lights. School children had been given reflective bands and 700 bands had also been given to cyclists. Advice about safe driving had also been given to car drivers.
- Police are working with CEC about fireworks – especially illegal sales - and bonfires in the lead up to November 5th.

GM said that 80 cyclists had been fined £900 for inconsiderate cycling in the Meadows over the past 2 months. PC Cairns said this was likely to be “red (traffic) light offences” rather than inconsiderate cycling. GM asked again about unmarked Police cars being illegally parked at St Leonards – JP ruled this not relevant to the CC.

JP mentioned the accident between a car and motorcycle in Blackford Avenue on Sunday October 16th and asked if there was any information about this. PC Harman said she would check.

c) Councillors Report: IP said he had nothing special that wouldn't come up in the agenda.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

a) Planning: TH had circulated a report: He mentioned that SESPlan is now ratified and out for representation – more information next time.

Royal Edinburgh and Astley Ainslie Hospitals. Members of GPCC and other local CCs had walked round the AAH grounds the previous week to identify access routes which should be preserved if the AAH grounds are sold. A report will be produced with the other CCs and presented at the next meeting. During the walkabout they had met parents of children at St Peters and Gillespies who used the grounds as a “Safe Route to school”. Another issue was the buildings on the site most of which were not listed.

JP mentioned the meeting between CC reps and senior NHS officials on 17th November – matters for discussion include the rationalisation of services at both hospitals and the possible sale of some or all of the AAH grounds. IP said the Health Board wanted a top price which meant this

would be too expensive for a possible site for a new Boroughmuir High School – although this may not be so important now that proceeds go to the Scottish Government rather than NHS Lothian.

GM said that illegal building work had been done at 8 Crawford Road and that enforcement notices had been sent out – he asked for an update. IP said that information would be available on the Planning website.

b) Roads and Transport: JP had circulated a report.

Priority Parking area B1

- People should contact JP or Cllr Mackenzie (GMac) if more priority parking bays are needed.
- Problems with penalty tickets being issued if the time on visitor permits had not been scored out had been resolved.
- JP had written to GMac about the next zones to be implemented – no reply yet.
- AG said B1 had not impacted on parking in Ross Gardens but he felt that there was more parking in Mayfield Road outwith the permitted hours – in particular before 9.15am.

There was general discussion about the perceived anti-car policy of CEC – e.g. where were the 800 employees at Cameron Toll to park, conflict of new developments on the edge of the city with early/late working hours for employees, KB staff who parked in local streets rather than pay the minimal cost of a parking permit. IP said residents had complained about commuters and it was difficult to balance the needs of both.

20mph limit – JP had written to GMac about possibly delaying the scheme until the signage rules had been relaxed. However, this will only apply in 20mph zones and not in a 20mph limit and so is not relevant to us. ST, TH, MH and DS and reps from Blacket Association had met CEC officials and felt the matter of signage in that area were being treated as sensitively as possible within the rules. GM asked for the cost of the signs required – ASt to check. **ASt**

Gas Mains Renewals: MH said this had been very chaotic – TTROs were applied for after the work had started and the problems in East and West Mayfield had delayed work starting in Salisbury Place. JP said it wasn't clear how people would get access when Grange Road closures came in. There was also confusion over lane marking with several vehicles driving in the wrong lane. GM remarked that the coning in Mayfield Gardens appeared very confusing for motorists. TH has a contact for the contractors Turriff.

Access to AAH: JP had received complaints about the closure of access from South Oswald Road where new gates have been installed on the service road for the waste bins. AAH says that staff safety has been compromised by cyclists when working there and Health and Safety have advised that these gates should be kept closed. JP will ask if one gate can be open when there are no staff working in the area and if the gate could be open at school “rush hours”. The small wooden gate in South Oswald Road is permanently closed as there are trees considered to be dangerous just inside.

c) Environment: ST reported that although the two Environmental Forums were well attended and wished to remain the SCNP had decided that only one group could be supported in future.

7. Office Bearers Reports

a) **Chair's Report:** A report had been circulated.

Ambulance Noise: JP had contacted Susan Mooney (CEC, Head of Community Safety) who felt the Council Noise team might be able to help. A letter from Sheila Gilmore, MP had been received at the start of the meeting; this included an offer of mediation between those concerned about sirens late at night (including residents of Lady Road) and the Ambulance service. JP suggested that residents (including GM and JF) should detail their main concerns and bring a proposal for the basis of mediation to the next GPCC meeting. GPCC would also contact the Ambulance Service to ask for their proposals prior to deciding if mediation would be appropriate.

GPCC Membership. Maureen Bishop had sent in her resignation and JP had thanked her for her service. Ally Smith, now at University, had also resigned and had written to say that he had enjoyed his time on the CC and welcomed the experience. Leyla Usmani would like to remain on the CC – she is on the Electoral Register in the area and expects to be able to attend enough meetings to fulfil the duty of being a community councillor.

An application to be co-opted had been received from Allister Thom, who had provided a CV. Mr Thom, and other members of the public, were asked to leave the room while GPCC considered the application; Mr Thom was unanimously approved.

Due to the lateness of the hour other agenda items were deferred to the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm