

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 15th February 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**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Fraser Graham (**FG**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Ian Chisholm (**IC**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Cllr Cameron Rose (CR), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Philip Murray (**PM**)

In Attendance: PC Chris Harris (CH)

Apologies: Henry Philip (**HP**), Harry Mulligan (**HM**), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (**ERJ**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Joe Griffin (**JG**), Irene Hood (**IH**)

Public: Gordon McKenna (Relugas Gardens RA)

1. Welcome

JS welcomed everyone, in particular our new Community PC, Chris Harris.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting 18th January 2017

The minutes had been previously circulated. Proposed by IC, seconded by DeS.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

ST had written to thank Gareth Barwell for his talk at the January meeting and would remind him about his promise to send details of litter “hot spots” in our area.

5. External Reports

a) Police Report: PC Harris introduced himself and said that he works with PC Neil Mackay in the “South Corridor” which covers the area from Hunter Square to Cameron Toll. GPCC is in “South East” area (one of four in the city) with 6 beat officers. PC CH said this means that Community officers are now able to prioritise community issues – a benefit of reorganisation. In January 2016 Chief Superintendent Kenny Macdonald was appointed Divisional Commander for Edinburgh and issues monthly reports which are very useful. He reported the following recent incidents and information

i) Last weekend these had included the abduction of a male in Comiston Road; a large “Trump Demonstration” (these are being called at very short notice and involve several police officers); the murder of a young lady (the murderer has been apprehended); Hearts/Hibs match; missing 13 year old who died as he didn’t have his medicine with him.

ii) Football matches: Police officers know who supporters are and who “trouble makers” are.

iii) Community Information: helpful if the community tells the Police about drugs etc. – not much information is provided from the GPCC area. Information can be provided anonymously by e.g. Crimestoppers.

- iv) The Drug problem in Hunter Square has moved to Nicolson Square – the police are there tonight trying to catch the culprits.
 - v) Local Road Safety: 20 mph (in new areas) becomes official on Feb 28th – at present Police stop motorists exceeding 20mph and warn them. One driver caught driving at 45mph along Grange Road has appealed to the Sherriff Court.
 - vi) New initiative on cyclists: police officers on bikes are trying to catch motorists driving too close to cyclists. He commented that both cars and bikes jump red lights.
 - vii) Most crimes in the area are down: crimes of violence down by 28%, robbery down by 46%, housebreak-ins down by 50% (39 fewer houses broken in)
- He provided copies of the Jan 2017 leaflet “Edinburgh South East Community Policing Team”
- In response to questions and comments:
- i) FG asked about a recent spate of house break-ins: PC CH said some criminals had been released in January – the police try to look out for these.
 - ii) MH said that as the 20mph area we were aware about enforcement problems etc. PC CH said that by “educating” drivers they are catching several people without MOTS, Insurance etc. He said the fines go to Holyrood and are then doled out to Charities.
 - iii) BR asked if there was an increase in “hate crimes”: PC CH said he was unaware of anyone with a disability who had been a victim but he is unsure of how such crimes are broken down.

JS thanked PC CH who left at 7.35pm

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

- i) He thought that following last month’s talk the waste collection in the area had improved.
- ii) **Council Budget:** With different funds coming from the Scottish Government it had effectively been a flat budget. There will be large increases in Council Tax (up to £600) for the top 4 bands plus a 3% increase for everyone plus inflation increases for water and sewage charges. The increase will remain in Edinburgh but the Government will make “adjustments”.
- iii) **Local NHS sites:** The Sick Kids is about to be sold and will be followed shortly by consultation on the future of the AAH site.
- iv) **Council changes:** About half the present councillors are standing down so the new Council will be very different.

In response to questions:

- i) BR asked about Library hours: At the last minute the Government had provided Edinburgh with an extra £12m; much of this will be used for libraries but some staff had already left.
- ii) FG asked if the budget will be affected by the new Council: As the recent budget starts in April most decisions will continue this year – there may be minor changes.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

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

- **20 Duncan Street:** The application for student housing is still waiting assessment.
- **East Suffolk Park:** Approved application is for 10 houses with 40% of the site to be a “public park”. TH feels the Council has ducked the issue of financing this and GPCC may need to be involved in the operation. Ned to keep a watching brief on this.
- **42 Grange Road:** This is a proposal to build a 2-storey house in the garden. TH considers this over-development and has drafted an objection. GPCC agreed to object.

- **Braidburn Inn:** Application for 50 student flats – close to KB. Although this is actually in the Liberton area it affects the GPCC area. A second application in 2016 for 89 flats was not notified to properties on the east side of Mayfield Road and didn't appear in the weekly lists. TH has been in contact with Liberton CC and Cllr Ian Perry is investigating. The case officer is "minded to grant – if GPCC had been aware of the application (5 floors) we would probably have objected – now too late. TH will report back
- **Consultation on the future of the Scottish Planning System:** TH is working on a response and is also involved in a response from EACC.
- **Delivery Boxes:** ST had received an email from Dale Finlayson (Waverley Park Feuers) expressing concern about the suggestion from a private company to roll-out such boxes. The meeting agreed with this concern – especially in conservation areas. ST and TH to alert Planning.
- **2 Marchhall Crescent:** GPCC had been contacted by a resident concerned about the felling of horse chestnut trees in the church garden – which is in the Blacket Conservation area. TH reported that there are no TPOs on any trees in the Blackets – however, the owners should have applied for permission to fell these trees. TH will contact Planning.

b) Roads and Transport: No report in the absence of GSD.

c) Licensing. Nothing in our area.

d) Publicity – website.

- **Facebook:** MH said he would set up a Facebook page, with advice from others, and asked all on Facebook to check this. MH wouldn't want to publicise this widely without more enthusiasm. FG asked to be added as an administrator. If they get a group running this might encourage more interest.
- **Newington Library:** FG had contacted the Library who would like to help with publicity etc. A possibility would be a Notice Board in front of the Library. ST said this had been investigated a few years ago and there are no objections, in principle, to this. Volunteers are needed to update a Board; a general poster about the GPCC would be useful material.

e) Newington Cemetery: JS reported:

- **South Central Decides:** The group had a stand at the meeting on February 4th – and came top when voting for the projects was counted. This means that £1500 was awarded to set up an intergenerational nature trail. ERJ had reported (by email) that the plan is to hold three workshops in April, June and July. She would welcome suggestions about nature trails other people have enjoyed.
- **Future plans:** JS reported the plan for the next year is sorted but planning beyond that is needed. The Cemetery will take part in Doors Open Day in September.
- **Snowdrop Walk:** Sunday February 26th.
- ME reported that an allotment holder makes bird boxes and bug houses and might provide some for the Cemetery.

f) Astley Ainslie site: ST reported that the Grange Association had arranged a meeting of local people interested in the site and 15 people, including ST and TH, attended a meeting on February 7th which was chaired by Daniel Johnston, MSP. This meeting was partly to advise everyone present of the timescales – the sale is expected in 2019 after all facilities move to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital site. NHS Lothian is expected to start consulting the local community about what would, and what would not, be acceptable development and the local CCs need to be able to advertise any consultation events to ensure that as many people as possible have to opportunity to attend.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

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

b) Treasurer's Report:

i) The current account balance (as at Jan 18th) is £1651.50. There are cheques £285.11 outstanding leaving GPCC with £1366.39 to spend.

ii) There has been some confusion over the funding provided for Newington Cemetery – one Neighbourhood Partnership grant was underspent and it is not clear if this can be used to cover additional expense for the signs. GPCC has lent £255 to the Newington Cemetery group to cover this. The Craigmillar Park Association has offered to pay 50% of the underspend/ - will decide next week. AG said there is no urgency to resolve this and the GPCC has sufficient funds to make the underspend a donation but that this should be formally decided,

c) Secretary's report. No report had been issued. ST said that she intends to stand down at the AGM and all should consider taking over this role.

8. Reports from Outside Groups:

a) SCNP and subgroups:

i) **Action Living Action Group:** DS reported: "The South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Active Living Action Group met on 6 February 2017. There was discussion of the "Mix and Mingle" event on 8 October 2016. This was regarded as successful though disappointingly few people attended. The question of repeating it in 2017 and how to encourage greater attendance was debated. The recent Intergenerational Participatory Budgeting Opportunity *South Central Decides, on 4 February* was also discussed - funding for the project at Newington Cemetery was top of the "winners" list for funding. It was felt that the event was worthwhile but it was suggested that in future doing it at least partly online might involve more people. I pointed out that a similar event, relating to how to combat Islamophobia, had been held on 28 January. I had been unaware of this until I found a leaflet about it after the event. Anyone interested can still participate online, until noon on 13 February.

ii) **Children and Young People's Group:** ERJ had been unable to attend and it was not known if IH had attended.

b) EACC: TH reported that there was a committee meeting on 9 Feb when Nick Croft spoke about the 4 "Localities" – GPCC is in the SE Locality. Each Locality has a small management team and all Council staff should know by mid-2017 where they are. EACC is now functioning much better. An "Equalities questionnaire" had been circulated – some people had asked why the questionnaire is required.

Cllr CR said that the next CEC Administration will decide if Neighbourhood Partnerships are still required now that the Council has divided into 4 Localities.

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 15th March 2017

10. AOCB and Open Forum

In response to a question Cllr CR said that GPCC might wish to re-align its boundaries to fit with the new CEC ward boundaries. FG agreed to look at this, to consult with Liberton CC and bring a proposal to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9pm