

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre – 17<sup>th</sup> October 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**), Alison Bramley (**AB**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Allister Thom (**AT**)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Jim Orr (**JO**), PC Mark Dickson (MD), Alan Stewart,CEC (**ASt**), Bill Elliot (**BE**),Scottish Water

**Public (6):** Douglas Dalgleish (SARA), Chris Mckinnel, Lucy Wall, (Lady Roads Allotments); Sharon & Des Stevens, W.Dick (Dalkeith Road shops)

**Apologies:** Mike Hunter(**MH**), Gilly Dennis(**GD**), John Fulford (**JF**), Alistair Pugh (**AP**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Ray Footman(RF), Pat Abel

**1. Welcome**

JP welcomed everyone and introduced Bill Elliot from Scottish Water (SW). BE had agreed to come (although he was officially on leave) to address the flooding problems highlighted at the previous meeting; these problems particularly affected shopkeepers in Dalkeith Road and the Lady Road Allotments.

BE said that SW is working with CEC and SEPA to identify areas with surface water flooding. SW is responsible for water and sewage; CEC is responsible for surface water in streets draining into gullies; open water, such as rivers, is normally the responsibility of SEPA. He offered to answer questions and to report back on any issues. The following issues were raised:

- Flooding from the Braidburn into the allotments; water appears to be coming from sewers. BE commented that this shouldn't occur although occasionally, if there is very heavy rain, water from gullies can mix with sewage. SW will send in cleaning squads
- New build means that there is more street flooding; BE said all new developments must be able to cope with water. Rainfall is increasing – is there a plan for this? BE said SW is preparing for this and will have proposals for 2015.
- Basement flooding in Dalkeith Road shops – some mixed with sewage – can no longer get insurance cover. BE said this was not SWs responsibility.

Cllr JO suggested that a CEC official should be invited to the next meeting. He also commented that there is no CEC funding for flood defences in the GPCC area (Murrayfield/Roseburn scheme has still to be funded).

BE said he had come to listen and hear about the problems and would report back – he left at 19.35.

*(Note: Reps from SW met shopkeepers the following day to see the problems and promised to act within a week)*

**Introduction and Apologies**

JP announced that “Transition Edinburgh South (TES)” had applied to be registered as a Local Interest Group and accepted by CEC; Pat Abel would be the rep but sent apologies for this meeting. TES is active over much of South Edinburgh including the GPCC area.

**2. Declarations of Interest. None**

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 19 September 2012**

These were approved; proposed by AT, seconded by TH. GD was thanked for producing the minutes.

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

- **Roads programme.** JP had written to John Gill (local Roads Manager) asking which roads were included in the Capital programme – useful for GPCC to know this and perhaps to lobby for substitutions. Cllr JO said new criteria for including roads in the Capital programme were being drawn up (criteria must be “free from political interference”) – paper coming in November. TH commented that there was still confusion between “Capital” and “Maintenance” funding.
- **Gullies.** GM said some hadn’t been cleaned for 9 years although here is a plan for all gullies to be cleaned every year. Cllr JO asked GM to send details of problem gullies. DD commented that there were 2 new gullies in West Savile – one was no good.
- **Property Services:** TH said a paper is out for comments on suggestions for replacing the disgraced “Statutory Notices” procedure. Some scheme is needed (vital for when neighbours don’t agree) – TH has produced a draft response to be submitted by the end of October. JP stressed that this is an important matter and comments should be sent to TH ASAP.

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

##### a) **Council Report:** ASt reported on the following issues raised in September:

- **Busgate Camera:** Not sure why camera was removed; Transport are consulting with local groups – contact in CEC is Les Valance.
- **Lady Road/Craigmillar Park lights:** these are vehicle activated so no need to change priorities.
- **Dalkeith Road junction:** accident record doesn’t justify a redesign. JP said he had reported an accident to the Police recently and is waiting to see if it appears in the statistics.
- **Pedestrian crossing at Balfour House:** ME asked about this again – ASt said not enough demand. JP said he had recently spoken to the Road Safety manager and they are making a list of possible sites.

The following matters were raised:

- **Traffic light sequences:** AG asked if the sequence at the Langton Road/West Mains junction had changed – there seems to be a time delay. Also, the delay on activating the pedestrian crossing at Pollock Halls with Blacket Place is so slow that pedestrians do not wait.
- **Dog Fouling:** ME said a resident had called CEC about incidents but was afraid to confront the owner or give their name. ME to provide more details to ASt.

##### b) **Police Report:** PC Dickson reported the following:

- **Changes at St Leonards:** New superintendent for A Division is Malcolm Graham (plus other changes). A new Chief Constable will be announced soon
- **20mph Limit:** Traffic wardens are monitoring the scheme – especially near primary schools. Warning letters have been sent to speeding motorists but no offences yet.
- **Operation Arable:** Newington-Minto Street corridor – Thursday-Saturday inclusive – particularly on anti-social behaviour.
- **Bike Unit:** Number of stolen bikes is lower than 2011 but still a problem. All bikes are targeted (ease of taking more important than value of the bike).

The following issues were raised:

- GM commented that he has seen bikes with no lights passing Police station at 9.30pm. JP said there is a new scheme in which the police will stop cyclists with no lights – the cyclist will have to turn up with lights to the Police Station. JO said that there is a proposal to give free lights to cyclists. MD said there will be a Police surgery in Pollock Halls soon. JP suggested that MD contacts the CEC cycling officer, Chris Brace.
- GM said young children were breaking into car boots in the Rankins.

c) **Councillors Report (written report provided – attached):** Additional points raised:

- **Fatality in Newington:** Near Nicolson Square – the second in 4 years.
- **Priority Parking:** DD said that SARA residents are concerned that a partial introduction of controls will result in overflow parking in an area which has no parking problems at present. There was lots of discussion about the merits of CPZ, PP and no controls. JP said there would be lots of discussion during the consultation period of the proposed Blackford/Liberton scheme. Possibility of a Public Meeting – GPCC would listen to the public before forming a view on the scheme.
- **Rose Garden:** 13 people were present at a meeting to discuss the problems. On-going work is being done by CEC.
- **Rankins:** Possibility of applying for a grant to provide play equipment discussed. Neighbours need to be consulted. There are still problems in the area – diversionary activities need to be well advertised.
- **Recycling etc.** Most (except GM) were happy with the fortnightly collection of general waste. A few individual problems remain (including the skip at Lady Road allotments not being emptied – JO to check).
- **Bus Shelters near Mayfield Court:** These had been requested on different occasions – GPCC had supported a proposal submitted for Capital Roads Funding. DD reported that at the SARA AGM the bus shelters had been supported by about 30:9 – will be raised at the next SCNP meeting. GPCC agreed to support the provision of the two shelters.

## 6. Newsletter

Due to a family bereavement Kenny Kemp had not been able to finish the newsletter yet.

## 7. Reports of Interest Groups

a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated -TH reported the following:

- **Edinburgh Design Guidance:** A consultation document is out and comments have to be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> December. TH will provide a draft response for discussion in November
- **Small businesses:** DD asked for GPCC support for applicants who ask for change of use to run a business in their home. DD to liaise with TH.

b) **Roads:** discussed above.

c) **AAH reorganisation:** nothing new.

d) **Licensing.** No applications for GPCC area

**8. Neighbourhood Partnership Matters – no reports**

**9. Office Bearers Reports**

**a) Chair's Report:** JP commented on the proposed closure of the Minto Street practice and concern that there were only a few practices in the GPCC area. Other practices have spaces. Should GPCC act?

**b) Treasurer's Report:** AG reported £1915.79 in the Bank – the CEC grant had been received.

**c) Secretary's Report:** “Celebrating Community Councils” – Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm in the City Chambers. GPCC reps to be JP,TH,ST and GM (if 4 allowed). Details of GPCC achievements to be provided for display at the event.

**10. Community Gardens: see (5c)**

**11. Date of next meeting – Wednesday November 21<sup>st</sup> 2012**

**12. AOCB**

**Q&A with Sue Bruce(CEC):** Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> – open to all (*has now been cancelled*).

GM commented that there had been 2 ambulance crashes.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

## **GPCC - Councillors Report (Jim Orr)- 17/10/12**

### Proposed Priority Parking - Blackford and Nether Liberton

Meeting held between Cllrs and officers to consider feedback from early consultation. More enthusiasm to the east of Mayfield Road than West. They will take this into account and bring forward a plan for the formal consultation shortly. Cllrs also confirmed our view that Priestfield/Kirkhill area should be considered next.

### Neighbourhood Partnership:

NP Community Safety sub-committee - Cllr Rose to chair.

NP Environment and Town Centre sub-committee. Note remit restricted to 1) recycling facilities and 2) parks/green spaces. Cllr Orr to chair. We still need to prioritise list of potential actions. Rose Garden (corner of Mayfield Road and West Savile) to be included.

(Apologies, writing this at short notice, I have no information to hand on the others committees.)

### Recycling

Managed Weekly Collections: Increased food collection, combined with existing recycling facilities should permit fortnightly collections of residual (landfill) waste. Objective is to reduce landfill use (and tax) and increase recycling from circa 33% city-wide to 50% by 2013.

Some difficulties experienced across south Edinburgh (Southside and East Parkside for example). Not so bad in most of the GPCC area. Changes hopefully settling down now.

Implementing food waste collections could be problematic too (especially in flatted areas)

Trade waste: Council have announced plans to take a zero tolerance attitude to trade waste bins left on street all week without permission. These should normally be kept on trade premises.

### SARA

Cllrs attended the meeting of SARA which discussed the issue of siting a bus shelter near to Mayfield Court in West Savile Terrace. It is contentious, the funding is available and the decision will be taken by the Neighbourhood Partnership on Monday 26th November.

### 20mph zone

Information on average speeds passed to Mike Hunter to assist analysis of effectiveness of the zone.