

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**20<sup>th</sup> May 2015**  
**AGM Minutes**

**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 and Apologies**

Tony Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting, said that this was the eighth AGM since the founding of this CC in 2007. He said that one or two new CCs had been established, Southside CC may revive and the total in the city could be 45 – the closest ever to the maximum of 46.

**2. Minutes of the AGM 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

These were approved - proposed by Maureen Edwards, seconded by David Stevenson

**3. Chair's Opening Statement and Report**

Tony Harris had circulated a report (attached) and wished to highlight the following matters:

- **Ward Councillors and Police:** We appreciate the attendance of our councillors, who attend in rotation, and also the support of the Police.
- **Edinburgh Association of Community Councils:** He has been the GPCC's nominated representative and also been treasurer of the EACC. He will not stand again as treasurer but hope that this organisation can be revived at its AGM tomorrow after a rather troubled year.
- **Newington Cemetery:** Expressed thanks to Janet Sidaway who has led the group and Cllr Jim Orr for his support. The group had been involved in last year's Doors Open Day, which had been very successful, and the working party had started clearing much of the undergrowth.
- **Planning and Development:** Consultation documents on which GPCC has commented included the Guidance on Student Housing and the Street Design Guidance. There have been no major developments in our area. Applications on which GPCC commented include the Higgs Centre at the Royal Observatory, student housing in Causewayside, new housing at 4 East Suffolk Road, a replacement house at 22 Observatory Road and new entrance walls at the Kings Building Campus.
- **Local Development Plan:** Work on the new plan started in 2011 and, following several delays, it is expected to be adopted in 2016 – five years after starting.

**4. Treasurer's Report (attached)**

A report for the year had been circulated and showed that income for the year 2013/14 was £770.14 and expenditure was £976.43 (newsletter cost was £820) resulting in a loss for the year of £206.29. This was mainly due to the grant towards the newsletter costs was received the previous financial year. The accounts have still to be audited.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mike Hunter and seconded by Hazel Dunn.

**5. Secretary's Report**

A short report had been circulated and was noted.

**6. Election of Office Bearers - Cllr Perry took the Chair**

Cllr Perry thanked all the office bearers for their work and said that they put in a lot of effort, much unappreciated. He then called for nominations to the four posts; all the present office bearers were prepared to stand again – there were no further nominations:

The following were elected – all proposed by Denis Stevens and seconded by Hazel Dunn.:

Chair – Tony Harris

Secretary – Sue Tritton

Treasurer – Andreas Grothey

Vice-Chair – Mike Hunter

Cllr Perry noted that it would be good to have some new faces in 2016. He then handed the chair back to Tony Harris.

**7. Any Other Competent Business**

Maureen Edwards noted that we had decided at the last AGM that the meeting day should remain as the third Wednesday in the month for 2014/15. The meeting agreed there would be no change until the next Community Council Elections.

**The AGM concluded at 19.20**

## **Grange/Prestonfield Community Council Chair's Report to AGM Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

### **Introduction**

GPCC is now 8 years old, still a youngster compared with some other Edinburgh CCs, but others have been formed since and with the expected revival of Southside, the number of Edinburgh CCs will then be at 45 the closest it has ever been to the maximum of 46. I hope this reflects a widening recognition throughout Edinburgh of the value of community councils. We are fortunate in being very well supported by our Ward Councillors who attend our meetings in rotation and the Police who are conscientious also in their attendance. Within GPCC the other Office Bearers undertake a lot of the work, especially our Secretary Sue Tritton, and so, coupled with the involvement of our Interest Groups, this means that I have to do very little as Chair. I did however attend in November a CEC Conference on the Future for Edinburgh. This Report concentrates on other Group activities I have been involved with during the year, thereby avoiding the need for separate reports.

### **The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils**

I have continued to be the GPCC Nominated Representative on the EACC Executive and I have also continued as its Treasurer. I shall be standing down as Treasurer at the resumed 2014 AGM tomorrow evening when other Post-Holders will be elected. The EACC has had a troubled year, in part due to the illness and then death of its Chair David Salton and it is to be hoped that with new Post-Holders in place it can be fully revived and resume being an effective voice for Edinburgh CCs.

### **The Royal Edinburgh and Astley Ainslie Hospitals Redevelopment**

Our Secretary and I have continued to liaise with other concerned south Edinburgh CCs and NHS Lothian representatives about these two sites both outside our area but which have an impact on it. Sue takes the lead on this and updates from our meetings are regularly reported in the GPCC Minutes.

### **Roads & Transport**

This continues to be a very active GPCC Interest Group and my involvement has been limited to just a few of its activities. The B6 & B7 RPP schemes have been implemented during the year, with very little reaction which seems to indicate broad acceptability. We still await the Ratcliffe Terrace modifications to the Bike Corridor but we have been told these are imminent. With others from the Group I was involved in discussions with CEC Officers about the Marchmont to King's Buildings Cycle Route, which is understood to be in its final detailed design stages.

### **Newington Cemetery**

GPCC Member Janet Sidaway continues to be the enthusiastic Convenor of this Interest Group, with increasing numbers attending both the monthly working parties and the regular group meetings.

We entered for Doors Open Day last year and on Sunday afternoon the 28<sup>th</sup> September we had over 100 visitors to the Cemetery. We have just entered for the same event this year and so on Sunday afternoon 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 we shall be featuring another ten or so graves of interest with information displays and a walk round. The working parties can begin to see a result from their efforts in clearing undergrowth from carefully selected areas and general tidying up. A grant has been applied for through SCNP to erect a couple of information boards and we are looking into the scope for some headstone restoration through the "community payback" scheme. We continue to liaise closely with the CEC staff based at Mortonhall responsible for the Council's cemeteries and have greatly benefited from the active support of Councillor Jim Orr, who has also been involved with developing a long-term vision for the cemetery. We have also contributed to a recent Scottish Government consultation on possible changes to legislation governing burial and lair holding in cemeteries and related matters.

### **Planning**

Local Developments: In line with a city-wide trend, planning applications continue to increase in number, reflecting a desire perhaps to try to change what you have got rather than incur the cost of moving elsewhere. Most applications in our area are uncontroversial and we try to limit our representations to cases where we think planning guidance or the Local Plan has been infringed or where there could be adverse impacts on local residents or on Conservation Areas. Some significant local developments were approved during the year, including the Higgs Centre at the Royal Observatory, student housing at the printers site in Causewayside, flats at the former Barnardos Home at 91 South Oswald Road, 4 dwellings in a single block at the rear of the day nursery at 4 East Suffolk Road, new entrance walls at the King's Buildings Campus road accesses and a replacement house at 22 Observatory Road. At the year end, applications still to be dealt with include a scheme for 10 houses on the East Suffolk Road playing field, a small

funeral parlour at the Iqra Academy at 10 East Suffolk Road and proposals for enabling works to facilitate the redevelopment of the School of Biological Sciences at the King's Buildings Campus of Edinburgh University.

Major Developments: None in our area but we continue to monitor nearby proposals in case there could be impacts on our area or its residents.

Guidance Consultations: Comments were submitted on a draft revision of the Guidance on Student Housing and earlier in the year we made observations on the draft Street Design Guidance with a co-operative effort involving several GPCC Members.

Local Development Plan (LDP): The existing plan, the Edinburgh City Local Plan, was adopted on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Work stated on its replacement in 2011 and in May 2012 I reported on the Main Issues Report of this LDP, followed in May 2013 by a public consultation on the LDP on which we submitted extensive comments. By May 2014 the Scottish Government had required substantial changes to the LDP to allocate much more land for housing, necessitating another round of consultation later in the year on the revised plan LDP2, again on which we submitted representations. After further delays, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month the CEC Planning Committee resolved to submit LDP2 and its representations to Scottish Ministers for decision by a Reporter. Even if all goes smoothly from now on it will be 2016 before the LDP can be adopted, 5 years after this process started.

Tony Harris  
Chair GPCC

## Secretary's Report to GPCC AGM – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015

As previously, it is a pleasure to thank the Community Education Centre for allowing us to hold our regular monthly meetings here and free of charge. We also thank the staff at the Centre for their help and friendliness at all times.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday in most months (no meetings in July, August and December) which means that we hold nine meetings each year – more than the formal requirement for Community Councils to hold 6 meetings in a year. Details of meetings and the minutes of meetings are posted on the website [www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk](http://www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk) together with other items of importance. All meetings are open to members of the public – the agenda is also sent by email to members of the public who ask to be kept informed.

We are very grateful to our four councillors, at least one of whom attends the meetings on a rota basis. We also appreciate the presence of the Police at our meetings and thank them for their attendance and their input.

Some of the work carried out by other members of the GPCC is listed below – see also the report from Tony Harris.

**Transport Sub-group.** This group, chaired by Graham Dann, has been very active over the year. The group has pressed for speed surveys to be carried out in various streets in order to prove, what residents had suspected, that many vehicles exceed the 20mph limit. The group has responded to informal consultation documents on extending the 20mph limit and proposals for a cycle route from the Meadows to KB. Formal consultation is expected shortly. One proposal was submitted to the Roads Capital Funding – to resurface pavements in East Mayfield – unfortunately this was not highly rated at the Selection meeting. Last year's proposal to resurface part of the East Mayfield road surface is expected to be carried out shortly.

**Astley Ainslie and Royal Edinburgh Hospitals:** As most people will know the redevelopment of the REH site is now well under way. A group of representatives from the neighbouring Community Councils (GPCC, Marchmont and Sciennes CC, Merchiston CC, Morningside CC and Tollcross CC) have regular meetings with representatives of NHS Lothian to update us on plans and progress. We now understand that all facilities on the AAH site (including the Smart Centre) will be moved by about 2019 when the site is likely to be sold. Of particular interest to many CCs is the protection of walking and cycling routes through this site.

### **South Central Neighbourhood Partnership (SCNP) (next meeting Monday June 8th)**

The GPCC has a representative on the Board of the SCNP – at present the nominee is Sue Tritton.

A new Community Plan was agreed and there are now four sub-groups: the "Community Safety Action group" (GPCC rep is Mike Hunter); the "Active Living Action Group" (GPCC rep is David Stevenson); the "Dumbiedykes Quality of Life Group" and the "Children and Young Person's Action Group" (no GPCC rep on these two).

*Sue Tritton*