

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**Minutes 17 May 2017**

**Present:** Janet Sidaway (**JS**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice-Chair), Tony Harris (**TH**), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Sue Tritton (**ST**), Joe Griffin (**JG**) (Secretary), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Phil Murray (**PM**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Bill Reid (**BR**), Ian Chisholm (**IC**), Irene Hood (**IH**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Fraser Graham (**FG**), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (**ERJ**), Henry Philip (**HP**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Cllr Alison Dickie (**AD**)

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

**Apologies:** David Stevenson (**DS**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Ian Murray (**IM**), Steve Burgess (**SB**)

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

**1. Welcome**

**JS** welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the GPCC following the AGM.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

None.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting 19 April 2017**

The minutes had been previously circulated. Proposed by **FG**; Seconded by **MH**.

**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:

Operation Eagle had seen community officers seize £40,000 worth of class A drugs – heroin, crack, cocaine, herbal cannabis - and £2000 in cash. 3 men had been charged in connection with supply of drugs.

An 18 year old male and a 15 year old had been identified for 28 house break-ins in Prestonfield. The 18 year old was being held on remand; the 15 year old was in secure accommodation, and had been reported to the Children's Reporter.

There had been 8 vehicles identified at exceeding the 20mph speed limit, following road checks with a speed gun.

A number of pedal cycles had been recovered, with 5 high value bicycles returned to their owners. The suspect was a 16 year old.

Investigations continued into the vandalism of a number of model cows at Prestonfield. A group of young males was suspected. The police should be called if anyone saw anything.

In answers to questions, **NM** said:

The police suspect a connection between a particular group of people choosing to walk through the cemetery and a recent small fire there.

There had been numerous calls about 2 men, which had been fed back to the local housing officer. No court citation had been received yet.

The use of pepper sprays was not legal, nor were DNA sprays if used to cause injury.

**JS** thanked **NM** who then left.

**b) Councillor's Report** – **AD** said it was lovely to be here. As a new Councillor she was looking forward to working with her colleagues in the ward. At present, new Councillors were getting extensive training and making as many connections as possible. **AD** asked for any recommendations from the Community Council for things to see and people to visit.

## **6. Possible GPCC Boundary revision**

**MH** said that the issue was summarised in the minutes of the last meeting. There were three options – 1) move Cameron Toll into the Grange and Prestonfield Community Council area; 2) move a small area from Liberton to Grange and Prestonfield Community Council to coincide with new ward boundaries; 3) move two small areas from Gilmerton Inch Community Council to Grange and Prestonfield Community Council. Following discussion, it was agreed that:

- there was considerable merit in Cameron Toll being included in the Grange and Prestonfield Community Council area (option 1), given that the residents of the Grange and Prestonfield Community Council area had more of a stake in developments in Cameron Toll than anyone else;
- nothing should be done that would cause offence to other Community Councils or suggest, incorrectly, that we were taking a predatory approach;
- **TH** should make an informal approach to the other Community Councils involved, as a possible prelude to more formal discussions.
- The views of the City Councillors would be key in determining the appetite for pursuing options 2) and 3).

## **7. GPCC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – October 2017**

It was agreed that the Community Council should have an event, in October, at City Chambers. Existing members (only) would be asked to make individual contributions to cover the cost of catering.

## **8. Reports of Interest Groups**

### **a) Planning:**

**TH** referred to the circulated report.

There had been one relevant application in between meetings: the revival of a scheme for sheltered housing on the former Blackford Station site. **TH** had put in an objection on this new application, and **ST** noted that individual objections would also be helpful.

The Council had now approved a new scale of fees and arrangements for 3 year HMO licences. Any new applicant will only get a 1 year licence, with future renewals depending on conduct.

Planning guidance out for consultation at the moment included: a) the old New Town management plan: part of the world heritage site; and b) the town centre plan including Nicolson and Clerk St. GPCC would not be submitting a view on either, but individuals were free to.

**TH** suggested two things we should comment on: 1) Design Guidance, and in particular changes to standards for parking (moving from standards of minimum to maximum provision). The intention was to encourage public transport use and discourage parking provision in planning applications. However, it raised a potential concern that unscrupulous developers might exploit the change and caused additional pressure on street parking. **TH** suggested that the planning subgroup should come to a view on this and submit comments. 2) Guidance for householders, which constituted a good effort at tidying up the document.

### **b) Roads and Transport:**

**GSD** said that there was little new to report. **ME** confirmed that she had not yet had a reply to her concerns about disabled parking bays not being used. **Cllr AD** said she would look into it, as well as another query from **JN** about resident priority parking (which **GSD** said he would brief her on).

### **c) Licensing:**

Dealt with under planning.

### **d) Publicity:**

**FG** circulated a proof version of a proposed flyer. There was some discussion about the relative merits of card or paper, and a suggested editing change covering the reference to an “elected” body. There was also a preference for an image to be used that included people as well as a landscape. The issue was remitted to the publicity interest group, with the aim of a flyer being ready in time for the Meadows Festival.

**FG** also advised that the Community Council now had a Facebook page, and suggested we should post minutes, the results of AGM, updates on Friends of Newington cemetery. **FG** said he would circulate a link to it. **ERJ** suggested we should publicise other community events too, not just our own. **TH** suggested we should remove the old Facebook page.

### **e) Newington Cemetery:**

**ERJ** debriefed on the first nature trail event on 30 April, which had been very successful. Having hoped for 30 people, 50 turned up on the day together with 10 or so volunteers. The intergenerational aspect had been particularly strong, with lots of activities, including the construction of a big bug hotel, 11 different bird boxes and 30 bird and butterfly feeders. Feedback had been very good. A second event was planned for 10 June, with a request for volunteers on the day. This would include the rebuild of the bug hotel after it was seemingly destroyed by a deliberate fire. Flyers were available from **EJ** on request.

**ME** asked if we should inform the City Council that wire fencing at the bottom end of the cemetery had been cut open. **JS** said we should. **TH** suggested that the Cemetery interest group were investigating the feasibility of having a proper path parallel to the wall. This would resolve the issue.

### **f) Astley Ainslie site:**

**ST** advised that there were 3 separate groups working with the issues raised by the disposal of the Astley Ainslie site. The NHS were running a formal consultation process leading up to a masterplan – the first meeting had been in the previous week. **ST** was heartened by the work planned by the NHS to involve the community and undertake the different surveys in the grounds. A couple of planning experts were regularly coming to the meetings now. The first NHS public consultation was expected at the turn of the year, with the aim of the masterplan going to committee about a year later, and the site going to market in 2019.

**JS** suggested detailed questions should go to **ST** or **TH**. Astley Ainsley was adjacent to our area rather than in it, but was important for our residents, not least as a walking route to Morningside.

## **9. Reports from Office Bearers**

### **a) Chair's**

Nothing to add to the report submitted at the AGM.

### **b) Treasurer's**

Nothing had happened to the account since last statement on 20 April. As per that month's report, there was £2934.30 in the bank, with £1349.60 available (i.e. expenditure that was not committed in principle)

### **c) Secretary's**

As outgoing secretary, **ST** raised the issue of Newington library and noise levels from the air conditioning. The Neighbourhood Partnership were meant to have passed a complaint to the relevant Council committee. It had been hoped that the air conditioning would be switched off on public holidays when the library was closed. However, the system had run over the Easter weekend. **ST** said she would raise this at the next Neighbourhood Partnership meeting; Cllr **AD** said she would make some enquiries.

**JS** noted that it had been an ongoing problem, and suggested it should be an agenda item next month.

## **10. Reports from Outside Groups:**

**a) SCNP and subgroups:** the SCNP wouldn't meet until 12 June. As discussed earlier, the subgroups were non-functioning at present.

**b) EACC:** there had been no committee meeting since last GPCC meeting. **TH** would be taking forward concerns he had raised tonight about planning consultation documents.

## **11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21st June 2017**

## **12. AOCB (including items from the Public)**

**BR** reported that he had been told by the supermarket in Cameron Toll shopping centre that, as a blind customer, he should phone in ahead of shopping. There was no company policy of this kind. Cllr **AD** said she would raise with City Councillor colleagues.

The meeting closed at 21:03