

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**Minutes 21 June 2017**

**Draft for approval at next meeting**

**Present:** Janet Sidaway (**JS**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice-Chair), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Tony Harris (**TH**), Sue Tritton (**ST**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), William Reid (**WR**), Ian Chisholm (**IC**), Irene Hood (**IH**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Fraser Graham (**FG**), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (**ERJ**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Councillor Cameron Rose (**Cllr CR**).

**In Attendance:** PC Christopher Harris.

**Apologies:** Joe Griffin (**JG**) (Secretary), Henry Philip (**HP**), Graham Dann (**GSD**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Ian Murray, MP, Daniel Johnson, MSP.

**Absent:** Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Harry Mulligan (**HM**), Philip Murray (**PM**).

**1. Welcome**

**JS** welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the new GPCC.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting 17 May 2017**

The minutes had been previously circulated. Approval as a correct record proposed by **IC**; seconded by **AG**.

**4. Matters Arising not covered by agenda**

- a) GPCC Boundary revision – **TH** had contacted the Chair of Gilmerton Straiton CC (**GSCC**), who would put the idea to the **GSCC** planning group. Further action would depend upon the response from **GSCC**.
- b) Thank you letter and card to Jim Orr - **JS** confirmed this had been sent.
- c) **JS** had contacted the Cemetery staff about broken fence in Newington Cemetery next to Dalkeith Road. It would be mended shortly.

**5. External Reports**

**a) Police Report:**

PC Christopher Harris reported the following:

Localities: the police were waiting for clarification on the boundaries within the four localities before they changed their own area organisation.

The recent focus in policing had been on terrorism, implications of the Grenfell Tower fire and protection of mosques.

On terrorism, Scotland did not have a significant known threat. We must be alert but not alarmist. The central mosque and three others were in the police area – PC Harris had been going out to them to reassure them and also considering reports of possible extremism, and what plans they had in place to counter that. The central mosque had a very good programme of lectures to counter extremism.

On-going action against crime had included an arrest for housebreaking in Morningside, visits to a problematic resident (a heavy service user), and a warrant in Clearburn for drugs. Hopefully the benefit would be seen in Priestfield/Prestonfield.

PC Harris did not have the most recent statistics on local crime, but there had been a reduction in incidents. He would email them afterwards.

The following questions were asked:

**IC** – queried the number of stolen vehicles in Blacket – and suggested putting them in the context of a broader picture of criminal activity in the area. In his own area most inquiries were concerned with scams, and he wondered what information was available. PC Harris would investigate but it was likely that the heading ‘fraud’ would encompass computer, doorstep and other scams so might not provide what was wanted. He also pointed out that scams were dealt with by the CEC trading standards – so that should be the first point of contact. The central unit operated under COSLA, which addressed

issues across Scotland and the UK. There had been successes in big inquiries into scams involving the mis-selling of boilers, solar equipment, windows, but it was very labour intensive. There would be a joint operation in the future linking trading standards, customs, and police.

**WR** – asked about possible increases in hate crime against disabled people. PC Harris responded that hate crime figures are not broken down enough to be linked to disability race, sex, or sexual orientation. It was complicated because there are stand-alone hate crimes and also aggravators. He had not heard of a crime being committed because of a disability in the last 5 years. WR thought that there was a low level of such crime and that many people did not feel safe, especially disabled people with more limited mobility. PC Harris reported that there was an awareness of vulnerabilities – he had attended a course in relation to children and children with disabilities. He urged people to call 101 or 999 if something happened. Even if it were not identified as a crime, it could be recorded as a hate incident.

**FG** – asked about terrorist threats, and whether increased police patrols in the city centre were taking patrols away from the GPCC area. PC Harris said that that was not the case as patrols were increasing, which meant more police time on the street, in all areas, rather than doing back-up paperwork.

**JS** thanked PC Harris who then left.

## **b) Councillors' Report**

Councillor Cameron Rose reported on two major items:

CEC administration and the main executive committees: These were expected to be agreed the following day. Full details would be on the CEC website (<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings>). In the hiatus since the election on May 5, the main work had been conducted by council officers and the chief executive.

Neighbourhood Partnerships: The change to four localities would also mean change in management supervision. This has not progressed yet. Devolving of a number of issues to localities, such as scrutiny of police and fire, could reduce the number of main committees. The broad consensus was that it would push more responsibility to localities, which will inevitably be bigger than the current NPs. Consultation would continue over the summer. Full Council would be in recess in July, but there would still be some committee meetings.

Proposals for the possible remit and constitution of localities and their governance, including overlap/boundary crossover of wards and CCs, would be discussed in August. GPCC is part of the new South East locality, consisting of four wards, 16 councillors and a number of CCs. Common sense would suggest that a move towards coterminous boundaries should be made, including if feasible police and other services.

In discussion, **MH** asked how GPCC would be consulted. **Cllr CR** said it be part of the remit of the new localities governance. **TH** commented that one reason we had discussed GPCC boundary changes was to reduce ward councillors having to attend multiple meetings because of the boundary overlaps.

**MH reported** that we had received an email from Sarah Burns that existing Community Grant applications would be dealt with by SCNP officers. Roads Capital and other programmes were uncertain.

**FG** asked about the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower disaster, and whether CEC considered upgrading cladding. **Cllr CR** reported that a briefing note had been circulated to councillors. None of the blocks in Edinburgh had used the same cladding. No decisions had yet been made about improving safety in council blocks by putting in sprinklers.

**JS** thanked **Cllr CR**, who left after Agenda Item 8.

## **6. Arrangements for Tenth Anniversary**

**ST** reported that Cllr Alison Dickie (**AD**) had provisionally booked the European Room on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> or 25 October. She (**ST**) suggested 25 October was preferable because it was a month after the first autumn meeting, and that the timing should be 6-8pm with drinks and light nibbles. GPCC councillors would be asked to pay around £20 each. Suggestions for speeches, notice board, pictures etc should be given to **ST**. Once the date was decided, **ST** would contact former councillors.

**MH** reported that **EF** had informed him that 25 October clashed with the Craigmillar Park Association AGM. It was agreed that **ST** should ask **AD** whether there were a date available in early November.

## 7. **Newington Library**

**ST** reported that residents were still disturbed by the sound of the air conditioning unit running when the Library was not in use over weekends and bank holidays, although the problem of it running overnight had stopped. **Cllr CR** said it would be discussed by the Council the next day. He also asked **ST** to circulate the report on the technical issues and how they were being tackled. However, he recognised the central point that there were still unresolved issues, and further action was urgently needed.

**AG** wondered how many other buildings owned or operated by CEC allowed air conditioning to operate over the weekends.

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

### a) **Planning/licensing (TH)**

**Licensing:** Nothing to report.

**Planning:** See written report. No decisions on applications were required at the meeting.

**Issues outside GPCC area:** Consent 15/03566/FUL. **TH** had visited the site and was appalled by arrangements for pedestrians and had reported the problem to the CEC. **DA** had also experienced similar dangers there. **Cllr CR** took note.

**TH** had submitted comments on GPCC's behalf to two consultations – Householders, and Edinburgh Design Guidance. The DG was discussed at the civic forum. **ST** congratulated **TH** on responding to the DG consultation.

**Broadband cabinet in Waverley Feuars:** **JN** provided an update. The WF Committee had a meeting with Chris Dalton of Openreach who said that the existing cabinet could link to a new cabinet in Priestfield Road. He will authorise a rod and rope test across Dalkeith Road and instruct another survey. It was not clear whether the new cabinet is already in place.

### b) **Roads/Transport (MH reported on behalf of GSD who is on holiday)**

#### Problems with Residents Priority Parking:

GPCC can take some credit for organising 2 well-attended public meetings, which led to residents priority parking in our area and which the City Council is now extending. Problems for residents include continued commuter parking – especially in Priestfield from Scottish Widows.

**GSD** has arranged a meeting with Scottish Widows, he hopes to get an agreement from SW and others to hold a public meeting on problems with commuter parking in the area. CC to support.

**CR** – priority parking has been hugely successful – although with pinch points.

**MH** – has been a success, but promises to review have not materialised.

**CR** – roads engineers are under-resourced and have not delivered, projects have foundered because no one is drawing up the plans. New Administration might make a difference. It is on the agenda for the local councillors meeting.

**TH** – if we review the RPP areas not to be limited. B1 – becoming difficult for residents to find spaces. Good time to review the number of priority places.

**CR** – progress needs to be targeted and prioritised. Priestfield is a huge pinch point.

**IC** – CPZone 7 – dual use of parking bays, lots of things have not yet happened.

**JN** had emailed Alison Dickie on problems in B1. Need for a cross-zone consultation.

**CR** – the CC should make representations to the appropriate cttee, possibly the locality or the Transport and Environment Committee.

**TH** – good task for the GPCC to review residents parking in the autumn.

**CR** – that is helpful, but there has been a build up of similar projects, so expectations should be realistic.

### Consultation on New Cycle Routes:

The Marchmont-KB cycle route, on which we were consulted more than two years ago, still looks unlikely to proceed until 2019.

Consultation on the latest version of QuietRoute 30 (Holyrood Park Road to Ratcliffe Terrace) began May 19 and we must respond by June 30. This route is mainly through the Blasket Conservation Area and therefore of particular interest to amenity groups therein, the Blasket Association to the east of Minto Street and the West Blasket Association to the west, both of which have representation on the Community Council. Members of both Associations have examined the proposals in detail, attended a public meeting at Newington Library on May 31st, consulted their members and encouraged them to comment individually, discussed in committee and prepared draft comments. This major cycle route has already been a long time in preparation and it is likely to be several years before final approval and implementation, in particular because of the uncertain involvement of the Park authorities and the University.

**ERJ** – we can support the general idea of cycle routes, but it could also be extended.

**ST** – projects founder because there are too many issues, then almost agreement, but then they stall. Can we encourage something to happen.

**CR** – prioritisation is an issue. Dalkeith Road – biggest problem is state of the road surface and pavement. Case for combining surface and cycle route. Bigger problem is too many unfulfilled promises.

**AG** – lots of money for cycle routes, but not enough people to execute plans?

**CR** – staffing and money are the issues. CEC operates match funding with Transport Scotland.

**WR** – raised issue of need for some tactile indication of cycle paths for blind people and other pedestrians.

#### **c) Communications/Publicity (MH)**

Publicity leaflet: **FG** has designed and had printed 2000 flyers at an excellent price. GPCC members were encouraged to take and distribute as many as they could. Copies had been or would be put in the information box at Newington Cemetery and Newington Library.

New Facebook page is now functioning.

Website software: **AG** reported that it needed to be updated, which might mean the site would be down for a while, so summer was a good time to deal with it. **FG** volunteered to help.

Newsletter /questionnaire suggestion: **FG** suggested a dual purpose newsletter to discover local feeling on a particular issue like parking with a survey. **AG** agreed it was important to give people a way to give us feedback. It was agreed that the Communication sub group should discuss other ways to publicise the community council, and that the idea of a survey should be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

#### **d) Newington Cemetery (ERJ)**

The second nature trail on 10 June had been another great success, with more than 40 children and families engaged, and lots of new visitors. The focus was to encourage the participating children to appreciate the diversity of the wild life they could find. The RSPB had again been very helpful. The monthly Working Party on June 12 had focused on clearing graves for Doors Open Day on Sept24.

**ME** raised concerns that we were encouraging people to use the cemetery as a playground. All agreed it was important to remember the prime function of the cemetery, and keep the right balance. However, **TH** noted that the cemetery was designed as part of the garden cemetery movement to encourage visiting families to enjoy the trees and environment.

#### **e) Environment (ST)**

Astley Ainslie site – as reported on May 17, three separate, overlapping groups were involved in the redevelopment plans. The next meeting planned for 22 June would look at the whole Royal Edinburgh and AAH redevelopment. NHS had not as yet published a clinical masterplan to move patients. Minutes of the encouraging first meeting of the formal consultation group are on the Grange Association website (<http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/>)

Street cleaning: **ST** had been trying unsuccessfully to get information from Gareth Barwell as some areas had not been cleaned since last August. This was disappointing given the positive talk he gave GPCC in January. **TH** informed the meeting that GB has been promoted to Head of Place Management at The City of Edinburgh Council, so is no longer directly in charge of waste and cleansing, though the department is one of the responsibilities of his new role.

**DA** reported that the blue bin at the Viewpoint housing complex is not getting emptied. She asked **Cllr CR** to see if he could help remedy the situation.

## 9. Reports of Office Bearers

### a) Chair's Report

**JS** thanked the members for all that they did for the GPCC

### b) Treasurer's Report

**AG** reported that, as of end of May, there was £2,787.35 in the GPCC account, of which £1,340 belonged to Newington Cemetery. In addition, (£2,000) donated for a specific restoration project at Newington Cemetery had been received. GPCC therefore had £1,300 – and would receive a grant of about £700 over the summer.

### c) Secretary's Report

**JS** thanked **ERJ** for agreeing to record notes of the meeting in the absence of **JG**. She then clarified the current situation regarding the office of Secretary. She explained that, at the AGM, **JG** had agreed to stand for election as secretary at her request, on the basis that he did what was defined in the GPCC Constitution as the secretary's role. This was to "keep a record of the names of representatives present at each meeting of the Council or of any Sub-Committee", and to "keep the minutes of all meetings of the Community Council and of any Sub-Committees". The secretary is also responsible for calling meetings "by notice in writing not less than 7 days before the date of the meeting", and the notice should include the agenda. **JS** apologised for any misunderstanding that had arisen at the AGM. Meanwhile she and **MH** in his role as Vice Chair were jointly dealing with the other aspects of the job that **ST** had undertaken.

All members past and present appreciated how much **ST** had done above and beyond the role as described in the Constitution; and it was regrettable that no one either before or at the AGM volunteered to take on the role as she had developed it.

It was agreed that more clarity at the AGM would have been helpful, but that the practical challenge posed by **ST**'s resignation had caused a difficult situation. **JG** was thanked in his absence for generously offering to help out by doing the job as constitutionally defined, and it was agreed that the role should be reviewed if a volunteer for the job of Secretary came forward.

## 10. Reports of Outside Groups

- a) SCNP and sub Groups– no meetings had been held pending organisational changes.
- b) EACC meeting – **TH** had attended a development forum which considered hotels and tourism, the lack of 5 and 6 star hotels in Edinburgh, and the adverse impact of Airbnb on the budget hotel sector.

## 11. Date of Next Meeting:

September 20, 2017, at 7.00 pm.

It had been confirmed that we could continue to meet at Cameron House.

## 12. AOCB

None.

The Meeting closed at 21:05