

# Grange Prestonfield Community Council

## Cameron House Community Education Centre

### Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Present:** Tony Harris (**TH**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice Chair), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Gilly Dennis(**GD**), Bill Reid(**BR**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Simon di Biase (**SdB**), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Graham Dunn (**GD**), Derek Howie (**DH**), Maria Ullibarri (**MU**)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Cameron Rose (**CR**), Cllr Jim Orr (**JO**), PC Kenny Hall, Alan Stewart (**AS**) (CEC)

**Public (2):** Nick Ruck Keene (NRK), Derek McNaught

**Apologies:** Andreas Grothey (**AG**)(Treasurer), David Stevenson (**DS**), Hazel Fletcher (**HF**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Sergey Gorobets (**SG**)

**Absent:** Graham Muir, Denis Stevens

#### 1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

TH welcomed everyone. Due to the late start he asked that the Police report should be heard first to allow the PC to leave.

**5b) Police Report:** PC Kenny Hall explained that in the absence of the 3 local CBOs he had been asked to attend even though this was not his area. He reported:

- **Grange area:** There was a rise in housebreakings, especially bike thefts from garages and sheds. He recommended the shed alarms available from St Leonards. Four people had recently been arrested for bike thefts; there had been a leaflet drop in the Grange area giving security advice.
- **Prestonfield area;** On the night of 20/21 September there had been a lot of vandalism to cars – possibly youths. Also 2 vehicle thefts and 2 or 3 housebreakings – 4 people arrested.

#### In response to questions and comments:

- **59 Lygon Road:** NRK said there had been a break in last night. PC Hall explained that as this was not in his area he had no details.
- **Car vandalism:** JS said that a notice asking for information had only been delivered on Monday (14<sup>th</sup>) – this seemed to be a long time after the vandalism. PC Hall explained that it was a long process in deciding to do this.
- **Dalkeith Road traffic lights sequence:** BM asked about this matter (raised at the September meeting). The previous Chair (John Palmer) had written about this and had just received a reply – this would be circulated. Cllr CR said that this issue had come to the Community Safety Group (which he chairs) – the collision rate is not unusual and he thought the reply would not satisfy GPCC. Agreed that the matter would be discussed at the November meeting after the reply had been read.
- **Cyclists:** JS raised the matter of cyclists going the wrong way along Salisbury Road and also cycling without lights. PC Hall said that a crackdown on such cyclists was due to start the next day.
- **Garages in St Thomas Road:** DA said there had been break-ins and the Police had responded quickly.

There was a long discussion about cyclists being invisible (no lights or reflective jackets etc.) and cycling on pavements. It was thought that young children were allowed to cycle on pavements but Cllr CR said that this is no longer the case.

TH thanked PC Hall and the meeting returned to the agenda.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest. None

### 3. Minutes of the Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013

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

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

**Nature Strips:** TH said there would be a meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> with Cllr Ian Perry, David Doig and Wilma Elton (CPA) – he would report to the next meeting.

### 5. External Reports

a) **Council Report:** AS said he had nothing to report.

- **Dalkeith Road shops:** Cllr JO said he is working with the shopkeepers to consider possible options. It seems that there is no possibility of taking legal action although the problem had been going on for about 16 years. BR said that there is concern that there is dry rot in the empty property which is affecting adjacent properties.
- **Shop at East Mayfield junction:** It was reported that water is leaking onto the pavement. AS asked to investigate. AS

c) **Councillors Report:** Cllr CR said he had nothing additional to report.

### 6. Reports of Interest Groups (and membership)

b) **Planning:** A report had been circulated. TH asked that anyone wanting further details should contact him directly. He reported in addition:

- **Cycle stores in front gardens:** these need planning permission – especially in conservation areas – there is no change to the present guidance. Spokes have provided a useful leaflet and there will a report to committee in 6 months.
- **AAH/REH sites (just outside our area):** A series of meetings is planned to look at the planning application for the first phase of development at the REH. These are being led by Morningside CC (the REH is in that area) but 5 other CCs are also affected (GPCC, Marchmont Sciennes CC, Merchiston CC, Tollcross CC and Fairmilehead CC). Three applications have been submitted: (a) masterplan for the site (b) detailed plan for phase 1 at the REH (c) application for temporary portacabins. The Public meeting is proposed for November 5<sup>th</sup> (to be confirmed).

TH asked that anyone particularly interested in planning matters should let him know and would then be included in the circulation of the weekly planning lists etc.

NRK asked about the placing of skips on the street – particularly when the applicant has a driveway which could be used. Cllr CR said that the placing of a skip on the street required a permit (which must be paid for) and lights at night and that CEC officials often have to grant this in a very short timescale.

### b) Roads and Transport:

- **Residents Priority Parking (RPP):** GPCC, as well as residents in the Priestfield and “Nether Liberton” areas, has been very disappointed in the slow progress in the introduction of this scheme. GPCC still considers that a Public Meeting should be held prior to the formal advertisement of the TRO so that problems can be sorted in advance. It was agreed to defer discussion to November when more information might be available.
- **“Roads and Transport subgroup”:** The formation of this group should be an agenda item in November

c) **Licensing.** No applications in our area. There had previously been a subgroup looking at applications in the GPCC area. As there had been no significant applications for some time it was agreed not to form a group but Licensing should remain as a standard agenda item to ensure that applications are checked for our area.

#### **d) Publicity (including website and newsletter)**

- **Website:** This had been set up by Andreas Grothey and is mainly run by MH. There is a discussion forum which is unused. The website needs to be used to enhance our image. Suggestions of a Facebook page – this would need someone to run it.
- **Newsletter:** There are not sufficient funds to pay for a newsletter – a CEC grant could be applied for to help with costs – MH agreed to get costs for printing and delivery in order to submit a grant application.
- **Subgroup:** Agreed to form a subgroup.

#### **e) Newington Cemetery and Rose Garden**

- **Newington Cemetery:** TH, JS and ME plus other local residents had met recently – agreed to work closely with allotment holders. Still to decide if we continue as an informal group or try to form an independent “Friends” group. All members of GPCC should visit the area to appreciate the wildlife – ME stressed that we want all local people to know about and take advantage of this wonderful area. Also, the history attached to the cemetery: wargraves etc. JS has contacted the rabbi about the Jewish section.
- **Rose Garden:** This is the small garden at the corner of West Savile Terrace and Mayfield Road – suggestions for a small play area have been made – problem is dog fouling. Work on this to be done in conjunction with SARA (Savile Area Residents Association). Again, volunteers to help are required.

### **7. Office Bearers Reports**

**a) Chair’s Report:** nothing in addition to the above

**b) Treasurer’s Report:** See AGM report

**c) Secretary’s Report:** The annual meeting of students with CC reps has been provisionally set for November 6<sup>th</sup> – date may change. This considers possible community projects for funding from the CEC Community Grant scheme. All CC members can attend.

### **8. Neighbourhood Partnership matters.**

Details of the various “priority groups” were given at the AGM and listed in the Secretary’s report. Most groups can be attended by anyone – dates of meetings will be circulated. Everyone was asked to consider joining one (or more) of the groups. DH expressed interest in the “Health and Wellbeing Group” and asked for details. Agreed that ST, MH and DS should continue on the groups they presently attend as GPCC reps for the time being.

### **9. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils)**

TH explained that this is a group which represents all 49 CCs in the city. He is currently the GPCC rep and is also the treasurer. The meeting approved that TH remain the GPCC rep until the AGM.

He announced two meetings: EACC AGM – 9<sup>th</sup> November 10am – City Chambers – open to all  
Open debate “Integration of Health and Social Care” Dec 7<sup>th</sup> (more details later)

### **10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

### **14. AOCB**

- **Room Layout:** Suggestions were made to improve the layout of the room – in particular difficulty with the acoustics. Alterations, including using only half the room, will be tried out in November.
- **Use of Acronyms:** Request that these should be used as little as possible and/or fully explained.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm