

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

Present: John Palmer (**JP**) (Chair), Tony Harris (**TH**) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Mike Hunter (**MH**), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), Alastair Pugh (**AP**),

In Attendance: Alan Stewart, CEC (**AS**), PC Mark Dickson (**MD**)

Public (3): A and E. Bauchop, Sergey Gorobets,

Apologies: David Stevenson (**DS**), Ray Footman (**RF**), Allister Thom (**AT**), Alison Bramley (**AB**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Pat Abel (**PA**)

1. **Welcome - Introduction and Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interest. None**

3. **Minutes of the Meeting of 20th February 2013**

JP reported that a member of the public had mentioned that his comments had not been noted. This was because those matters had been fully discussed and minuted previously; the comments had therefore been responded to as providing answers only. These were approved; proposed by ME, seconded by TH.

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

Blackford Pond. AP asked why GPCC was discussing this as it is outside our area. The matter had been raised by a resident and it was used by many living in the GPCC area.

5. **External Reports**

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

- **Dog Fouling.** Plain clothes officers had been on patrol in the past weeks – see “twitter” on the South team. JP thanked the South Team for responding to the request for using plain clothes officers.
- **Blackford Pond.** Legal issue – 2003 legislation on “right to roam” allows dogs. TH suggested that if the pond area could be moved to be under CEC Parks regulations then dogs could be restricted – AS asked to investigate this. Morningside CC, in whose area this is, is also pursuing this matter and GPCC should leave this to them. **AS**
- **Bollards in Dalkeith Road.** The bollards are being renewed. There is Scottish Gas work in the area and CEC is waiting for this to be complete – however, S. Gas is delaying doing the necessary repairs.
- **20mph coming south.** This starts at the West Preston Street junction and that junction is clearly signed. AG commented that the “Causewayside Gateway” is not obvious. Others reported that the signs are difficult to notice. JP said this should be mentioned when the monitoring comes up. Chris Brace to be notified of this problem – ST to mention this when invitation to April meeting in confirmed. **ST**

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

- **Prestonfield since February 20th.** There had been 41 crimes with 7 solved so far – 2 housebreakings, bike thefts, thefts from cars, 5 vandalisms, 1 obstruction, assaults, dangerous driving.
- **Rankin area vandalism.** 20 reports in this area – tyres slashed, car windows smashed – increased patrols in this area.

- **Safer Neighbourhood Priorities.** See MH's report. (1. Parking around Prestonfield and Preston Street primaries during school run hours, 2. Parking in Nicholson Square obstructing buses, 3. Antisocial behaviour on Meadows (children drinking at East end)). Priorities launched last week – have enlisted help of primary schools, issued advice to drivers outside schools, increased patrols outside schools. This will continue for 3 months.
- **Annual report from Chief Constable.** On the Police website – total crimes 85,000 with detection rate of 16%. All police now part of the Scottish Police Force.
- **Personal comment.** On-going investigation into fire in Cameron Park – will provide feedback if possible.
- **Advice.** Contact the police when suspicious individuals are seen – don't assume that someone else will report this. The police need information from the public as they can't be everywhere. Report to the Call Centre on 311 3131 or dial "101" which also goes there.

Points raised:

- **Community Officers.** MH is still concerned about there not being 2 community officers as originally promised. MD replied that from 1st April there would be more tasking of neighbourhood and response teams and that there would always be cover. Contact both the local officer and the team. JP stressed that we need to be kept informed when changes are made.
- **Enforcement of 20 mph limit.** MH commented that the local police were never in favour of the scheme and that they had warned CEC that they did not have the resources to enforce it. GPCC accepts that there will always be higher priorities than policing 20mph limits. However, if there is no enforcement, the law could fall into disrepute and be ignored. MD said no penalty notices had been sent – the "law is enforceable" but is not being enforced. JP said he represented NHS Lothian on the Road Safety Steering Group which included Caroline Burwell (CEC Road Safety), where this issue was raised, at a meeting last week. JP will write on behalf of GPCC supporting Caroline in discussions with the police asking for enforcement. **JP**
- **Rankin vandalism.** JP commented that diversionary activities are required here. MD said they don't yet know who the culprits are – may be youths, maybe others. PC Lynsey Collins to report back
- **Red lights at Blackford Station.** Comment that cars regularly jump these red lights.

c) **Councillors Report:** none, as no councillor present

6. Reports of Interest Groups

a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated. Points

- **Consultation on the Local Development Plan.** This will take place between 1st May and 14th June.
- **Planning Concordat.** TH explained that this may involve CCs at an earlier stage where large applications are proposed. There is a resource implication which has been raised with Cllr Ian Perry by the EACC Planning group. GPCC has no experience of large applications but, if the Royal Blind School moves, this might be a PAN.

b) **Roads and Transport:** No report this time.

- **Residents Priority Parking:** Letters suggesting the introduction of RPP had been sent to residents in Priestfield. Local residents (E & A Bauchop) were concerned that some streets might vote "no" if they had off-street parking. The matter of "cruising commuters" was mentioned again. JP suggested that GPCC could provide leaflets (about 500) to deliver to concerned streets, suggesting they ought to respond. E&AB to provide text.

- **Roads Capital Programme.** The Selection meeting will be on 11th April – ME to represent GPCC. TH asked that the “humps and valleys” in Craigmillar Park (caused by buses) should be raised – particularly at the Lady Road/Craigmillar Park corner. **ST**
- **Local Transport Strategy.** TH had produced a draft response to the consultation (extension to deadline agreed with CEC). There was lots of discussion and TH said he would amend the report appropriately and circulate and then submit. Revised report appended. TH thanked for his very detailed work on the draft. **TH**

c) **AAH reorganisation:** A meeting of CC reps with NHS Lothian had taken place on 14th March. Details covered in Planning report.

d) **Licensing.** Application for extended off- sales hours at 31 Prestonfield Avenue. There was some discussion about the overprovision of off-sales generally leading to problem drinking and anti-social behaviour. It was, however, decided not to object.

7. Community Gardens

- **Rose Garden.** David Doig had been too busy to arrange a meeting with interested parties – suggested that GPCC tries to organise a meeting with all local interested groups (SARA, Louise Wright – for parents) etc. There had been some tidying up and one part of the gate was padlocked open (to try to prevent dogs running free).
- **Newington Cemetery.** TH had been in touch with Mike Shields who is interested in the formation of a “Friends Group”. He had been trying to fix a meeting with Charlie Holt and Stuart Fagan (of CEC) and will suggest dates in a few days. **TH**

8. Office Bearers Reports

a) **Chair’s Report:** No report this month.

b) **Treasurer’s Report:** No movements since January- balance is still £965.97.

c) **Secretary’s Report:** Circulated.

9. CC Elections and AGM

Timetable for CC elections (September) noted. Meeting agreed to ask Cllr Cameron Rose to act as Returning Officer – ST to confirm with Cllr Rose. GPCC AGM postponed until after the elections – AG said the accounts would need to be approved before then. **ST**

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

11. **Date of next meeting – Wednesday April 17th 2013**

12. AOCB

- **Litter in Priestfield:** JS reported litter in the Priestfield area – AS asked to report this **AS**
- **Blackford/Nether Liberton.** Sergey Gorobets complained that residents in Blackford did not want RPP – JP explained that this area had been excluded (following consultation) from CEC proposals for the area. SG said that these areas still appeared on the CEC map of areas for RPP. AS asked to report this and ask for the website to be corrected. **AS**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm