

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 20th February 2013

Present: John Palmer (**JP**) (Chair), Tony Harris (**TH**) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Mike Hunter (**MH**), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Ray Footman (RF), Allister Thom (**AT**), Alison Bramley (**AB**), Alastair Pugh (**AP**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**) (from 2000)

In Attendance: Cllr Jim Orr (**JO**), Jim Eadie MSP, Alan Stewart, CEC (**ASt**), PC Janey Harman, PC Lynsey Collins

Public (11): Malcolm and Muriel Mackenzie, Dr Richard Lyon, George Baird, Sergey Gorobets, Mark Peebles, Lewis Ritchie, Alan Bauchop, R&R Lintern

Apologies: Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Pat Abel

1. **Welcome - Introduction and Apologies**

The speaker, Andrew Stephenson, Membership Advisor at the Royal Commonwealth Pool, briefly spoke about the facilities and described those available to the community – from babies to the “golden years” (e.g. life classes for those 65+ and “buddy” classes for swimming). He offered tours for anyone who contacted him. He said about 2000 swimmers per day used the pool and there were 2million in the first 9 months since the refurbished facilities opened. He left a selection of leaflets and said that he wanted local people to use the pool.

2. **Declarations of Interest. None**

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 16th January 2013**

These were approved; proposed by DS, seconded by AT.

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

- **Bollards in Dalkeith Road.** ME had written about the unlit bollards and said three new bollards had been installed. ASt was asked to pursue the unlit bollards. **ASt**

5. **External Reports**

a) **Council Report:** ASt reported on the following issues.

Dog Fouling. This is a problem in the whole South Neighbourhood and Kathy Evans is doing a special survey in March. ME commented that as the wardens wear uniforms and are visible they don't see the problem. Jim Eadie said he had lots of correspondence about this and would send copies to CEC.

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

- **January 17 – February 19:** 142 calls in Sciennes and Grange; several break-ins to garages and sheds (especially in South Lauder Road and Mortonhall Road); one housebreaking in Gladstone Terrace.
- **Safer Neighbourhood Group:** Priorities include cycling without lights and graffiti in Sciennes. The next meeting (27 Feb) will set new priorities. MH attends for GPCC.
- **Newsletters:** As previously reported there will be no more local newsletters; there will be a monthly general newsletter – also on webpage – can also find local news in “my neighbourhood”.
- **Initiative Team:** Will be concentrating on areas of high volume of crime in South.

PC Collins reported on the Newington/Prestonfield area.

- **Vehicle Crime:** Several windows smashed to take visible items.

GD mentioned inconsiderate drivers and speeding in 20mph streets – would like more enforcement of 20mph limit.

MH commented that when the SNTs were set up there were 2 officers on each beat – now PCs are not being replaced. JP said the CC should be advised of such changes to operations and he would raise this with the Superintendent. PC Harman also agreed to follow this up. **JP**

c) **Councillors Report:** deferred to after “Roads and Transport”

6. Reports of Interest Groups

The “Roads and Transport” was held first as many members of the public had attended for this item.

a) **Roads and Transport:** A report had been circulated.

- **Residents Priority Parking:** TH said that the CC would like a Public Meeting to look at the Blackford-Nether Liberton proposals for RPP in that area. The CC is pleased that Priestfield residents are about to be consulted on the possible introduction of RPP in that area.
- **Priestfield Map:** There was some discussion about the area to be consulted but the meeting felt that it was about right and any change might cause delays.
- **Priestfield residents:** Many members of the public attending gave examples of parking problems in the area. There was also concern that drivers looking for parking spaces could cause accidents to pedestrians.
- **Cllr Orr:** JO commented on the informal consent for RPP in the Blackford Nether Liberton area.
- **Possible Public Meeting:** Residents asked about this – JP said there were two reasons to hold one – to explain the proposals and to get minor amendments incorporated in order to speed up the formal consultation. The timing is out of our hands but we hope to arrange a meeting after the informal consultation in Priestfield.

Police and many members of the public left at 19.55

- **Kilgraston Road/Grange Loan junction:** Mark Peebles (MP) raised this as the most dangerous section of a journey from Blackford Hill to James Gillespies PS. The crossing is difficult and dangerous and the narrow pavements also cause problems (students going to KB conflict with parents taking children to school). JP said that GPCC had asked for Kilgraston Road to be included in the 20mph limit. MP asked if it might be possible for parents to park free in a nearby street (Hope Terrace or Blackford Road) to the school at start and finish times. Suggested contact Gavin Brown or Andrew Mackay. . MP reiterated his request for a crossing at Grange Loan / Kilgraston Road. JP to follow up. **JP**
- **New Local Transport Strategy:** This is out for consultation – closing date formally 17th March. TH will coordinate a response from GPCC and also request a short extension so that the response can be approved at our March meeting. **TH**
- **New Cycle Priority Route (Pollock Halls to Fountainhall Road + possible extension):** Chris Brace will attend at a suitable time – possibly in April.
- **Ratcliffe Terrace:** The 20mph signs travelling south are not obvious – larger signs required. **ASt**
- **West Savile Terrace:** There had been complaints about congestion caused by the University bus especially near the traffic lights at Mayfield Road and when it met a No 24. The bus uses this route in both directions (not necessary when travelling north). Also, the “No right turn” at the West Mains Road junction excludes buses. Could the University Bus use the West Mains Road route at some times to reduce the congestion? Agreed that GPCC should write. **ST**

Councillor's Report (5(c)): Cllr Orr reported on the following:

- **Local transport Strategy:** This is a 2-stage process and CCs will have another chance to comment. Matters which might be of particular interests to GPCC include: possibility to close streets at school time; better enforcement of 20mph; state of the roads (worth complaining about bad areas);
- **Sciennes PS:** safety issues at Sciennes PS at dropping off time
- **216 Dalkeith Road:** Derelict shop – other owners would like CEC to take it over. JO will pursue.
- **Busgate:** Still concern about speeding taxis – this is difficult matter as taxis are seen as public transport.
- **9-hour Parking bays:** Charge is £4 or £5 per hour.
- **South Central Railway:** Possible electrification to Millerhill is good news (for possible reopening of South Sub to passenger traffic)
- **Dalkeith Pharmacy:** AT asked why there is a problem with granting a licence. J Eadie explained that other pharmacies can object if their businesses might be affected - rules need to be changed – he will continue to pursue.

b) Planning: A report had been circulated -TH referred to the item about the Review of the Craigmillar Urban Design Framework, the consultation on which closes on 29th March. It was not thought that this had impacts for the GPCC area.

c) AAH reorganisation: A meeting between CC reps and NHS Lothian is scheduled for 14th March (the meeting planned for early February had to be cancelled).

d) Licensing. No applications for GPCC area.

7. Proposed move of Strathearn Road Sorting Office

GPCC had received notification from Royal Mail about a proposed closure of the Strathearn Road Sorting Office (serving EH9) and a move to Bridge End; further, unconfirmed, information said the move might be to Slateford. Jim Eadie thanked the Grange Association for alerting him to this move and said he had contacted the Chief Executive of Royal Mail who said that this was a “scoping study”; that discussions were taking place with Unite and that a decision would be made later this year. He had distributed 2000 surveys and had an 11% response with 90% of those opposed to the move. Discussion included the offer from Royal Mail to deliver to other addresses, welcomed by many, but some were concerned that this could be withdrawn at any time. It was finally agreed that GPCC should support the retention of the local office and write to this effect; however it should also be stressed that if the Office does close that there should be a guarantee of improved service and effective delivery of post.

ST

8. Community Gardens

- **Rose Garden:** TH had contacted Bill Elliot at Scottish Water (owner of the land) who had passed the enquiry to the Estates Department – no reply yet. The garden is on the agenda for the “Environment and Town Centre Forum” on 26th February when more information should be available. The grounds need to be made safe (possible fence – cost required) and then suitable “play equipment” purchased – again with a grant.
- **Rankin Drive “Triangle”:** GPCC should consult residents about the possible use of this area as a children’s play area.

Blackford Pond: This is outside the GPCC area but we had been contacted by a resident about dogs annoying children in the “play area”. It would be useful to have a “No dogs” sign and gates which could be closed around this area. ASt asked to investigate.

ASt

9. Office Bearers Reports

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

- **GPCC AGM:** As there will be a CC election in the autumn the AGM is postponed until the first meeting of the new CC.

b) **Treasurer's Report:** None in the absence of the treasurer.

c) **Secretary's Report:** Circulated. **Points to note:**

- **HMO Notices:** The HMO Working group (ST attends) has been asked to consider alterations to the information displayed on notices – comments to ST.
- **Waste:** The reply to the comments made at the January meeting had been circulated. The reply ignored the suggestion that garden waste should be collected twice a month in November and once in March – ST to write again with this suggestion. **ST**
- **Green bins:** Despite assurances from CEC these bins are not being replaced to the area preferred by residents; bins on Blackford Hill roll down. Cllr JO asked for details of this to be sent to him.

10. **Neighbourhood Partnership matters** – nothing to report

11. **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday March 20th 2013

12. **AOCB**

- **Empty shops:** RF asked, again, about CEC's policy on "empty shops" – TH said we had drawn attention to this in commenting on the consultation on the "Guidance for Businesses" but the finalised version was no different to the draft in this respect.
- **Newington Cemetery:** TH has email details for 3 people interested in this area – he will set up a meeting and suggest dates. ME commented that CEC has been improving the paths in the cemetery.
- **Prestonfield Avenue lighting:** ME said there was new and upgraded lighting.
- **Prestonfield Avenue Allotments:** ME commented that there will be new allotments

The meeting closed at 9.15pm