

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 19th April 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**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Ian Chisholm (**IC**), Fraser Graham (**FG**), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (**ERJ**), Henry Philip (**HP**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Joe Griffin (**JG**), Cllr Ian Perry (**IP**)

In Attendance: PC Neil Mackay (**NM**)

Apologies: Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Philip Murray (**PM**), Julian Newman (**JN**)

Absent: Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Harry Mulligan (**HM**), Irene Hood (**IH**)

Public: Gordon McKenna, Simon Pectenbug

1. Welcome

JS welcomed everyone and thanked MH for chairing the March meeting in her absence.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting 15th March 2017

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

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

Everything would come up as an agenda item.

5. External Reports

a) Police Report: PC Mackay reported the following:

i) **The “end of crime year”** report for South Central had seen a 2.5% drop in crime. Proactive policing (e.g. drugs) had seen a 5% increase in detection. House break-ins are the No 1 priority – had reduced by 25% but would remain as the top priority.

ii) **Police publicity:** A public meeting at Mayfield Church was attended by about 50 residents who were mainly concerned about house break-ins; updates have been given on Facebook and Twitter; leaflets are available on the table.

iii) **House Break-ins:** A 24-year old male had been apprehended – he had been charged with 76 offences around Edinburgh. There had been a number of break-ins in Prestonfield and Grange – an 18 year old male (now in custody) and a 15 year old female (now in secure accommodation) had been charged with 6 offences and stolen property had been returned to the owners.

iv) **Road Safety:** Police are targeting speeding on Grange Road and drivers without insurance had been identified. One drunk driver had no licence and no insurance.

v) **Operation Eagle:** Drug use in Dumbiedykes and Southside had resulted in 3 people being charged with heroin – all resulted from the Police being provided with information.

In response to questions and comments:

i) AG asked about taxis speeding – he felt that commercial vehicles are the main speeding offenders. PC NM said that taxis have been stopped and he also reminded us that the public can report offences by taxis (by noting the taxi number) to the CEC Taxi Office at licensing@edinburgh.gov.uk.

ii) IC said that the Blasket Neighbourhood Watch had received reports of doorstep and online scams. He asked if there are any details about this. PCNM said these offences are recorded nationally and not by local area.

JS thanked PC NM who then left.

b) Councillor's Report: Cllr IP said that, due to two imminent elections, there had not been much activity even though councillors remain in place until the day following the Council Election on May 4th. Ian Murray, MP has been on the campaign trail – the big issue is traffic, especially in the Priestfield area. There is also concern about too few controlled parking spaces in Priestfield.

Questions and Comments for Cllr IP

- a. GSD asked about the general state of the roads. Cllr IP said that this is a budget problem and all parties agree that more needs to be spent on road maintenance. About £20m increase has been agreed for 2017/18 – but this will mean a reduction in another budget. A further £50m will have to come off the Council Budget over the next 5 years – the new Council will have difficult decisions to make. ME asked about the income from fines and parking charges etc. – Cllr IP said these are ring-fenced for the road budget. BR asked that pavements should also be considered. Cllr IP said that “roads” means “roads and pavements”.
- b. JS asked about the school buildings problems – is there anything in our area – e.g. Cameron House. Cllr IP thought this was a completely different problem – poor drainage in the area and not related to poor building. He said about another 70 schools in Scotland had identified construction problems. FG asked if there could be charges against the contractors. Cllr IP explained that the Council used to have a clerk of works to supervise building projects – outside contractors are now used but this is clearly not working. The Council will employ a clerk of works to supervise new projects such as the new Boroughmuir School. TH agreed with Cllr IP that self-certification doesn't work.

6. Possible GPCC Boundary revision

At the February meeting it was suggested that it might be sensible to ask for the Cameron Toll Shopping Centre to be included in the GPCC area. It was also noted that the new boundaries for the Southside Newington ward are moving south – to include small areas previously in the Liberton-Gilmerton ward area and which are in Liberton CC and Gilmerton CC areas. At the last (March) meeting it was decided to defer further discussion until details of what would be involved could be provided. MH had provided maps showing the boundaries of the various CC areas involved and the new ward boundary.

There are three options for GPCC to consider:

1) Move Cameron Toll Shopping Centre into GPCC area. This area is within the boundary of Gilmerton CC and doesn't involve any residents. However, residents most affected by planning applications etc. live in the GPCC area. To ask for the Shopping Centre to be included in GPCC would not involve including any residents in the move. In 2009 GPCC asked for, and this was approved, the Royal Observatory to be included in the GPCC area rather than in Morningside CC area. The access to the Royal Observatory is up Observatory Road which is in the GPCC area. Lady Road was also added to the GPCC area.

2) Move a small area from Liberton to GPCC to coincide with new ward boundaries:

In Liberton CC area – Mid Liberton, Orrok Park – approx. 145 addresses

3) Move two small areas from Gilmerton Inch CC to GPCC:

In Gilmerton CC area – Old Mill Lane etc. - approx. 30 addresses

Cameron Toll Gardens etc. – approx. 100 addresses

There was considerable discussion about whether to pursue any of these options; Cllr IP suggested contacting Sarah Burns (SCNP Manager) to see if the Council would even consider the proposal. Others felt that the two affected CCs should be contacted before approaching the Council and this was agreed. It was also agreed to delay any further discussion until June, after the Elections.

7. GPCC 10th Anniversary – October 2017

Agreed to ask the new councillors, following the CEC Elections, if they could arrange for a Celebration to be held in the City Chambers.

8. Reports of Interest Groups

- a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated. TH commented that his report had increased from one side of A4 to two sides- mainly due to increasing number of applications and the time taken to determine them. He said that no decisions needed to be taken tonight. However, the following should be noted:
- **200 Mayfield Road - Braidburn Inn:** This matter relates to the non-appearance in the weekly lists of an application to build 89 student flats. Following help and advice from Cllr IP a reply to the queries raised by TH was received from Paul Devaney, Planning Team Leader. Despite failures in the CEC system there is no action which can now be taken as there is no “third party right of appeal”. The meeting agreed that TH should write to Paul Devaney asking what measures have been taken by CEC to ensure that such mistakes won’t happen again. It was also noted that all CC planning representatives involved are asking that there should be third party rights of appeal.
 - **Consultations:** Various consultations have closing dates in June and TH will bring possible responses to the May meeting.

JS thanked TH and congratulated him on the work he does on Planning matters for GPCC.

b) **Roads and Transport:** GSD said that in the past few days there had been several emails about consultations etc.

1. **Scottish Parking Consultation:** there are 25 questions in an on-line survey – difficult to complete on behalf of GPCC. Suggested that people look at the survey and a response from GPCC could be made to particular points – e.g. parking on pavements. Send comments to GSD before the May meeting
2. **Parking in Macdowall Road:** Proposing new yellow lines to avoid parking on pavements. Cllr Burgess had reported that the proposals are supported by the residents. GSD suggested GPCC should support the residents’ wishes.
3. **Quiet Walking and Cycling routes:** Proposal for three pedestrian and/or cycle crossings on Grange Road to aid walking and cycling.
4. **Marchmont-KB cycle route:** This was first proposed in 2013 – Cllr Orr has said it is now unlikely to happen before 2018/19
5. **Roads Capital Programme:** As the budget for this programme has still to be agreed the decision is delayed until July – voting may be on-line.
6. **Priestfield Parking:** Residents are pressing for a review of parking spaces.
7. **Disabled Bays:** Many are thought to be no longer wanted – GSD to contact Steve Cuthill about these. To be legal the bays need a plate on the wall/fence – not just a painted bay.
8. **20mph signage in Craigmillar Park:** Agreed that Craigmillar Park is still 30mph and that there were confusing signs which have now been removed.

c) **Licensing.** TH said there is consultation (until 19 May) about late hours catering and delivery. Would deliveries late at night cause disturbance?

d) **Publicity:** MH reported no progress with Facebook – he will meet FG and bring proposals to the next meeting. It was also agreed to prepare a general flyer (A5) to publicise the GPCC.

e) **Newington Cemetery:**

1. **Nature Trail:** The nature trail funded by the SCNP grant at “South Central Decides” is being organised by ERJ. Agreed dates, both from 2-3.30pm are Sunday 30th April and Saturday 10th June. This intergenerational project includes kids activities, bug hotels etc. and advice from the RSPB. All help welcomed.
2. **Cemetery Working group:** TH reported that they are clearing the area around the “Shirley Grave” – aim to plant up when cleared. Next meeting of the Interest Group is 10th May at 7.30pm at Priestfield Church. Looking at candidates for Doors Open Day in September.

f) Astley Ainslie site: ST reported that NHS Lothian has proposed a “Consultation Forum” with community reps to consider development of the site and how and when there should be full public consultation. A professional planner, Alan Farningham, had joined the group of community reps. The first meeting of the Forum is scheduled for Thursday 27th April – ST and TH will represent GPCC.

9. Reports from Office Bearers

a) Chair’s Report: JS said that the next meeting will be the AGM followed by a normal Business meeting. At the AGM there will be elections for all the office bearers – people can be nominated at the meeting but it would be useful to know in advance if anyone would be interested in any of the positions. In particular, a new secretary is required as ST will not stand again.

b) Treasurer’s Report: AG reported that the current balance in account is £2934.30(of which £1500 is for the Newington Cemetery group from South Central Decides).

Outstanding is £84.69 (website renewal) which leaves GPCC with £1349.60 available to spend.

c) Secretary’s report. A report had been circulated.

10. Reports from Outside Groups:

a) SCNP and subgroups: There had been no meetings.

b) EACC: TH reported that there had been a committee two weeks ago. The EACC had sent in a response to the consultation on the Scottish Planning system and this response was confirmed as also being from the GPCC. The EACC is also looking at the CEC division of the city into four localities.

11. Date of next meeting which will also be the AGM – Wednesday 17th May 2017

12. AOCB and Open Forum

Nothing was raised.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm