

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre – 18th January 2012
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**), Bill Reid(**BR**) Alistair Pugh (**AP**), Ray Footman (**RF**), Allister Thom (**AT**)

In Attendance: Cllr Cameron Rose (**CR**), Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (CEC)
PC Graham Watt, PC Leon Malinowski

Public: Kenny Kemp, +1

Apologies: David Stevenson (**DS**)

1. Welcome and Apologies

JP welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2012. He said that the meeting would start with a talk about the Scottish Ambulance Service and introduced Steve Watkins and Ian Archibald.

Notes from talk on the Ambulance Service

Steve and Ian introduced themselves and gave apologies from John Alexander, Head of Service, who had been unable to attend at the last minute. They are both Area Service Managers, had been in the Service for about 28 years, were both paramedics and had worked their way up through the ranks. They work in the SE section of the service which covers Edinburgh and the Borders. They explained here are three types of vehicle and their staffing:

- Double crew for A&E – one paramedic and one technician
 - Rapid response (motorcycle) – one paramedic
 - Urgent tier (for e.g. doctors calls, hospital transfer) – one technician, one care assistant
- They then gave details about response times etc.
- Category A calls - 75% to be responded to within 8 minutes. Ambulances have to be stationed at various points to be able to meet this target. Peffermill is the only station in Edinburgh
 - Category B calls (serious) – response time is 14,19,21 minutes (longer away from city)
 - Category C calls – normal driving speeds. Some treatment is done at home rather than taking the patient to hospital.

They gave details about the contents of an ambulance.

In response to questions and comments the following points were made:

- Complaint about sirens in the Lady Road area - discretion about the use of sirens is available but safety is paramount
- After previous meeting between Lady Road residents and the Service the use of sirens reduced for about ten days and then reverted back.
- In new vehicles the decibel level of sirens has been reduced and is also more directional – this reduces the general disturbance and should show improvements as new vehicles are introduced (old vehicles cannot be retrofitted)
- Young ambulance drivers tend to use sirens more and their use is reduced as drivers gain experience.

- Although memos to limit the use of sirens at night are circulated the final decision rests with the ambulance driver.
- A “First responder” should be over 18, be reasonably fit and have a clean driving licence – there are no “first responders” in the centres of big cities. They mainly deal with emergencies such as heart attacks.
- There will be a further mediation between the Service and Lady Road residents in 2-3 weeks.

JP thanked Steve and Ian and said that GPCC tried to support the residents and hoped that the next mediation proves to be successful. Ian concluded by extending an invitation to anyone who wished to visit the station.

2. **Declarations of Interest. None**

4. **Minutes of the Meeting of 16th November 2011**

These were approved; proposed by TH, seconded by AG.

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

- GM asked about the maintenance of the nature strips. TH said this would be discussed at the next meeting of the CPA and he would report at the next GPCC meeting. CEC had agreed to maintain these nature strips but many felt that this should be the responsibility of the owners. It would be helpful to know about the responsibility of owners with regard to feu titles and it was suggested that someone might be invited to address the GPCC on this matter

6. **External Reports**

a) **Council Report:** ASt reported the following:

- **Sequence of Lady Road lights:** suggestions for alteration should be sent to Gareth Thomas at CEC. This should be discussed by Lady Road residents at their mediation meeting with the NHS.
- **Princess Elizabeth Nursery:** no information about the purchaser.
- **Owl boxes in Newington Cemetery:** no details about which official to contact.

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

- **Police newsletter:** A December newsletter had been circulated but he understood that GPCC were not happy with the format and the lack of local detail.
- **Housebreakings:** there had been a spate of housebreakings especially on Christmas Eve in the Lygon Road area. Two people had been caught and locked up but the housebreakings continued. A window gets opened with a jemmy and the TV taken. Any suspicious character should be reported. TH said he had been told about break-ins in Crawford Road and West Savile Road.
- GM asked about a hit-and-run into a wall in Blacket and said that a forger of £20 notes lives in Portobello
- The Police are working with SNT officers on the “graffiti campaign” which is mainly concentrating on Council property. When Gillespies tried to make the children remove graffiti there were complaints for parents.
- Bicycle theft continues to be a problem

- c) **Councillors Report:** Cllr Rose reported the following:
- If there is graffiti to be removed please contact the Council
 - The Council budget is in preparation and will be debated in the first two weeks in February. Edinburgh has an additional £23million in its settlement this year.
 - Comprehensive dialogue is taking place about outsourcing some of the Council services. This was agreed not to happen for Environmental Services at a meeting in December. The possible outsourcing of more services (Council Tax and the management of Council buildings) would be discussed tomorrow (unlikely to go through).

7. **AAH/REH Update**

JP reported on the meeting held on November 17th between representatives of local CCs with NHS Lothian – a report of this meeting had been circulated. There will be a further meeting of the CCs on January 23rd to discuss Health issues arising from any merger; a meeting to discuss planning issues has still to be arranged. Concerns include the costs of the proposed development and possible sale of parts of the AAH site, and effects on the community of transferring services and reduction of inpatient beds. JP asked for information from anyone who had seen deterioration in service.

8. **Reports of Interest Groups**

a) **Planning:** TH had circulated a report. Items to note:

- A planning application had been submitted to install photovoltaic panels on a building at the Royal Observatory – probably OK.
- Comments on the “Main Issues Report” had to be submitted by January 27th – TH will lead a small group to consider GPCC’s response. **TH**
- GM noted that there are skips in East Suffolk Road. TH noted that a gate pillar and railings to widen the entrance at the Iqra Academy had recently been removed and that this is thought to be under investigation by Enforcement.
- MH asked whether objections and comments to Planning applications are available on the Planning Portal – some seem to be but not all. TH said that the EACC Planning Group is also concerned about the way letters are referred to in reports and the way applications are handled; this will be further discussed at a meeting on Feb 6th (if anyone wants to attend contact TH). Marion Williams (Civic Forum) is also concerned.
- Kenny Kemp (public) asked about the blue containers on the site on Mayfield Road. TH said the site is owned by Scottish Water and there is a further 5-6 years to go on the lease – present use is for the display of second-hand cars. He will check the site.

b) **Roads and Transport:** JP had circulated a report – points:

- GPCC had submitted projects for the Capital Roads Funding programme
- GM said that there were traffic queues in the Lady Road/Dalkeith Road area (near the pharmacy) caused by cones and broken drains. ASt was asked to check this **ASt**
- A drawing of the Mayfield Road/West Mains Road junction had been circulated – this showed “no right turn” into West Mains Road. GPCC had understood that we would be consulted on the final scheme before implementation. JP to contact Chris Brace to arrange a meeting and invite him to address GPCC. **JP**

Signs for the “20mph limit” were being erected and signs had been erected in Wilton Road (not yet legal). The contractor for this had gone bust but this shouldn’t delay the introduction.

- RF asked about signs for the Blacket area. JP and MH felt the officials were being as sensitive as possible within the rules.
- RF asked if the 20mph limit was advisory or statute. JP said that we understand that it is within Police powers to prosecute drivers exceeding 20mph.
- Further Residents Priority Parking schemes are scheduled for the next financial year. GPCC would host a Public meeting for “Blackford/Nether Liberton” and possibly for “Priestfield”.
- Cllr Mackenzie had suggested that GPCC should apply to the Cycling Scotland Fund for help with signage for the QBC. Agreed to do this.

c) Environment: Report circulated.

d) Licensing. No applications in our area.

9. Office Bearers Reports

a) Chair’s Report: Dealt with above.

b) Treasurer’s Report: AG reported £1120.37 in the Bank account.

c) Secretary’s Report. Members were reminded of various meetings which they could attend.

10. Neighbourhood Partnership matters. Deferred

11. EACC Matters

TH reported on the Executive meeting held on January 12th:

- Demise of Southside CC
- Eileen Hewitt is arranging a training programme for community councillors
- Saturday March 5th in City Chambers, Debate on Criminal Justice – open to all.

12. Date of next meeting – Wednesday February 15th 2012

14 AOCB

- **Publicity.** JP said that we need to publicise the CC and encourage people to stand in the CC elections in the autumn and represent the community.
- **Tam Gilzean.** GM mentioned that this very elderly gentleman (~91), lives locally, collects for charity (approx £40k to date) and has donated to various organisations including childrens charities and the Prestonfield project. JP to check these details and, if appropriate, to write and commend him. **JP**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm