

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 18th January 2017

Present: Janet Sidaway (JS) (Chair), Mike Hunter (MH) (Vice-Chair), Tony Harris (TH), Andreas Grothey (AG) (Treasurer), Sue Tritton (ST) (Secretary), Maureen Edwards (ME), Graham Dann (GSD), Bill Reid (BR), Irene Hood (IH), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ), Denis Stevens (DeS), Joe Griffin (JG), Julian Newman (JN), Fraser Graham (FG), Eileen Francis (EF), Ian Chisholm (IC), David Stevenson (DS), Cllr Steve Burgess (SB),
In Attendance: PC Neil Mackay, Gareth Barwell (CEC, Waste Management Officer) (GB)
Apologies: Henry Philip (HP), Harry Mulligan (HM), Doreen Allerton (DA), Philip Murray
Public: Gordon McKenna (Relugas Gardens RA), Nick Kempself

1. Welcome

JS introduced Gareth Barwell, Waste Officer and Cleansing Manager, who gave an overview of the Service. In November, a “Waste and Cleansing Plan” had been produced; this related to issues raised by councillors, Community Councils etc. He agreed to circulate this plan. He said that there was a considerable amount of work to be done to implement all the changes:

- a) Transformation – used to be based in 6 neighbourhoods – want to deliver a local service with “waste” reported to a single officer (rather than having to decide if it was fly-tipping, litter etc.)
- b) Changes to special uplift charges – reduced to £5 – hoped that this will reduce fly-tipping. The Enforcement arm is to be strengthened.
- c) Individual bin collections – seem to be working OK (mainly)
- d) Communal bins – these are a major problem
- e) There are new transfer stations for waste; Incinerator with plans for “energy from waste” etc.
- f) Recruiting more permanent staff (rather than relying on agency staff) – who can build relationships with the community.
- g) Also need to change people’s behaviour; work with “take-aways” to reduce litter etc.

In response to question:

- a) ME asked about income from the incinerator. GB said the cost to landfill is now £115 per ton. Incinerator cost will be £10 – so a considerable saving.
- b) FG asked if there are any particular problems in the GPCC area. GB agreed to find out and send details – Industrial estates are bad for litter
- c) JN complained about leaves not cleared in this area. GB accepted this complaint.
- d) AG commented about the way individual bins are collected and not replaced; also, litter dropped while collecting bins is not picked up. GB explained that staff are now on duty for a whole shift and should therefore have time to “tidy up” (previously could leave once a collection route was completed).
- e) AG also commented about litter on cycle paths etc.
- f) TH said communal recycling bins are getting filled quickly, especially near shops. GB said that 54% of businesses don’t have a waste contract and may be tipping.
- g) IC said that Cllr Perry thought the service had seen too many financial cuts. GB thought they had enough money.

JS thanked GB for his attendance and presentation.

2. **Declarations of Interest.** None

3. **Minutes of the Meeting 16th November 2016**

The minutes had been previously circulated. Proposed by GSD, seconded by IH.

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

ST had given a present to the Centre and also sent a “get well” card to HP.

5. **External Reports**

a) Police Report: PC Mackay reported the following:

i) There had been lots of house break-ins in the Grange area – plain clothes officers are out in the area. However, there is a reduction in the number of break-ins compared with last year. One man had been caught for 21 break ins.

ii) Speed checks had been done, especially in the Prestonfield area – 625 motorists speeding had been detected.

iii) Pedal thefts continue – there had been one arrest.

iv) A male had been arrested for fireraising at the Mosque.

v) There are still drugs problems in Central and Southside – please phone 101 if anyone has any information.

In response to questions:

i) A German national had been arrested for the Salisbury Place assault

ii) Obstruction across driveways – complaints are only actioned if owner cannot exit the driveway.

iii) Is there any patterns about parking problems? PC reported that it is difficult to search for such figures – 7 relate to driveway obstruction in the Prestonfield area.

b) Councillor’s Report: Cllr SB reported the following:

i) The Council budget for 2017/18 will affect all services – they had anticipated a cut of 1.4% but it is likely to be twice that (3% - about £21million). Still awaiting proposals from Officers about the cuts – last year mainly to Leisure facilities; this year Libraries and Parks are likely to be affected.

ii) **South Central Decides.** Following matched funding there is £20k available for intergenerational projects – applications to be in by Friday (20th January).

iii) **Locality Improvement Plan:** GPCC is now in the SE Locality (one of 4 Localities). Services are being organised in the different localities. There will be a meeting for the SE Locality in the City Chambers on Feb 8th – need to book for this on Eventbrite.

iv) **Playing out Initiative:** GPCC had a presentation last year. CEC had run a “pilot” project but there was low uptake. A meeting of the Transport Committee had suggested that it should be easier to apply and if another pilot could be run. JG commented that an annual street party in Dalrymple Crescent found the forms very daunting to complete.

In response to questions:

i) FG asked about the priority of the roads budget – Cllr SB said he didn’t expect this to be cut; however lots of money is required to fix the roads problems.

ii) IC asked about a proposed increase in Council Tax. Cllr SB said the SNP Government proposal was to increase the tax for bands E-H and take this centrally. Opposition to this forced the SNP to agree that the money raised can go to the Councils and they will use another “pot” to help disadvantaged councils: this won’t lead to any increase for the funds available to CEC.

iii) **Tourist Tax:** CEC is in agreement to ask for this – legal advice is that the Government must give Councils the power to do this.

6. **Empowerment Act and 7. Flooding**

Deferred to February meeting.

8. **Reports of Interest Groups**

a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated – TH mentioned the following:

- **17 East Suffolk Road:** The new application had a slightly smaller footprint but is still overdevelopment of the site. There is a draft letter of objection in the circulation file – TH will email this to all – GPCC agreed to object.
- **Kings Building Campus – refurbish Murchison House:** Proposals welcomed. Agreed to write welcoming these.
- **Consultation on the Planning System:** This runs until 4th April – document is more like a “white paper” and runs to 58 pages. TH suggested looking at the document with a view to making comments.
- **Trees at “Salisbury Arms”:** Permission refused for work on the trees GPCC was most concerned about. However, it was suggested that people should keep an eye on these trees.

b) **Roads and Transport:** JS thanked GSD for his detailed email (9th January). The following points were raised:

- **Cameron Toll Bridge:** There had been 4 strikes in 3 years. There was a meeting in December with Cllr Orr and officials. Earlier prohibition of large vehicles would cause problems with vehicles entering the Industrial Estate. GSD has contacted Network Rail about the strikes.
- **Illegal right turn into Cameron House Avenue from Peffermill Road:** A suggested “pedestrian island” had been rejected by CEC officials for “technical reasons”. Prestonfield Primary School, which also has concerns about these turns, is working with CEC on a new travel plan.
- **Marchmont – KB Cycle route:** Report expected to go to the Transport Committee on 1st August.
- **20 mph sign removal:** ST had been in contact with CEC who said about 100 20mph signs could be removed when the 20mph zone is extended
- **Roads Capital Funding 2017/18:** GSD recommended part of (up to about £15k) of East Mayfield pavement. Relugas Gardens pavement resurfacing had been submitted by Relugas Gardens Residents Association.
- DES mentioned that Prestonfield Avenue and Priestfield Road are not on the CEC Capital programme and are in a very bad state of repair – these are too expensive for the “Roads programme”. Cllr SB suggested that GPCC should lobby for these roads to be included in the Capital programme. DES to provide details.

c) **Licensing.** Nothing in our area. However, TH pointed out the application for Aldi (in the old BHS store) in the Cameron Toll Shopping Centre to have an off sales licence.

d) Publicity – website. MH said GPCC does have a Facebook account. A Facebook Group page (GPCC-Edinburgh) has been set up by MH. This might have been better done from the GPCC Facebook account. FG suggested there should be a “like” (rather than “group”) page. MH and FG to liaise about this.

e) Newington Cemetery: JS reported:

- **Application for South Central Decides:** This has to be submitted by Friday – thanks to ERJ for all her work on this. Asking for £1500 to set up a nature trail to encourage younger people to enjoy the cemetery. All encouraged to attend the event on 4th Feb and vote for this project. Volunteers for the stall are needed – please volunteer to ERJ.
- **Snowdrop Walk:** Sunday February 26th.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

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

b) Treasurer’s Report: The current account balance (as at Dec 23) is £1673.05
Various cheques for Newington Cemetery have been cashed and membership of the Cockburn Association has been renewed. Since then £89.46 has been spent (website renewal and presents for Cameron House) leaving £1583.59 available to spend.

There was discussion about signage for Newington Cemetery – GPCC had made a “loan” to the Cemetery Group – could this be a “grant”? EF said that the CPA may offer to pay about 50% of the cost. AG will prepare information about this for the next meeting.

c) Secretary’s Report: A report had been circulated; points to note:

- i) Information about a Home Energy Advice Service and Secure Parcel Boxes to be circulated to everyone.
- ii) AAH site: Information from NHS Lothian about consultation on the future of this site is expected shortly.

10. Reports of Outside Groups

a) SCNP: ST had attended as the GPCC rep and JS and IH also attended. Neighbours affected by the problems caused by the “new” air-conditioning system at Newington Library had attended to explain the problems – the SCNP agreed that a report to the relevant CEC committee was required. There was consultation with everyone present about the “Locality Improvement Plan” and “City Vision for 2050” – the results of the Consultation will be reported later. There had been no subgroup meetings.

b) EACC: deferred to next meeting

11. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 15th February 2017

12. AOCB and Open Forum

- i) The members of the public thanked GPCC for allowing them to attend and make comments.
- ii) TH said that he had checked the date of the first meeting of this CC – 24 October 2007 – and wondered if GPCC might wish to have a “celebration” to mark the 10th anniversary.

The meeting closed at 9pm

