

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**Minutes 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**Present:** Tony Harris (**TH**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice Chair), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Derek Howie (**DH**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Sergey Gorobets (**SG**), Maria Ullibarri (**MU**), Hazel Fletcher (**HF**), Simon di Biase (**SdB**),

**In Attendance:** Cllr Cameron Rose (**CR**), Alan Stewart (**AS**) (CEC), Paul Matthews (CEC), PC Leon Malinowski (**LM**), PC Janie Harman (**JH**)

**Public:** Alec Mann

**Apologies:** Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Julian Newman (**JN**), David Stevenson (**DaS**)

**Absent:** Graham Muir (**GM**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**)

**1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies**

TH welcomed everyone and introduced Paul Matthews from the CEC who updated the GPCC on new cycle routes in the South Central area. It was noted that AG is unwell and all agreed to send a card.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

BM said her husband had provided an estimate for printing the newsletter.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

These had been previously circulated and were approved; proposed by DA, seconded by ME.

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

Two detailed replies about gully clearing and waste collections had been received and circulated. Everyone was asked to read these carefully and get back with any possible follow up questions.

**5. External Reports**

**a) Council Report:** AS reported:

**Dog fouling:** extra patrols are now in place and there was an offer for an Environmental warden to attend a meeting. AS was asked to invite a warden to the April meeting. (*Note added: The warden is not available for April but could attend in May – TH had agreed that this was not a suitable meeting as it was also the AGM.*)

**148 Dalkeith Road:** BM reported water coming up out of the paving stones – on 10<sup>th</sup> March traffic cones had been placed around the problem. It was not clear if this had been done by CEC or the Water Board – AS was asked to check this. **AS**

**Wheelie Bins:** BM reported wheelie bins not being returned to clamp and moving to the middle of the road. The locking system has been removed and (according to CEC) there are no plans to replace this. AS was asked to request that the locking system be replaced. **AS**

**b) Police Report:** PC JH reported

- That there were no major problems in the Sciennes/Grange area – there had been three thefts from motor vehicles – all had been insecure.
- Prestonfield had been fairly quiet – 2 housebreakings (both solved) in Salisbury Road and South Oxford Street.
- Rankin area – tyres are being slashed – everyone asked to be vigilant and contact the Police immediately
- Smartwater – delivered to about 600 houses in the Grange area – no more kits available.
- High visibility Police officers in the area (Cllr Rose said this was much appreciated)

**c) Councillors Report:** Cllr CR said he had five matters to mention

- Boundary changes. The process has started, by the Boundary Commission, to change boundaries in the city. Expected that Edinburgh will have about 63, rather than 58, councillors and this may mean changes to all boundaries in the city. Consultation later this year and changes expected to be in place for the 2017 Council elections.
- Housing: New LDP – will have to allocate housing sites in accordance with revised SESplan requirements considering objections etc. e.g. East Suffolk Road field
- Planning: Application for student housing in Lutton Court refused 2 weeks ago because this would result in too many students in the area. Two other sites are being considered for student housing – Homebase and Meadow Lane.
- Parking: Priestfield RPP – formal objections being considered – briefing for all 4 councillors next week. He thinks implementation in 2014 still on track.
- Cllr Jim Orr has resigned from the SNP and is now an Independent. This shouldn't affect how the four councillors work together.

TH thanked Cllr CR for his comprehensive report. He commented that, in consultation with MH, GPCC had decided to take no action about the Lutton Court student housing proposal.

**Questions and comments:**

- DH asked how many electors are there per councillor. Cllr CR said 1:5750 in Edinburgh and the aim is to keep this to within 10%.
- GD asked about the RPP Consultation and timescales etc.: Cllr CR said he would know more after the briefing next week.
- SG asked about protecting the Greenbelt and what could be done to stop the erosion.

## 6. Reports of Interest Groups

**a) Planning:** A report had been circulated. TH reported in addition:

- **LDP:** Revised plan will go to committee in May with comments over the summer. TH had written to Cllr Ian Perry (as Convenor of Planning) asking that no changes to designations (cf 2013 version) be made. He noted that although the East Suffolk Road field is designated as Open Space there is a 2013 representation by the owner to change its designation to housing.
- **Grange Conservation Area Character Appraisal:** Exhibition in Library until March 30<sup>th</sup> – officers will be present on 24<sup>th</sup> March; consultation until April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Royal Edinburgh Hospital:** There will be a hearing about the Phase 1 application at the Development Management subcommittee on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

- **91 South Oswald Road:** Former Barnardo's home – being returned to residential use. The main concern is excessive parking provision and loss of green space. He suggested looking at the site and sending comments to him. Agreed that GPCC would send in an objection anyway on these two issues.

**b) Roads and Transport:** GSD reported:

- **CPZ boundaries:** MH and SG had looked at CPZ boundaries in our area and MH had written to Gavin Sherriff detailing concerns; these included spare spaces in zone S1 (could they be used by zone 7 residents?), the abandonment of allowing visitor permits in zone 7. A helpful reply had been received and will be considered by the Transport Group.
- **East Mayfield:** Ian Murray had written to all residents about the problem. BM had asked for a survey about making East Mayfield one-way – refused by CEC at this time (mainly on the grounds that it is needed as a route for emergency vehicles). TH said that a major problem is caused by parked cars near the junction – there could be a request to remove these spaces.
- **Dalkeith Road/Priestfield Road junction:** GSD had spoken to Ronnie Swain who said the timing of the green man phase had been changed in January 2014. Concerns continue about turning right into East Mayfield. There is also a need to encourage the Police to monitor the junction and/or for cameras to be installed.
- **Jumping Red lights:** Continues to be a problem at many junctions. MH said this comes up regularly at Community Safety Group meetings and should be pursued here.
- **Capital Roads Funding:** the portfolio should be available on line by the end of the week. All were asked to send any comments to the GPCC reps (MH and ST) on the panel.

**c) Licensing.** No applications in our area.

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

- **Website etc.:** MH had discussed with AG about taking on web maintenance. Agreed that MH will act with AG on this.
- **Newsletter:** BM's husband has provided a quote - MH recommends accepting – agreed. MH will do the initial layout – and asked for ideas for articles etc. so that a draft is available, at the latest, by the June meeting.

TH thanked MH for all his hard work in these areas.

- e) Newington Cemetery:** JS reported that there had been a walkabout that day with Cllr Jim Orr and Stewart Fagan (Cemeteries officer). They were joined by Alan McKinney, who has been carrying out gravestone restoration work elsewhere, such as at Liberton, under the Community Payback Scheme. The group will now meet and consider what can be done and then report back.

- f) Nature Strips:** Very little had happened and no report as EF had to leave the meeting early.

## 7. Office Bearers Reports

### a) Chair's Report:

- **Dalkeith Road Pharmacy:** TH had written supporting the provision of a pharmacy in Dalkeith Road – but not supporting any particular individual. ME said that Ian Murray is also involved with this campaign.
- **Network Rail invitation:** TH will attend mainly to get PR details. JS will also attend.
- **Feus:** TH had ascertained that Standard Life had been the feu superior when feus were redeemed by some nearby house owners and he had written to Standard Life to ask if they were the feu superior for the Nature Strips.
- **Taxis using Busgate:** An email had been received from a resident complaining about noisy and speeding taxis late at night. This would be passed to the Transport Group for reply and action.
- **Constitution:** TH confirmed that he had sent a copy of the signed GPCC constitution to Eileen Hewitt and had received an acknowledgement from her.

b) **Treasurer's Report:** AG had reported that at the last statement there was £532.94 in our account. He had also been notified that £844 had been transferred from CEC as the grant towards the cost of the newsletter.

c) **Secretary's Report:** Nothing in addition to the report.

## 8. Future GPCC meetings.

**Date of AGM:** Decided to hold this in May. SG said that the third Wednesday causes problems for some members as this coincides with school holidays. Decided to have this (possible change of meeting day) as an agenda item at the AGM.

## 9) Neighbourhood Partnership matters

ST had attended a meeting of the SCNP on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March – the main item was the 2014-17 Community Plan. Four priorities were selected

*Make people feel safe both personally and in their community*

*Reduce isolation amongst older people*

*Work with children and young people to improve their access to outdoor space*

*Improve the quality of life in Dumbiedykes*

The existing Priority Groups will be reformed to concentrate on these priorities – the “Environment and Town Centre Priority Group” has been discontinued.

## 10) EACC matters

TH had attended a meeting of the EACC Executive on 27<sup>th</sup> February. There is a need to enhance publicity for the EACC. The Planning Subgroup is looking at various issues.

## 11. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014

## 12. AOCB and Open Forum –

**One hour Bus tickets:** SG asked for GPCC support for his campaign to Lothian Buses to introduce a “One hour ticket” which would allow change of bus on a single ticket within one hour. This was remitted to the Transport Group.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm