

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 15th June 2016

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

In Attendance: PC Ross Stewart, Anna Stamp (Edinburgh University) (**AS**)

Apologies: Hazel Dunn (**HD**), Derek Howie (**DH**), Julian Newman (**JN**),

Public: Irene Hood

Absent: Graham Muir (**GM**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Eileen Francis (**EF**)

1. Welcome - Introduction

Anna Stamp (Capital projects, University of Edinburgh) gave a presentation about the history of the Kings Building Campus since the purchase of the land in 1917. The aim of the present proposals is to transform the Campus into a world class campus with life outside normal working hours. The University would like to see activity over much longer and to create a friendly campus for both students and local residents. The idea is to provide a “front door” through the Ashworth building and to retain the open space feel of the area by moving car parking areas and encouraging more travel by cycling, walking or by public transport. She commented that the “quality bike corridor” from George IV Bridge to KB isn’t working. She then answered questions:

- TH asked about the status of the campus “Master Plan”. AS explained that this has no formal status so that it can evolve. The present application (just submitted) is for the Darwin Building and the next application is expected to be for Geoscience or Engineering.
- AG commented on the proposal for a through route for buses and said that many preferred quiet open spaces in the centre with no traffic.
- ST asked about the possibility of a cycle and pedestrian bridge over the railway line – this is apparently being considered.

JS thanked AS who left at 19.50

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting 18th May 2016

The minutes had been previously circulated; proposed by GD, seconded by DS. TH was thanked for doing these minutes (and those for the AGM) in the absence of the secretary.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

Nothing raised.

5. Arrangements for CC Elections

The nomination period for new Community councillors opens on 5th September and closes on 26th September. Cllr IP said that he will be the returning officer. He agreed that nomination forms will be sent to all existing councillors and to representatives of the nominated local interest groups. It was not clear if groups already registered with CEC would need to register again. Information about the Elections will be in the newsletter currently being prepared. Cllr IP agreed to let GPCC know how many applications had been received by the time of the September meeting. ST to email IP to remind him to do this. *(ST has since been notified that Cllr Cameron Rose will be the Returning Officer and she will inform him of actions given to Cllr IP)*

6. External Reports

a) Police Report: PC Stewart reported:

1. That in the Southside Newington ward all recorded crimes (dishonesty, violence, sexual etc.) are down except for “proactive” crimes which are up. Proactive crimes include possession of drugs or offensive weapons when the possession implies guilt – most of these are therefore recorded as solved.
 2. A Police Surgery is to be held in the Charteris Centre (Kirk O Fields) on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays (when there is a coffee morning) – the first will be on June 23rd. A surgery is also held in the Eric Liddell Centre on the last Monday each month.
- JS thanked the PC and congratulated the Police on this initiative.

b) Councillor’s Report:

Cllr IP said that because of the recent Elections the Council had partly shut down. He reported as follows:

- **Schools closures:** About 1000 children (mainly in primary schools) affected by the school closures will be back in their buildings before the end of term. The rest will be back by the start of the autumn term. All schools had now been inspected and maintenance work is carrying on.
- **Com Ed Centre:** There are also building problems in this centre (not built by any of the schools contractors). Independent inspector has until Christmas to report on the problems and the report should tell us if there is a problem in the building trade. He noted that CEC no longer has a clerk of works to oversee building works. TH commented that, in his experience, it is essential that a supervisor is present to oversee all such work.
- **St Crispin’s School:** BM said she had heard that this school is likely to be closed. Cllr IP said he was unaware of this but thought it could be connected with a review of special school provision in the city.

7. Reports of Interest Groups

a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated. The following needed discussion:

- **13 Mayfield Gardens:** This application mainly concerns the conversion of the basement into a separate flat and the creation of an external staircase. The meeting agreed to object to the LBC as the staircase affected the setting of a listed building.
- **17 East Suffolk Road:** The creation of an extensive paved area for car parking is considered excessive. This conflicts with planning guidance and the entrance is close to a junction. TH noted that CPA will object – he will email round an objection from GPCC and ask for comments.
- **Mentone Terrace:** Application for a low-lying house to replace garages which had never been used as the slope was too steep. Agreed to object.
- **20 Duncan Street:** Application for demolition refused (GPCC had objected) as there is no application for a replacement building.
- **Kings Buildings:** Application for the Darwin Building had just been submitted – consists of 77 documents. TH will ask for paper copies of the most significant documents and also ask for an extension to the consultation period.
- **Pollock Halls:** Noted that the University is opposed to the proposed cycle route from Holyrood Park to Ratcliffe Terrace passing through the Pollock Halls grounds.

b) **Roads and Transport – a report had been circulated:** GSD noted:

- **Holyrood – Ratcliffe Terrace cycle lane:** MH had attended a meeting – plans should be ready for consultation by the end of June.
- **Implementation of 20mph:** Various TROS had been issued.
- **Roads Capital Funding:** Previous applications for West Mayfield pavements and Priestfield Road should be revised and submitted again. Thought that the closing date is likely to be December 31st.

c) **Licensing.** Nothing to concern us in our area.

d) **Publicity - Newsletter.**

MH had circulated a draft text for the newsletter and received several comments. AG suggested that a short piece on the replacement trees in West Savile Terrace could be added, if there is space. MH's suggestion that the lead photo should be the cemetery was agreed. Everyone asked to check the draft and send comments to MH. The meeting congratulated MH on his work. It was expected that the printing cost would be about £500 – some money would be available for delivery. MH would approach BM's husband about printing again and also ask delivery companies for costs. The newsletter should be printed in early July and everyone was asked to indicate if they can help with delivery.

e) **Newington Cemetery:** BM reported:

- **Official visits:** Two benches, as promised by David Jamieson during his visit in May have already arrived and will be installed shortly.
- **Fallen Angel:** Grant has been paid to GPCC and the work should start soon.

8. Office Bearers Reports

a) **Chair's Report:** JS again thanked everyone for their work for the CC.

b) **Treasurer's Report:** No change in our bank balance (£1702.91) on our last statement (21 May) but since then £100 donation to Meadows Festival Society has gone out and £2191 Community Grant for Newington Cemetery (for the Fallen Angel) is on its way.

c) **Secretary's Report - circulated:** See SCNP meeting.

9. Reports of Outside Groups –

a) **SCNP** – Meeting Monday June 13th – attended by ST – see secretary's report

b) **EACC** – TH had attended last week's committee and reported that EACC is now functioning OK. There will be a Q&A on September 3rd – details will be circulated.

10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 21st September 2016

11. AOCB and Open Forum

Irene Hood was concerned about pedestrian routes through the Astley Ainslie grounds. Assured that GPCC is involved in meetings about this and that it is very likely that the routes will be formally adopted as public rights of way.

The meeting closed at 9pm