

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 17th April 2013

Present: John Palmer (**JP**) (Chair), Tony Harris (**TH**) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Ray Footman (**RF**), Mike Hunter (**MH**), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**)

In Attendance: Cllr Jim Orr (**JO**), PC Mark Dickson (**MD**), PC Lynsey Collins (**LC**)

Public (5): Sergey Gorobets, Nick Ruck Keene, Lilian and Huw John, R.Lintern

Apologies: David Stevenson (**DS**), Allister Thom (**AT**), Alastair Pugh (**AP**), Pat Abel (**PA**)

1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

JP welcomed and introduced Doreen Allerton who had taken over as the Grange Association representative from Alison Bramley.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 20th March 2013

These had been previously circulated and were approved; proposed by MH, seconded by GD.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

- **Blackford Pond.** No update on the suggestion that if it could be moved to “Parks” then dogs could be controlled. AS would be asked to pursue. **AS**
- **Returning Officer for CC Elections:** Cllr Cameron Rose had agreed to be appointed.
- **Dog Fouling:** ST had contacted Kathy Evans following more complaints. Still awaiting reply. JP said all should encourage neighbours to talk about this and make dog fouling considered to be socially unacceptable. He asked Cllr Orr to feed this back to Residents groups. It was also noted that professional dog walkers now have to be registered by CEC.

5. External Reports

a) Council Report: AS had reported by email that some repairs had been done on Craigmillar Park but a bad stretch at the bus stop near 21 Craigmillar Park still needed attention. **AS**

b) Police Report: PC Dickson reported the following:

- **Rankin area vandalism.** Vandalism in this area has ceased but there was insufficient evidence to charge anyone.
- **Blackford Station traffic lights:** Traffic wardens in high visibility jackets will patrol to monitor drivers jumping the red lights.
- **Prestonfield incidents:** 115 in the last month including 19 crimes, 8 thefts, 34 break-ins and assaults. In 2012 there were 41 crimes and 35 solved.
- **Police Service Scotland:** All officers are now part of Police Service Scotland. Email addresses have changed to e.g. jim.smith@scotland.pnn.police.uk (emails sent to old addresses will be automatically forwarded.)
- **Safer Neighbourhood Team renamed Community Policing Team:** All officers have been given tasks. Priorities agreed at the last SNG still stand..
- **Chief Constable.** The new Chief Constable is keen on road safety. From 7am Monday 22nd April to Friday 26th April there will be a campaign on “inappropriate driving” (e.g. speeding, using mobile phones, driving without seat belts etc.)

Points raised:

- **Sunday parking near churches:** There is a parking problem in the West Mayfield and Upper and South Gray Streets area on Sundays due to the presence of three churches. MH said parking inappropriately such as on pavements to drop elderly parishioners caused problems and had been discussed by West Blasket. It was suggested that drivers should be asked to park in a more considerate fashion although it is appreciated that elderly and frail parishioners may need to be dropped nearby. Suggested that Historic Scotland carpark could be used. JS has been co-opted on to Newington Churches and will raise the matter. Agreed that JS and PC LC to liaise about possible solutions etc. **LC and JS**
(*Since ascertained by Nick Ruck Keene that parishioners at St Columba's already use Historic Scotland carpark which does have spare capacity.*)
- **Parking on pavements:** MD commented that this is an offence – public should get registration numbers and pass to the Police
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** There are changes to this scheme – it is not necessary to join the scheme to get updates.
- **Enforcement of 20 mph limit.** MD said he had no definite answer as to whether any fines had been issued and suspected that the Police would not enforce 20mph during the pilot. Sgt Scott Richardson (based in west of city) is compiling a report on the pilot – including signage and education. JP suggested we could put in a FOI request to ask for details about penalty notices.
- **Cameron Park Arson:** MD reported that CID are still investigating this

c) **Councillors Report:** Cllr Orr supplied a written report (attached). Points raised included:

- **Vision Zero:** Roads and pavements must be safe – e.g. no speeding near schools.
- **Local Transport Consultation:** Report to committee planned for November. JO commended TH for the GPCC submission.
- **Residents Priority Parking (Priestfield):** Expected that there will be support from residents to recent consultation but responses still being checked. Thought not possible to get report to the June committee. JP stressed that it is very important to get this by June to prevent more delays. GD pointed out that plans had been produced for the CPZ proposal so it shouldn't be too difficult to modify these. Some residents had been confused by a third leaflet being distributed in the area as it wasn't clear if this was official or private. JO promised to get an update on timescales for the RPP. **JO**

6. Reports of Interest Groups

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

- **Consultation on the Local Development Plan.** Hard copies will be sent out. TH suggested joining with local associations to discuss this in May and then report back. This was supported. **TH**
- **Edinburgh Planning Concordat.** This relates to applications for over 50 dwellings or sites over 2 hectares. A revised draft will go to consultation in early May. This involves Planning Department, CCs and the Chamber of Commerce at an early stage of applications – for information. This is an opportunity to get involved early in the process but there may be resource implications.

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

- **Residents Priority Parking (Priestfield):** (See also Councillors report) GPCC had produced, and delivered, over 500 leaflets encouraging residents to respond to the informal consultation.

- **20mph Enforcement:** See information provided by Caroline Burwell and summarised in the report. JP asked if GPCC should ramp up pressure on the Police to enforce the scheme. TH suggested waiting until the report due on 27th August (in response to the Transport Strategy) as change in legislation may be required. Agreed that JP should write to Superintendent David Carradice to ask the Police to enforce the limit. Agreed that “flashing signs” work in helping to reduce speeds. **JP**
- **Survey:** There is a CEC survey on resident satisfaction with parking in the city.
- **Cycle Route – Pollock Halls to Morningside:** Survey of traffic in the Blacket area was carried out when West Mayfield was closed so has to be done again.
- **Mayfield Road/KB Junction:** AG had sent a comment to Chris Brace saying that it was not clear how cyclists should cross this junction. The reply agreed and included a plan to make it more obvious where cyclists can share the widened pavements.
- **Local Transport Strategy.** TH had sent a response to the consultation. JP thanked TH for his hard work and the excellent response.

c) Roads Capital Programme: ST and ME had attended the Selection meeting on April 11th. They had both toured the area in advance and looked at all 20 proposals (results were circulated). Three GPCC proposals were not voted on as they were either too expensive for this programme (Findhorn Place) or already included in the Capital programme (Gray Street and Rankin Drive). Unfortunately neither of the other two proposals (East Mayfield and Lauder Road pavements) received enough support to be done in 2013/14. Agreed that GPCC should press for East Mayfield to be included in the CEC Capital programme. ST said that preparing the report involved a lot of work and expense for the officials. Also agreed that ST would suggest that CCs should be limited in the number of proposals each could submit; also that individuals and other groups should be encouraged to submit via a CC. **ST**

d) AAH reorganisation: Nothing to report.

e) Licensing. No applications in our area.

7. Community Gardens

- **Rose Garden.** The promised meeting with residents had not yet been arranged and emails to David Doig had not been responded to due to other work. JO suggested that this should be left to the Environment Forum (of which he is Chair). JP said GPCC is willing to help and apply for community funds for play equipment. ST to write to Mags Campbell urging progress on this – copy to JO and David Doig. **ST**
- **Rankin Drive Triangle:** Agreed that play equipment here would be desirable. No action at present – due to other projects and the need to consult neighbours etc. Should be a project for the new CC. In the meantime this should be kept on the agenda.
- **Newington Cemetery.** TH has arranged a meeting at the Cemetery on Tuesday 14th May at 10.30am, with Stuart Fagan and Steve Webley. JS has two contacts who have offered to help. This was welcomed. ME asked why equipment is always for children – older people might appreciate outside “keep fit” equipment – could this be incorporated here?

8. Office Bearers Reports

a) **Chair's Report:** Covered in Roads report..

b) **Treasurer's Report:** Balance to spend is £929.47. CEC grant is due in the summer.

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

- **Strathearn Road Sorting Office:** Due to pressure from the public Royal Mail had decided not to close this office "for the foreseeable future". A suggestion had been made to ask for a few time limited parking spaces near the office – agreed to support this. Also to ask for a bike rack. **ST**
- **Party Flats:** Information about action being taken had been circulated.

9. Summer Newsletter

JP said that, following the success of the last newsletter (December 2012) it would be good to have another newsletter for delivery in the summer which would report on what GPCC had achieved and to encourage residents to apply to become a community councillor. After discussion it was agreed:

- **August Delivery:** The newsletter should be delivered in August to tie in with CC elections in September. Costs for professional delivery should be obtained.
- **Full Colour leaflet:** Agreed to go for full colour again – probably 4 pages but could be A5 rather than A4. Estimates for both sizes to be obtained.
- **Design and production:** Kenny Kemp to be approached again.
- **Grant:** Need to apply for a grant to cover the costs before production starts.
- **Content:** Everyone to make suggestions and bring to May meeting.

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

11. **EACC Matters** – nothing to report

12. **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 15th May 2013

13. **AOCB**

Legislation on High Hedges: Barbara Robertson (previous CC member) had contacted TH about problems caused to neighbours about high hedges. The "High Hedges (Scotland) Bill", passed on 4th April 2013 defines a high hedge as one which "is formed wholly or mainly by a row of two or more trees or shrubs, rises to a height of more than 2 metres above ground level and forms a barrier to light". If neighbours cannot agree the Council can be asked to take action and then recover costs from the owner.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm