

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**Minutes 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015**

**Present:** Tony Harris (**TH**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton (**ST**) (Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Derek Howie (**DH**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Hazel Dunn (**HD**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Cllr Jim Orr (**JO**)

**In Attendance:** PC Leslie, PC Ponniah, Alan Stewart (**ASt**) (**CEC**)

**Apologies:** Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Sergey Gorobets (**SG**), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Eileen Francis

**Public:** Clive Greated, Yrsa Greated

**Absent:** Simon di Biase (**SdB**), Maria Ullibarri (**MU**), Graham Muir (**GM**)

**1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies**

TH welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2015. It was explained that, due to a mix-up, the officer from Waste Management was unable to attend but would come in February.

**2. Declarations of Interest.** None

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

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

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

**Council Budget Consultation:** TH had sent an objection to the proposed increase in fees to allotment holders; ST had objected to proposed cuts in the winter garden waste collection service. ME had attended the meeting at the City Chambers – she said most discussion related to proposed closures of public toilets.

**Canongate Youth Project:** Noted that the bid for lottery funding for the “Youth Café” had been successful.

**Com Ed Staff Christmas present:** ST had bought chocolates and shortbread.

**5. External Reports**

**a) Council Report:** ASt was asked to ensure that a member of the Waste Operations team would attend the February meeting.

- **Redundant Disabled Parking spaces:** ME asked what happened when these were no longer required – confirmed that the Council would remove the space but as this required a TRO it could take some time.

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

- **Break-ins:** The number of break-ins to houses and businesses has increased – particularly within Blackford Hill, Newington and Grange areas. The Police have leaflets offering advice about how to secure property. He confirmed that many officers are out on night shifts, that some crimes have been solved but several enquiries are ongoing. John Palmer (previous Chair) has reported three attempts at a break-in to the bike shed at his block of flats and, when successful, only the most high value bike had been taken. MH said a communal bike

shed in Upper Gray Street had also been targeted. The PC reminded everyone about using secure locks.

- **Community PCs:** MH asked for the names of the community PCs. It was explained that there are no specific officers any longer. MH said the community appreciated named PCs and the PC added that the Police also liked getting to know the community.
- **Charlie Hebdo:** ME asked if the murders in Paris had led to heightened policing. The PC said they were checking mosques, synagogues etc.

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

- **Speeding on Priestfield Road:** Vehicle activated signs had been used in the summer; JO will arrange for a week long survey to be carried out at the end of January. DeS said speeding is still serious. GSD wondered whether banning taxis from using the bus gate might be a solution - JO suggested probably not legally possible. JO will check exact times of the survey. AG wondered if Licensing could refuse a licence to taxis caught speeding.
- **Budget:** The Budget will be decided at a meeting on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. There is concern about proposed cuts to Cameron House staffing – all 4 councillors had attended the Management committee meeting last week.
- **Street Lighting:** Sodium lights are gradually being replaced by more efficient white LED lights; these will save money and the light will be directed onto the pavement and road rather than gardens.
- **20mph:** Confirmed that arterial routes will remain at 30mph.

## 6 Reports of Interest Groups

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

- **ROE – Higgs Centre for Innovation:** TH said revised drawings showed the building lowered by 1-1.5m plus some cosmetic changes – these had met some of our objections. However, there is still concern about the removal and reinstatement of the boundary wall and it's not clear how this will affect the visitor carpark etc. Agreed to object on “technical grounds” – TH to draft and circulate.
- **22 Observatory Road:** Site visit took place on 17 December – the application will be decided on 28<sup>th</sup> January.
- **91 South Oswald Road:** Concern had been expressed about trees which appeared to be taken down unnecessarily.

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

- **RPP (Priestfield):** GD asked about “Phase 2” - GSD has passed on details to the Council of about six residents who wish to have a further restricted parking space as part of Phase 2, if implemented. Otherwise, it appears to be working well. TH said the Nether Liberton area also seems to be successful.
- **Marchmont to KB cycle route:** GSD has a very comprehensive formal response to our comments – CEC is currently revising the project to extend along West Mains Road to Mayfield Road. A crossing on Kilgraston Road has not been included. The Council had asked for volunteers to work with them on signage – TH and ST volunteered. GSD was thanked for his hard work over this.
- **Blackford Avenue Bus Stop:** A proposal to form a bus boarder had been received. Concern that if “loading bay”, rather than “Bus Stop” markings are used this could lead to more parking in the space. ST will liaise with the Avenue Store and comment to the Council.

- **30 minute waiting:** The Avenue Store reported that several cars park for long periods – not obvious who checks this – can we find out?
- **Capital Roads Proposals:** Two groups had contacted ST asking for GPCC support for their proposals – ST said we would consider these when we see the official report – but these would take lower priority to our own proposal.
- **Vans parked in “Open Spaces”:** JN said several vans appeared to be being used for storage, now, of course, with no tax discs visible. ASt asked to find out who these should be reported to.

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

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

e) **Newington Cemetery:** JS reported:

- **Working parties:** these take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month, mainly to remove ivy – 11 had attended in January.
- **Signage:** have ideas of what wanted – liaising with Grange Cemetery Group – CEC would like uniform signage.
- **Open Days:** Publicity targeted at local politicians.
- **Restoring Headstones:** Working with Mr McKinney – problems over getting agreement over training etc.

## 7. Office Bearers Reports

a) **Chair’s Report:** TH reported:

- **Conservation area:** An appeal from 13 Observatory Road to get the road designated as a Conservation area – a good example of 1930s bungalows. The applicants had also written to David Leslie (Head of Planning) – suggested we see this reply before taking any action. JN said he had seen a document about 20th Century design and getting areas designated as Conservation areas.
- **Health and Social Care:** Report on Integration for tomorrow – there is a draft for consultation.

b) **Treasurer’s Report:** AG reported outgoings were secretary expenses, Cockburn Association membership and renewal of our website adding up to £137.28. That leaves us with £1116.02 in the bank.

- HD asked whether we needed to apply for a grant for another newsletter. Decided that this year we might just do limited publicity about e.g. Newington Cemetery and we had sufficient funds for this.

c) **Secretary’s Report:**

- **Pharmacy on Dalkeith Road:** This application had been rejected again (not known why) – CCs have no right to appeal this. However, the applicant had appealed and it is possible to support the appeal – ST to write.

## 8. Reports of Outside Groups

a) **SCNP and Action Groups:**

- **SCNP December 1<sup>st</sup> 2014:** Items on “Cycling on the Meadows” (some changes to try to resolve conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists) and restoring the “Jawbones”. A presentation on the Royal Edinburgh Hospital proposals will be given at the next meeting.

- **HMO Working Group:** Mainly concerned with providing student accommodation – should it be in purpose built accommodation etc. Consultation on this expected in February.

**b) EACC matters:** AGM on November 29<sup>th</sup> was adjourned to get views of a workshop proposed for Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup> in the City Chambers. Following this the AGM will resume. Existing post holders are in place for 6 months from Nov 29<sup>th</sup> (TH is treasurer).

**9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**10. AOCB and Open Forum**

**Drainage in Dalkeith Road:** BR reported that water doesn't go down the drains and that shops etc. are being affected. Others reported blocked drains all over the area.

**Paper Bin:** DeS said the Communal paper bin in Dalkeith Road had not been emptied since before Christmas.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm