

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 20th May 2015

Present: Tony Harris (TH)(Chair), Mike Hunter(MH) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton(ST)(Secretary), Andreas Grothey (AG) (Treasurer), Derek Howie (DH), Denis Stevens(DeS), David Stevenson (DS), Sergey Gorobets(SG), Maureen Edwards (ME), Hazel Fletcher(HF), Cllr Ian Perry (IP), Cllr Jim Orr (JO)

Apologies: Ian Murray MP, Julian Newman (JN), Eileen Francis (EF), Janet Sidaway (JS), Barbara McNaught (BM), Bill Reid (BR), Doreen Allerton (DA), Graham Dann (GSD), Gilly Dennis(GD),

Absent: Graham Muir

1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

TH welcomed everyone again at the conclusion of the AGM at 7.20pm..

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting of 15th April 2015

These had been previously circulated and were approved; proposed by DS, seconded by MH.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

- **Wheelie bins not secured.** The suggested motion to the SCNP asking for a report on possible means of securing bins has still to happen (next meeting June 8th)
- **Email problems:** Problems with the “allgpcc” email list had now been sorted.
- **Possible meeting with Alan McKinney:** The suggested meeting of Marchmont Sciennes CC and the Grange Association for a talk on the Headstone Restoration project has been deferred for the time being.
- **Dalkeith Road Pharmacy:** ME reported that the Convenience store has a petition “with hundreds of signatures” all wanting a pharmacy in the area. There are premises available but the problem is obtaining a licence for a pharmacy.

5. External Reports

a) **Police Report:** PCs Mckay and Dawson (not signed in so names may be incorrect) reported:

- **Home Security meeting – Wednesday April 29th:** had been very well attended. The information provided at that meeting is available on the Police Scotland website.
- **Break-ins etc.:** These continue to dominate the problems in the area. Operation RAC covers the whole of the city. There had been four housebreak-ins in Prestonfield - 2 solved and a 21-year-old male arrested. Also four housebreak-ins in the Grange and one solved. There are identified resources on all shifts for this matter and a flexi-team from all over Scotland to help (also helping with “legal highs”)
- **Legal Highs:** The policy of making certain substances illegal has reduced the problem considerably. Cllr IP said he had been sceptical that this would work but congratulated the Police on its success. Knowing that the Police are around has also improved behaviour in the area.

b) Councillor's Report: Cllr IP reported:

- **Local Development Plan:** This is the fundamental plan for housebuilding in Edinburgh and taking 5 years to complete this is totally unacceptable – he will raise this with the Minister. Work on the new strategic plan starts shortly. Edinburgh is the fastest growing city in the UK outside London and this means that more housing is required, along with the infrastructure (schools, roads, drainage etc.) – the cost of new infrastructure is estimated at £270million. The expansion also means that compromises over protecting the Green Belt may have to be made.
 1. SG asked why brownfield sites aren't being used. He suggested that the Scottish Government should buy these sites for housing. Cllr IP said that Forth Ports now propose using land for warehouses etc. rather than housing. He also said that workplaces should be close to housing to reduce commuting. There needs to be a discussion on "How should Edinburgh grow" – a Main Issues Report will be available for consultation between June and October.
 2. TH commented that we will watch discussions with the Scottish Ministers with interest and that we need to get more areas back into housing.
- **New Boundary Proposals:** No changes have been made to the new proposals (to increase the number of councillors from 58 to 63 with boundary changes) – formal consultation will start shortly. Wherever possible boundaries of e.g. CCs should fall within a single Neighbourhood Partnership.
- **Shop in Dalkeith Road:** Cllr JO reported on the empty shop in Dalkeith Road – empty for about 20 years. Neighbours are concerned about possible rot or damage which could affect their properties. CEC could take over the property to make it safe. It would be good to bring this property into community use. A "Community Empowerment" bill should come into law in about 9 months and this might be an opportunity for the community to buy this property. Cllr JO will work with DeS on possible GPCC involvement. **DeS, Cllr JO**

6. Reports of Interest Groups

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

- **18 Observatory Road:** Application "in principle" for 2 dwellings in a triangular plot at the rear. We might need to look carefully at an actual application.
- **1 Mentone Terrace:** proposal to demolish a garage block (access too steep to be used) and replace with a single house. It's a difficult site and an objection to some aspects of the application had been submitted.
- **16 Grange Road and 46 Grange Road:** Both for new driveways and parking. Agreed to object to both applications.
- **1a Cumin Place:** Overdevelopment of a small site – suggested this be left to the planners for a decision.
- **23 Minto Street:** Change from hipped roof to flat roof – agreed to object.
- **KB Campus – School of Biological Sciences.** Objection had been submitted to the proposed temporary access road which would require a new opening on Mayfield Road and loss of trees. Need to contact Prof David Gray again about a meeting to look at plans for this School and the whole campus.

DH said he was unhappy with objections being sent in which had not been discussed at a meeting of the whole CC. It was explained that timescales often did not permit this – Edinburgh already allows a longer consultation period (3 weeks) than is required by law. TH said that he circulates a small group who look in detail at applications in the area and decide whether or not to object. It was agreed that TH would circulate the Planning lists when received to all members of GPCC and individuals could then let TH know if they wished to be further involved. **TH**

b) Roads and Transport:

- **Speed survey – 20mph:** GSD had provided copies of emails with Insp Nisbet
- **Speeding in Prestonfield Avenue:** DeS said he is collecting signatures for a petition for a pelican crossing in Prestonfield Avenue and has, so far, got 135. He said that the 20mph limit is not effective, traffic, including buses, is still speeding and it is only a matter of time before someone is killed. He asked for GPCC support for this request. There was discussion about this issue:
 1. Need to get Prestonfield Avenue on the list of crossings – CEC would have to assess the street.
 2. DeS said the petition has the support of the school, those attending the Community Centre etc.
 3. GSD to be asked to get an update from the Police at the GPCC meeting in June (About enforcement of the 20mph limit) **GSD**
- **Roads Capital Programme:** MH, JN and ST attended the meeting on 30th April. The GPCC proposal to resurface pavements in East Mayfield was not well supported (ranked 5 out of 9). Prestonfield Avenue pavements (opposite this Centre) came top. The East Mayfield road resurfacing (approved last year) is still to be done.
 1. AG asked about the proposals which affected trees, particularly in West Savile Road. The Forestry section of the Council would be involved but this proposal was not supported.
 2. DH said that trees on pavements can be a hazard for blind people, and others, and he would like pavements around trees to be properly maintained. It was felt that, although this problem was recognised, there would be objections to the removal of trees. It was noted that CEC would take action when branches were too low etc. and blocked the pavement – everyone asked to report any such trees. The problem of tree roots making the pavement uneven was appreciated but there was no easy solution.
 3. SG asked Cllr IP for information about how the Council selected which streets are to be resurfaced etc. and could the criteria be made available to the public. Cllr IP said he would try to find a link to the appropriate documents. **Cllr IP**
- **Blackford Avenue Bus Stop:** The alterations here had been very shoddy, took too long etc. The double yellow lines had not been repainted in the loading bay which meant that anyone could park there.

c) Licensing. Nothing in our area.

d) Publicity. Nothing new

e) Newington Cemetery: JS reported that the application for funding for 2 signs had been submitted to the SCNP. ST said that the information boards at the Grange Cemetery would be erected the following week.

7. Office Bearers Reports

- a) **Chair's Report:** TH – everything has come up elsewhere.

- b) **Treasurer's Report:** All outstanding bills have been paid and there is £1096.87 in the account.

- c) **Secretary's Report:**
 - **Tram Inquiry:** If individuals wish to comment they should do so via the website www.edinburghtraminquiry.org
 - **Newington Library:** Refurbishment is officially complete but neighbours are concerned about the appearance to new ducting on the roof and the noise of the new, large air-conditioning unit at the rear of the building

8. Reports of Outside Groups

- a) **SCNP and Action Groups:** Reports from MH and DS are in the Secretary's Report.
- b) **EACC matters:** TH said that EACC continues to try to revive itself – the AGM is the following day. See also Chair's Report to the AGM.
 - **EACC representative:** TH proposed by ST and seconded by MH to continue as the GPCC representative.

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday June 17th 2015

10. AOCB and Open Forum

The meeting closed at 9.10pm