

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre – 15<sup>th</sup> February 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**), Bill Reid(**BR**) Alistair Pugh (**AP**), Ray Footman (**RF**), Allister Thom (**AT**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Alison Bramley (**AB**)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Gordon Mackenzie (GMac), Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (CEC), Chris Brace (CEC), Sheila Gilmore MP, 2 PCs

**Public:** Mr and Mrs Youssaf

**Apologies:** Gilly Dennis (**GD**),

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

JP welcomed everyone and explained that Item (6) (Mayfield/West Mains Road junction) would be the first item as Chris Brace, Cycling officer for CEC, was present for this item.

**6. Mayfield Road /West Mains Road junction.**

GPCC had expected to be consulted on the final design for this junction (which included a “no right turn” into West Mains Road (WMR) for vehicles travelling south). However, the plan had been included in the TRO for the QBC (issued in November) and the opportunity to formally object had been missed. Three reps from GPCC (TH, AG, ST) had met CEC officers on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and expressed their concern at the misunderstanding. Notes on the history of this junction (prepared by TH) and a note of the meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February are attached. Points raised (at this GPCC meeting) included;

- CEC had accepted that the TRO was somewhat unclear and apologised that GPCC had not understood that this was the final formal consultation on the junction.
- Temporary signs would be erected (on Mayfield Road (MR)) indicating that right turns would be banned into WMR and traffic should travel via West Savile Terrace (WST) and Blackford Avenue (the special University bus service was happy with this).
- Concern noted about the narrow entrance to WST which already causes problems – CEC will look at this.
- CEC had considered a right filter into WMR but this would cause problems with traffic flow.
- Concern that there would be an increase in traffic along Ross Gardens, Lussielaw Road etc. (CEC said only about 30 cars per hour turn right into WST so didn't think would be a problem).
- Concern that there isn't an obvious “escape route” for cars expecting to turn right into WMR.
- Concerns that cyclists may not obey the preferred crossing route at the new layout.
- Concerns about conflicts between pedestrians (especially blind) and cyclists at the junction.
- Most of the QBC should be in operation by June but the junction not until August.
- CEC confirmed that a full audit of the QBC and the junction would be carried out after about 6 months of operation.

Chris Brace was thanked for attending and listening to the concerns of GPCC. A letter to be written to CEC detailing the concerns about the consultation process and about the junction.

**2. Declarations of Interest. None**

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

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

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

GM was asked about the mediation meeting between Lady Road residents and the Ambulance Service but said this was confidential to that meeting.

#### 5. **External Reports**

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

- Manhole covers in Dalkeith Road had a temporary repair (until summer) – cones had been left in order to prevent vehicles driving noisily over the temporary covers and disturbing residents.
- Manhole covers in Craigmillar Park and Gordon Terrace – one has been repaired.
- AT mentioned Scottish Water not replacing broken covers. GMac said that the Roads Commissioner had recently fined Scottish Water for delays in repairing and that SW has a very poor record. At next week's TIE meeting there will be a report complaining about various utilities not completing road repairs.

##### b) **Police Report:** Recent incidents include:

- Number of housebreakings has dropped – 3 or 4 people have been arrested and charged
- Increase in number of “bogus callers” – 2 people arrive, one chats while the other ransacks the property. Excuses for entering include “my wife is in Labour” or “I’ve lost my dog” and “can I use your phone”. A man has been arrested and charged.
- There have been assault and robberies in South Clerk Street, Nicolson Street and the Meadows.
- Security advice cards have been distributed in the Craigmillar Park, Lygon Road area.

Questions and comments from GPCC:

- GM said that fake £20 notes are being circulated in Portobello
- MH said there had been serious car vandalism in West Blacket on 28 January early morning. There had been a Police Press release on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb about arrests made. MH said that at the SNG meeting the Police had said there were 4 people with CCTV evidence.
- GM said there had been a hit-and-run accident hitting a wall in the Blackets. When reported to the Police the complainant was told this was a private, not a Police, matter.
- JP liked the Police walking through the Meadows to improve safety there.

##### c) **Councillors Report:** Cllr Mackenzie reported:

- 20mph signs are being installed for the implementation on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- CEC Budget includes funding for the next Residents Priority Parking scheme in Blackford/Nether Liberton – if residents want it. Date for consultation still to be decided.
- Newington Library will remain open on Sundays.

Questions and comments included:

- GM asked about the date for the Trams to be operational – GMac replied July 2014.
- JP commented that RPP is really wanted in Priestfield and that this area is more important than the Nether Liberton area. GMac explained the reasons for this order. TH suggested that consultation for both Priestfield and Liberton areas should be held together.
- GM said that there is not enough on site parking for users of the Pollock Halls and Commonwealth Pool and this contributes to the parking problems in the Priestfield area.

At this point JP invited Mr Youssaf to introduce himself and explain his proposals to (re)open a Pharmacy on Dalkeith Road. He explained that the previous pharmacy had closed in 2008 without any public consultation. The pharmacy had originally been operated as “Moss” and was then sold to Boots but was not a viable pharmacy for them and therefore closed. Mr Y has letters

of support from Jim Eadie, MSP and a petition signed by 600 (particularly elderly) local people. GMac said that he supports Mr Y as a pharmacy would be good for local people and for the local shops etc. The original premises are no longer available but there are other local premises, previously a motorcycle shop but which suffers from dry and wet rot which are causing concern. CEC is trying to find the owner to get essential repairs done. BR said that another chemist has circulated a flyer advertising free delivery – however, Mr Y pointed out that many people should consult a pharmacist rather than just getting medicines delivered.

The meeting agreed that JP should write to support Mr Youssaf.

## 7. Reports of Interest Groups

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

- Comments on the Main Issues Report had been sent to the Council
- Meeting to discuss the planning and access issues at the AAH/REH sites still to be arranged
- Changes to “household permitted development” rights in non-conservation areas came in on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – including a “1m bubble” around all properties. There are concerns that this may introduce more differences between properties in conservation and non-conservation areas.
- EACC planning group will meet Nancy Jamieson (CEC planner) on Feb 21st.
- The CEC Guidance on commenting on planning applications states that material comments, in the case of a delegated decision, will only appear on the portal once the decision has been made. However if the application is going to Development Management Sub-Committee then material comments have to appear 5 days before committee.

**b) Roads and Transport:** JP had circulated a report - some points already covered above:

A TRO had been received announcing proposals to remove several culs-de-sac from the 20mph limit area in order to minimise signage. GPCC would support this proposal.

**c) AAH/REH merger.**

- **Health Issues:** No minutes are yet available of the meeting of CC reps about the health issues arising from any merger. JP said that there isn't agreement among the CC reps about whether services should be moved from AAH to REH – this is a difficult problem and it isn't clear what services should be provided in hospital or in the community. Anyone who has concerns should let us know. The next meeting with NHS personnel is scheduled for May/June. DS said there is concern among some heart patients about being treated in a “mental” hospital. MH wondered if this is a suitable matter for CCs to be involved in.
- **Access matters:** GPCC is concerned about access through the AAH site as it is a route to schools, shops etc. for many residents. If the site is sold would access be preserved. TH said we need green policies to protect open space etc.

**d) Environment:** AP said that signs about dog mess on Observatory Road and Blackford Hill had disappeared and the problem was getting worse with several owners regularly not cleaning up. GMac suggested that if the dog wardens were advised of the times when this happened they could be present and fine these owners.

**e) Licensing.** A consultation about problem premises and a proposal to extend the opening hours of the petrol station on Ratcliffe Terrace had been received. No action required.

## 9. Office Bearers Reports

**a) Chair's Report:** A report had been circulated most issues were traffic and parking.

TH reported that the Craigmillar Park Association will set up a working group to look at the Nature Strips (feuing issues etc.) – anyone interested should contact TH. GM said that he was an expert on feuing matters – JP asked him to provide copies of relevant information for TH.

**b) Treasurer's Report:** AG reported £1070.37 in the Bank account (the donation to the Ranger Service for £50 had been cashed).

**c) Secretary's Report.** Members were reminded of various meetings which they could attend. A request for suggestions for people to be nominated as “local heroes” had been received from Jim Eadie, MSP. Tom Gilzean (who collects with a special permit and donates to charities including the Sick Kids and Prestonfield Neighbourhood Forum) had already been nominated and GPCC would support this if asked. Any other suggestions welcome.

#### **10. Neighbourhood Partnership matters.**

**Safer Neighbourhood Group:** MH had attended a meeting of this group (14 Feb) and reported that the remit of this group will transfer to the “Community Safety group” – MH willing to continue as GPCC rep.

**Housing Area Board:** JP concerned that GPCC has no representative on this Board which has money for areas of social housing. GMac said that there is a rep from the Prestonfield Tenants Ass and this is more appropriate.

#### **11. EACC Matters**

TH said that a report being prepared by the Planning Sub-group would be circulated when finalised..

#### **12. Date of next meeting – Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> 2012**

#### **14 AOCB**

- GMac mentioned that there is a consultation on the Scotrail franchise (closing date Feb 20th). He said that GPCC might wish to comment on the proposal to electrify the South Sub (needed for freight) as this would reduce any subsidy required for passengers. TH would check and support the reintroduction of passengers to this line.
- GM said that he attends the “City Centre Community Council” which considers areas in most parts of the city while GPCC only looks at issues on its western boundary; he thought that GPCC should also look “east”.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm