

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 18th February 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**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Hazel Dunn (**HD**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Graham Muir (**GM**), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Cllr Cameron Rose (**CR**), Ian Murray MP (arrived 20.05)

In Attendance: PC Evelyn Hegarty (**EH**)

Apologies: Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Sergey Gorobets (**SG**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Derek Howie (**DH**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Eileen Francis

Public: Clive Greated

1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

TH welcomed everyone and said that the officer from Waste Management was unable to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 21st January 2015

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

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

Council Budget: GPCC had submitted objections to the proposed increase in allotment fees and the withdrawal of winter garden collection. The Council had agreed to no further increase in allotment fees (FEDEGA is to suggest ways of increasing revenue) and to continue the garden collection.

Observatory Road as Conservation Area: Cllr CR said that “An initial assessment indicates that this road would not meet the criteria for a conservation area”. Mr Greated said he had no reply yet from David Leslie. GPCC to wait while correspondence is ongoing.

Dalkeith Road Pharmacy: No information yet about the appeal.

5. External Reports

a) Council Report: No report as ASt absent.

- Cllr CR agreed to chase Waste Management to provide a speaker for March.
- Several complaints about lack of street cleaning. Cllr CR agreed to obtain a copy of the street cleaning schedule.

b) Police Report: PC Hegarty reported:

- **Break-ins:** Her area is mainly Sciennes and the Grange but she was aware of many concerns in the Prestonfield area – especially break-ins and car thefts in Priestfield.
- **Car thefts:** Many examples of thieves stealing car keys and then stealing the car. Reminded owners to keep car keys in a safe place.
- **Inspector:** Inspector Nisbet has taken over from Inspector McLean – he is keen to be active and has planned a “week of action” in the Prestonfield/Priestfield area (more officers on patrol etc.) – after a similar week in the Dumbiedykes area.

Questions:

- GM said that statistics show that the EH16 area is the 2nd worst in Scotland for housebreak ins (*this was for 2013 – now improved to 9th*). Cllr CR said he had a meeting with Sgt Hamilton and that there had been an increase since Police Scotland was formed – however, offenders had been detained recently and since then there had been a decline in house break-ins. MH said a report the previous day from the Police at the Community Safety group had been encouraging.
- JN asked that for the Waverley Park feuers to be included Sgt Andy Kerr’s circulation list. PCEH said Dale Finlayson should email Sgt Kerr – she would follow this up.

c) Councillor’s Report: Cllr CR reported:

- **Bus Lanes:** A proposal is going to next week’s Transport Committee to make the times of bus lanes the same in the city – operating hours would be rush hours only.
- **LDP2:** Said that representations on this would not now be considered by the Planning Committee on 26th February as the Cammo site on the west of the city been called in by Scottish Ministers, in turn affecting housing land allocations.
- **Priestfield traffic survey:** This had been delayed but may happen this week – Cllr CR has no further update on this.

6 Reports of Interest Groups

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

- **22 Observatory Road:** This application had been approved (8:5) – Cllr Ian Perry proposed refusal; Cllr CR proposed approval.
- **Royal Observatory (Higgs Building):** Now approved – revised plan took account of many of GPCC’s objections. The application for temporary removal of the listed wall is still under consideration.
- **Midmar Paddock:** Although in the green belt this land had been offered for sale as a “development opportunity”. TH suggested that as it is not in our area GPCC takes no action and waits for an actual application.
- **LDP2:** Mentioned by Cllr CR – TH concerned that the plan is now in disarray with developers driving forward an appeal led process.
- **Civic Forum:** Presentation on the “Edinburgh 12” – 12 major sites in the city centre with development opportunities (mainly for luxury hotels, business units, office and retail developments with minimal housing). There will be training on “guidance” later this year.
- **Royal Blind School:** No news about this site – the press still operates from there.

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

- **Marchmont to KB cycle route:** Due to pressure from CCs and others the Council has now agreed to do an “assessment” on the need for a pedestrian crossing on Kilgraston Road (after implementation of the cycle route).

c) Licensing. Nothing in our area.

d) Publicity (including website and newsletter) MH asked about the possibility of a newsletter to highlight the CC elections in Spring 2016. Suggested that a newsletter in New Year 2016 might be appropriate – funds probably sufficient for this without a grant. JS pointed out that it had already been agreed that there would be a limited leaflet to highlight Newington Cemetery in Open Doors Day.

(Ian Murray arrived)

JN asked if the “Natural Neighbourhood” survey would affect CC boundaries? Thought that this wouldn’t happen (yet?).

e) **Newington Cemetery:** JS had provided a written report – she highlighted:

- **Working parties:** these take place on the 3rd Monday each month- next Monday March 16)
- **Headstones - General Meeting:** Tuesday March 17th, Priestfield Church – talk by Alan McKinney on the Headstone Restoration project at Liberton Cemetery.
- **Doors Open Days:** Will apply for inclusion this year (Sept 26-27)
- **Spring bulbs:** Suggested that they consult Mike Shields about supply of bulbs.
- **Commonwealth Graves:** Ian Murray said he had a fascinating visit. JS and BM said they would encourage school groups to visit and learn about World War I.

TH invited Ian Murray to address the meeting. Ian said main issues are local – particularly space pressure on local schools. Extensions needed for South Morningside and Sciennes. He said there is a lot of concern about the breakup of local police teams. Another major local concern is the state of roads and pavements. BM asked about the agreed resurfacing of East Mayfield – ST to write and ask. Discussion also returned to LDP2 and Ian referred his intention to express his concern to the Scottish Government about delays and the risk to green belt sites in South Edinburgh.

7. Office Bearers Reports

- a) **Chair’s Report:** TH – everything has come up elsewhere.
- b) **Treasurer’s Report:** AG reported no change - £1116.02 in the bank.
- c) **Secretary’s Report:**

AGM: Proposed date of May agreed. All asked to consider standing as an office bearer.

8. Reports of Outside Groups

a) SCNP and Action Groups:

Community Safety Action Group: MH said they are now getting very complete reports with statistics of crime (Police) and incidents (Fire and Rescue). The convenor is Cllr CR. Need to encourage membership of Neighbourhood Watch groups – Police no longer have a database of NWs – MH said he would provide details of NWs he knows about. Next meeting May 19th.

b) **EACC matters:** TH had provided a written report.

- **Workshop:** He asked for comments on the workshop held on January 31st – ST to circulate the notes of this meeting and to collate responses (by Feb 27th).
- **Debates and QA session:** Saturday April 25th 10.30-12.30 in the City Chambers.

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 18th March 2015

10. AOCB and Open Forum

Wheelie Bins: BR said that wheel bins are not being returned after collection – scattered across pavements are a hazard for blind people.

Speech on buses: BR asked why this is not always turned on – ST to write to Lothian Buses.

Road Surface: AG said the replacement surface was awful after a new BT box installed – Cllr CR agreed to contact the Roads team

Parked vans etc.: JN asked (again) about this – Cllr CR will check with AS.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm