

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**Minutes 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**Present:** Tony Harris (**TH**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice Chair), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Derek Howie (**DH**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), David Stevenson (**DaS**)

**In Attendance:** Ian Murray, MP, Cllr Jim Orr (JO), Alan Stewart (**AS**) (CEC), PC Lynsey Collins (**LC**)

**Public:** Visitor from Willowbrae CC

**Apologies:** Gilly Dennis (**GD**), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Sergey Gorobets (**SG**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Maria Ullibarri (**MU**), Hazel Fletcher (**HF**)

**Absent:** Graham Muir (**GM**), Simon di Biase (**SdB**), Julian Newman (**JN**),

**1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies**

TH welcomed everyone, in particular Ian Murray, MP.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

None

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

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

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

TH reported that nothing more had been heard about the Dalkeith Road Pharmacy. He had also had no reply to the letter he had sent about feus.

**5. External Reports**

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

- **148 Dalkeith Road:** The water leak has been repaired by Scottish Water.
- **Wheelie Bins:** AS had reported the problem of unattached bins to Waste Services – these had not been fully repaired and AS was asked to pursue this matter again **AS**

**Further problems:**

- **Bins outside Dalkeith Road shops:** DeS said the bins are still causing problems – some are not secured; some are overflowing; others obscure shop fronts. He had contacted David Doig who said there had been no reports of overflowing bins. He had also contacted Euan Calder (CEC Waste Management) who had sent a poor response. There seem to be two problems; lack of satisfactory response by CEC officials and the siting and condition of the actual bins. Agreed that TH and ST would visit the area to see the problems for themselves (A previous visit had not seen the problem) – ME and DeS to be notified of times of visits. **TH, ST**  
ME said she had done a survey of bins in Dalkeith Road and reported bins with damaged lids etc. – repairs had been done very quickly.

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

- **Good News:** House break-ins had dropped recently –only 2 in the whole area. However, the number of garages broken in to had increased – she repeated the offer that a Police officer will visit and offer advice.
- Operation WRAP is continuing.
- **Grange area.** Vehicles had been vandalised and/or broken in to. Several thefts of bicycles – some attached to lampposts, others from common stairs.
- **Vandalism in Rankins.** This is a continuing problem and there are lots of Police patrols in the area. Also a letter drop stressing the need for residents to report vandalism – unfortunately, none had been seen happening (many occur at night). An email had just been received by the secretary detailing the problem and saying the Police are not taking any action. PC LC said that an officer would visit the writer of the email.

**c) MP's Report.** TH invited Ian Murray to report on recent matters.

- **Four G signals.** 4G had recently been turned on in this area – this had resulted in some problems with the Freeview TV service – there is a filter which can reduce (or solve) these. MH said there had been several 4G problems in the Blacket area and thanked IM for his help.
- **LDP etc.** IM reminded everyone that the LDP will be considered by the Planning committee on May 15<sup>th</sup> – CCs need to check Green Belt areas, the East Suffolk Road site etc.
- **Police Scotland:** He is still receiving concerns from residents about changes to the Community Beat Officer service.
- **Liberton High School:** IM reported, with great sadness, the recent death of a pupil and said he would be attending her funeral. He understood that more money had been provided for school buildings and that the Council had checked all schools in the city and these would be declared safe by the end of the Easter holidays.
- **Guide Dog Scotland:** he had been blindfolded during a visit and taken out with two guides- this had allowed him to appreciate problems encountered by blind people.
- **Westminster matters:** These had included the Royal Mail sell off and the economy. The Fixed term Parliaments meant the date of the next General is known – the Labour Party is now developing its manifesto for that Election.

ME asked what would happen if Scotland votes “Yes” in September. IM said that MPs elected in 2015 would serve until 2016; however, it is possible that these elections for Scottish MPs would be cancelled.

**d) Councillors Report:** Cllr JO reported:

- **School Estate:** The four local councillors had been working together over this
- **SCNP Chair:** JO is the new chair. There will be 4 new subcommittees following the recent acceptance of the Community Plan.
- **Newington Cemetery.** He had attended the meeting the previous day.
- **Ratcliffe Terrace:** The TRO to adjust the cycle lanes to provide new loading bays is progressing.
- **Macdowall Road:** There is a problem with parking in the street over possible problems with access for emergency vehicles. AG said some problems are caused by parking on pavements and asked how the limited road space could be better used. JO agreed to report back **JO**
- **20mph zone:** Consultation will take place and results will be reported to the SCNP.

MH said he was confused about the cancellation of the Community Safety Group (of the SCNP) and then another message implying that this group would continue. JO said he was also confused and would check the situation with Mags Campbell.

## 6. Reports of Interest Groups

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

- **23 Minto Street:** TH circulated a possible objection to an extension to this listed building – West Blasket had also objected. There is confusion about the use of this site.
- **91 South Oswald Road:** Objection had been submitted.
- **146 Dalkeith Road:** Proposed change of empty shop to residential. OK
- **38 Kirkhill Road:** Demolition of house and replacement with 2 semi-detached houses – suggested that we do nothing unless any neighbour contacts us.
- **Kings Buildings:** Redesign of entrances – some concern about loss of trees. Drop off bays for the new Nursery are being provided. Gateway 4 (nearest to Braidburn Inn) to be widened may cause problems for pedestrians. DH said that trees on pavements can cause problems and need to be properly maintained (e.g. branches to be cut back). Agree to comment on traffic island and loss of trees.
- **Royal Blind School:** A legal notice has been publicised to free the property from feu burdens. Need to check LDP carefully – open space implications.
- **Grange CACA:** Thought to be a good piece of work (mainly supported by the Grange Association) – comments by April 28<sup>th</sup>. Need to stress adherence to the guidance.
- **Draft Edinburgh Street Design Guidance:** Public consultation until June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Cockburn Association AGM May 10<sup>th</sup>:** Any member of GPCC may attend.

b) **Roads and Transport:** GSD had submitted a written report – MH commented:

- **East Mayfield/Dalkeith Road junction:** Extended time for pedestrians had just been introduced.
- **East Mayfield:** BM is collecting signatures for a petition to make this street one-way W-E. This suggestion is unlikely to be supported by GPCC as this may result in rat-running in the Blasket and Waverley Park areas. BM will continue with this on a personal basis.
- **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.
- **Roads Capital Programme (2014/15):** Three applications had been submitted by GPCC. Resurfacing the eastern part of East Mayfield had been voted “top priority” at the Selection meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> (attended by MH and ST). Improvement to pavements in East Mayfield was not supported; dropped kerbs in Prestonfield has been passed to another section for funding.
- **Kilgraston Road/Blackford Avenue.** There will be consultation over the summer. SG has suggested “painted zebra crossings” to slow traffic.
- **Busgate and Taxis.** GSD has been in touch with Cllr Rose and the neighbours.
- **CPZ boundaries:** The “boundary problem” for CPZ zones 1 and 7 is ongoing. DH asked about problems at the Cameron Toll bridge where a lorry had hit the bridge recently. Apparently there are warning lights which flash if a vehicle is too high (often ignored by drivers) – AS was asked to check the position of these lights. AS

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

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

- **Website etc.:** MH is now doing routine maintenance. MH and AG will discuss the possibility to upgrade.
  - **Newsletter:** GSD has sent suggestions for articles. Other suggestions wanted. The need for a “text only” copy was noted.
- e) **Newington Cemetery:** JS reported that there had been a meeting yesterday. Agreed that the Cemetery would be open on “Doors Open Day” – September 28<sup>th</sup>. The first “working party” to clear ivy etc. will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 under the guidance of Cemetery officials. The top 10 graves are being identified. The next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.
- f) **Nature Strips:** EF reported little progress. EF to contact David Doig about his promise to consult local residents.

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

##### **a) Chair’s Report:**

- **Network Rail invitation:** TH and JS had attended the Network Rail PR event. He had hoped to get contact details but had just been provided with a generic contact.
- **Craigmillar Park Association.** TH had resigned as secretary (partly because of conflict with being Chair of GPCC) and the new secretary is Peredur Williams.

b) **Treasurer’s Report:** AG reported that there is £1376.94 in our account.

c) **Secretary’s Report:** No written report. Details about events which might be of interest are:

- **Grange Fair.** Newington Library, Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm
- **Hermitage Walled Garden :** Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm
- **Neighbourhood Partnerships:** Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup> 9.30-12.00 – joint meeting of South Central and Liberton Gilmerton NPs to agree actions to address Community Plan priorities.

#### **8. Waste Collections.**

The secretary had received an email saying that the Council is changing the waste and recycling collections. The proposals include:

- changes to red and blue box collections (possibly provision of a bin to take all recyclables)
- no further distribution of paper calendars (except to those with assisted collections) – paper calendars will be provided on request.
- Calendars (and other waste and recycling information) will only be available via the Council website.

Agreed that the secretary would write referring to previous email and asking for one further delivery of paper calendars announcing these changes.

ME commented that those living in tenements are not interested in provision of bins/boxes.

DeS commented that dog wardens had been very visible in Prestonfield and that the fouling situation had improved.

Agreed to ask an Environmental warden to attend the June meeting – AS to arrange.

**AS**

Also suggested that someone from Waste Management be invited for the autumn after the new collection arrangements are known.

**9) Neighbourhood Partnership matters**  
Details about the new Priority Groups still to be announced.

**10) EACC matters**  
TH said the next Exec meeting is April 24th when the AGM date will be decided. The Planning Sub-group had decided to run two more training sessions: Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup> 5-9pm; Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm. These would also deal with Planning Enforcement.

**11. Date of next meeting (also AGM) – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014**  
JS asked if the present office bearers are willing to stand again.  
Please note – the meeting will be in a different room to normal.

**12. AOCB and Open Forum –**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm