

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 19th November 2014

Present: Tony Harris (**TH**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Derek Howie (**DH**), Sergey Gorobets (**SG**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Cllr Ian Perry (**IP**)

In Attendance: PC Leon Malinowski (**LM**), Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (**CEC**)

Apologies: Hazel Dunn (**HD**), Eileen Francis

Absent: Bill Reid (**BR**), Simon di Biase (**SdB**), Maria Ullibarri (**MU**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Graham Muir (**GM**)

1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

TH welcomed everyone.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 15th October 2014

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

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

Low bridges at Cameron Toll: ST had Received an update from Bill Stewart on 28th October “To update, I have lost a member of staff and this has caused some delay in my Bridges work programme.

The bridge has been struck again since I last wrote and damaged the sign yet again however this time the supporting bracket needs to be replaced. As the bridge is owned by Network Rail we must satisfy them that the work can be done safely and without affecting the railway. This always takes some time to arrange. Hopefully the sign will be replaced in the next week or two. With regard to the OVD’s, this work is now being carried out by another of my team. The date for work on site has changed and will not happen until February/March 2015.

I do not yet have a timescale for upgrading the advance warning signs.”

5. External Reports

a) Council Report: ASt said that a member of the Waste Operations team would attend the January meeting.

b) Police Report: PC LM reported:

- **Break-ins:** These continue to dominate the problems in the area – Many bikes are being stolen and not recovered – this is a UK-wide problem. A group of 4-5 15/16 year-olds are committing several offences – although these are known, because many are under-age the Police cannot do much.
- **Assault in Ratcliffe Terrace:** 16 year old youth has been charged.

- **Rape in the Meadows:** Occurred the previous Saturday at 7am. A major inquiry is underway. There are patrols in the area and 6 local officers have followed her route.
- **20mph:** Police are waiting for training in how to do checks – training is being rolled out nationally.
- **Police Restructuring:** St Leonard's had had a response team and a community team- the response team has been moved to Howdenhall. The community team is at ST Leonard's but much reduced. There is also a new inspector - Graham Nisbet
- **Egg Throwing:** JN asked about the recent outbreak of egg throwing. Sgt LM said this was probably associated with Halloween. However, it's always worth reporting anything unusual or suspicious.
- **Cleaning products sales:** TH asked about the young lads who were calling door-to-door selling cleaning products. They often claimed to be doing this while on probation, or similar. These were often bogus salesmen. Confirmed that they shouldn't be doing this in a "No Cold Calling" zone.
- **Car vandalism in the Rankins:** DH asked about this. Sgt LM said they knew the culprits and it had calmed down.

c) **Councillor's Report:** Cllr IP reported:

- **Student Accommodation:** The Causewayside application had been considered at the committee today and continued as it was considered too massive (GPCC had not objected to the revised plans). The Council is under pressure from the University for more accommodation – especially for post-grad students. The Council, and many residents groups, want mixed communities. The Luton Court application was refused by CEC but the Reporter overturned this on appeal – considered the area to be "adjacent" to the University. CEC is challenging the definition of "adjacent". The Planning Committee is reviewing "student accommodation" in the city (Southside has 60% students) and also looking at Licensing and HMOs.

6. **Council Budget Proposals**

- **Budget Proposals:** ME asked the CC to support the FEDAGA (Federation of Allotments and Gardens Association) campaign against the proposed increase of fees for allotments. An (unwritten) agreement had been made in 2009 that fees would increase from a full rent of £50 to £100 by 2014 and then freeze the cost until 2020. The budget proposals would increase the fees to £300. The meeting agreed to support this campaign (TH to write) as an agreement had been broken, allotments encourage activity and health, and these should not be used as a "money raiser".
- **Costs of leaflets and consultation:** BM asked about these costs. Cllr IP said that more responses had been received to this consultation than to previous ones. He also commented that front line services needed to be protected and that, in order to make the required savings, about 1000 staff would lose their jobs. He added that many responses had advocated increasing charges rather than reducing services.
- **Consultation meeting on December 1st;** ME to attend

7. Reports of Interest Groups

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

- **Student Accommodation in Causewayside:** see Councillor's Report
- **ROE – Higgs Centre:** TH circulated a draft response – generally supportive but concerns about massing of building and traffic and parking issues. Response to be slightly modified and submitted.

b) **Roads and Transport:** GSD had circulated a report – he highlighted:

- **RPP (Priestfield):** This seems to be successful.
- **New Cycle Routes – Marchmont to KB:** GSD, TH, MH and AG had met Paul Matthews and now understood some points which had not been obvious on the plans.
- **East Mayfield and Queens Crescent – possible one-way system:** JN reported that the Waverley feuers are opposed to this proposal
- **Capital Roads Programme:** Main concerns about the state of the road and pavements in East Mayfield – agreed that GPCC should propose resurfacing the pavement – GSD to submit by the deadline (Dec 31st)
- **Rankin area:** DH commented that the narrow roads with parking on both sides made it difficult for traffic to get through.
- **Resurfacing:** SG commented that poor resurfacing disintegrates quickly and is not cost-effective.

c) **Licensing.** Nothing in our area.

d) **Publicity (including website and newsletter)** nothing to report.

e) **Newington Cemetery:** JS said they were building on the publicity from Doors Open Day. Ian Murray, MP had now visited. The group wants to work with the CEC Bereavement Team. There is years of work to do – in particular clearing more graves. Suggestions for other improvements included installing benches and notice boards.

8. Office Bearers Reports

a) **Chair's Report:** TH said he had attended, as Chair, The City of Edinburgh's 2nd Annual Conference on 12th November.

b) **Treasurer's Report:** AG reported no change from October.

c) **Secretary's Report:** Reported that we had received an appeal from the Canongate Youth Project to support their bid for lottery funding for their "Youth Café". TH would circulate details of how to vote on November 25th.

9. **Reports of Outside Groups**

a) **SCNP and Action Groups:**

- **Active Living Action Group:** David Stevenson reported “On Monday 17 November I attended a meeting of the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Active Living Action Group. This is the new name for the SCNP Older Peoples Action Group. Eleven people attended. Much of the time was given to description and discussion of the LOOPS Network = "Local Opportunities for Older People", led by Stef Milenkovic. To get "into sync." with other Neighbourhood Partnership activities next meeting will be on 9 February 2015 [at South Side Community Centre, 117 Nicolson Street].
- **Community Safety Group:** Due to a change of date MH was unable to attend the meeting of this group on 19th November.

b) **EACC matters** – There had been a meeting of the Executive on 29th October – the first meeting for some time. The AGM will be held in the City Chambers on Saturday November 29th from 10-12.

10. **Date of next meeting – Wednesday 21st January 2015**

11. **AOCB and Open Forum**

Thursday December 18th: TH invited all CC members (plus partners) to a party – details would be circulated by email

Staff at the Community Education Centre: Agreed that ST would get a suitable “thank you” Christmas present for the staff.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm