

Grange Prestonfield Community Council

Cameron House Community Education Centre

Meeting 20 September 2017

Minutes approved 18 October

Present: Janet Sidaway (Chair, **JS**), Mike Hunter (Vice-chair, **MH**), Joe Griffin (Secretary, **JG**), Andreas Grothey (Treasurer, **AG**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Fraser Graham (**FG**), Tony Harris (**TH**), Irene Hood (**IH**), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (**ERJ**), Henry Philip (**HP**), William Reid (**WR**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), David Stevenson (**DaS**), Sue Tritton (**ST**), Cllr Alison Dickie (**AD**).

Apologies: Doreen Allerton, Ian Chisholm, Graham Dann, Julian Newman, Ian Murray MP.

Absent: Henry Mulligan, Philip Murray.

In Attendance: PC Neil McKay (**NM**), Six (6) members of the public.

1. Welcome

JS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Meeting 21 June 2017

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

4. Matters Arising not covered by agenda

TH raised the issue of the so-called boundary revision, which had been discussed at the last meeting. He had not yet received a response from the Chair of Gilmerton/Straiton Community Council: he would circulate it when he had done so.

5. External Reports

a) Police Report:

PC Neil Mackay reported the following:

Community officers had issued two misuse of drugs warrants on the south side of Edinburgh after complaints from the local community. There had been one arrest and drugs had been recovered. The police were working closely with City of Edinburgh housing department, with six evictions now realised linked to drugs supply or antisocial behaviour.

A 17 year old was due to appear in court after a priority warrant had been issued linked to housebreaking.

The police were working with partners to resolve issues related to parking in Prestonfield.

There were now speed checks every day in south Edinburgh on the 20 mph limit. A number of tickets had been issued in respect of speed, insurance, and using a mobile phone while driving. The police would do checks on individual roads on request – by email.

Policing around the Edinburgh festivals had gone well, with 100 additional officers a day in south and central Edinburgh providing a visible presence and allowing community officers to continue with their principal duties.

NM confirmed to **HP** that the community police were fully staffed.

The police had been providing prevention of crime advice to new students as they arrived in Edinburgh.

In response to questions, **NM** confirmed that housebreaking (and other) statistics were available on the Police Scotland website, and also broken down into ward areas. There was also an informative Twitter feed for south and east Edinburgh. He would check how well Neighbourhood Watch information systems were working in the area, following a couple of concerns expressed by councillors, including **MH**. He would report back at the next meeting, or by Email. PC Mackay also confirmed that police locality boundaries were unlikely to change and there was welcome continuity too in terms of staffing.

JS thanked **NM** who then left.

b) Councillor's Report

Cllr Alison Dickie (Cllr AD) confirmed that the new administration for the City of Edinburgh Council, and its committees, were now fully operational. Locally, Priestfield was the biggest item of interest, but there lots of people getting in touch with different cases across the ward. Localities work was ongoing, and stakeholders should keep feeding into that.

6. South East Locality Improvement Plan

TH noted that this had been circulated to the Community Council by Email in draft. The chief concern raised at the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership had been what would happen to the community grants system, and the partnership itself, and there was as yet no clarity on this.

Cllr AD confirmed that, in general, there was still ambiguity on this issue. In principle, local people's voices would, of course, continue to be heard, but there was discussion on the best infrastructure to allow this to happen. **MH** noted a recent Email from the Executive Director of Place suggesting that the consideration of Local Outcome Improvement Plans would be deferred until November. These would mean they could not be approved by the full Council until December – later than the previous deadline. He also noted that the Improvement Plan was a similar document to that produced by Neighbourhood Partnership, so perhaps there would not be a major change in how business was conducted. **TH** expressed his disappointment that the Council was not producing local improvement plans, as opposed to generic documents. **JS** said that she had invited Sarah Burns (City of Edinburgh Council locality manager) to come to the Community Council meeting in October, and she had confirmed that she would. This would provide an opportunity to question her directly. **HP** said that the plan seemed stuck at the level of very vague aims – these were easy to agree, but we would need to get down to specific objectives. **Cllr AD** agreed that the plan did seem vague. Councillors have been told that targets will be more detailed in terms of what trying to achieve. **ST** said that even in the Neighbourhood Partnership it had been difficult to provide a focus and this might be exacerbated across a wider area. **JS** noted that a working party had been set up across the locality. It was frustrating that in the interim there was no mechanism for dispersing community funds: applications for roads would go into next year's budget. She noted that there were no conclusions to these discussions yet, but it was an important issue for the Community Council and the area.

7. Arrangements for 10th Anniversary

ST said that all Community Councillors had been invited to the event, as would others associated with the Council over its 10 years. It would take place at City Chambers, hosted by Cllr AD on 8 November. **ST** said that she hoped to have a small exhibition showing some of the Community Council's achievements, including on residents' parking in B1 and Newington Cemetery. She would welcome other suggestions. Current Community Councillors had agreed to fund the party, at £20 per head (irrespective of attendance). On the matter of other attendees, **ERJ's** suggestion that **ST** have executive rights to decide was agreed.

8. Newington Library

ST said that there was not much to update: the report on the library still had to go to the relevant committee, and that hadn't happened yet. **Cllr AD** said she had visited the library and would keep pushing on it.

9. Reports of Interest Groups

a) Planning/Licensing

TH said that, on licensing, there was nothing to report.

On planning, **TH** noted that the report had been circulated in advance. He raised the following points:

Residents of East Suffolk Road had received a letter about building on the former St Margaret's School playing field, even though this still showed as open space on the Development Plan. Various contractors seemed to be dealing with the relocation of listed pavilion, but the actual move had still to take place.

The Development Management subcommittee had refused application for planning permission for sheltered housing next to the south suburban railway on the Blackford Hill site. The applicant had now given notice of appeal to the local review body, and this would come up on 1 November. The Community Council had received notice that their objections would continue to go before the review body.

8 Priestfield Road. There was a listed building application to raise the roof profile of one side of the house and create built in garages as part of the application. **TH** had had a request from a local resident to investigate and consider objection on the basis that a length of 2 m high wall was going to be removed. This would create quite a long length of parking as hard standing, partly in the side garden of the property. **TH** thought that it would have

an adverse effect on the streetscape and the property itself. **ST** said that as a matter of principle we should object to an increase to hard standing and to knocking down walls. **JS** agreed: this would add to traffic and congestion. The more people as individuals who lodged a complaint the better. **TH** noted that more than 6 material objections would trigger reference to planning committee, bringing in elected members. **HP** stressed the need to put in objections as individuals, not pro formas signed by people.

Craigmillar Park Golf Club – **TH** had been to a meeting with the golf club, about a potential development. He drew the Community Council's attention to a file note he had written on it. No decisions were required, but the golf club plans were potentially quite controversial.

TH also updated on the Scottish Government's review of planning, and the latest with strategic development plans, where an Inquiry into SDP2 was ongoing.

JS thanked **TH** for all his work on behalf of the Community Council.

b) Roads/Transport

Introducing the item, **MH** noted that **GSD** was not present, but had circulated a report. **GSD** and the subgroup had been working hard on residents' parking in Priestfield, part of the B7 zone. This had become a major issue, as Scottish Widows did not appear to provide adequate parking, as a major employer in the area. This had led to a shortage of parking for residents, and often intrusive and antisocial practices by non-residents working nearby. **GSD** had been looking at what police powers were to prevent antisocial parking, and wanted to promote good dialogue with Scottish Widows and local residents. In the coming months, 30 new spaces for residents in the B7 zone would improve things.

A number of points were made in discussion, including by members of the public in attendance:

The whole area needs to be looked at in the round, to avoid controls in one area having a knock on effect elsewhere. The initial Plan A scheme and then Plan B scheme were insufficient for residents' issues. 30 additional places would not be enough. A questionnaire for the whole area would be beneficial, perhaps as a prelude to a wider public meeting.

Cllr AD said she had benefitted from the recent fact finding mission with the police, and she regretted that there had been no officials there. The police were reflecting on easier ways to report transgressions. Scottish Widows had said they would accept photos of antisocial parking practice.

MH said that **GSD** had been working hard and it was good to see some progress. However, there was nowhere in Edinburgh where parking was not an issue. The Community Council would do its best to make what improvements we can. He felt a public meeting would be good.

In addition to parking issues, the 20 mph was being ignored in Priestfield road. **DeS** noted he had been campaigning for over a year about speeding on Priestfield. An application for a crossing had been ignored. Speed check police had come at 13h00, which was no use. He was concerned someone will be killed.

JS said we should set up something entirely focused on this issue. **ST** noted a history of successful public meetings in the early days of the Community Council about parking. It would be very useful for Councillors to come. There was a discussion about a potential venue (which would need to be big enough) and the need to distribute fliers to all residents. **FG** said that if the date were set soon, he could get fliers printed. **It was agreed** that having leaflets through the door for houses in the immediate area, and posters for the houses around was the best approach. Members of the public present volunteered to help distribute them.

JS said that it was useful to have had members of the public present to strengthen the case for a public meeting. **GSD** would take forward the proposal for a new questionnaire, working with **Cllr AD**, and the Community Council would work to set up a public meeting.

c) Communications/Publicity

FG noted that he had updated the website, using a standard template, to keep it simple and informative. We now needed graphic content – i.e. pictures – to make it more attractive. He would also ask for biographies of community councillors.

MH said that the publicity leaflet had gone ahead. Suggestion of newsletter with questionnaire – efforts directed to this parking issue? **FG** said that we could do this, to gather residents' views. **ERJ** noted that the previous discussion had suggested a more open-ended approach, to use flyers to get a sense of local residents' broader priorities. Something similar had been done in Portobello. We should keep this on the agenda.

MH noted that the Community Council's Facebook page was getting people looking at it. The Newington Cemetery flyer had been seen by 20 people, and that for the Astley Ainslie walks, and the agenda for this meeting, by more than 40. **FG** noted that, with some small expense, he could customise the website, e.g. to include a web form, or get a mailing list so people could automatically get the agenda. He noted that the public page was an open source. **HP** said that when we have the public meeting, we should use it to advertise this. **EF** asked that we make links with the Craigmillar Park association website. It was agreed to use £30 in the first instance towards customising the website.

d) Newington Cemetery

JS noted that it would be "Doors Open Day" 24 September. There were flyers to publicise this. There would be lots of activities, including tours and nature trails. There had been very high attendance in the past which had been a good way of promoting interest.

e) Environment (including Astley Ainslie)

ST said that the NHS may start consulting about the Astley Ainslie site in the winter. Although it was not in the Community Council area, it bordered it, and many residents were affected. To raise awareness, four local Community Councils, and the Grange Association would be holding guided walks on 30 September and 8 October. Around 3000 leaflets had been delivered so far. The issue also featured on our website.

10. Reports from Office Bearers

a) Chair's report

The Chair thanked all those who contributed to the work of the Community Council.

b) Treasurer's report

AG noted that there was £5496.46 in the account. Imminent expenditure included £1340 for Newington Cemetery from the grant, and £2000 earmarked for a grave restoration. This would still leave £2156 for the Community Council to use. The annual maintenance grant of £830 had come in over the summer. We needed to think about how we spend it to benefit the community.

The Community Council decided that **MH, JS, ST, AG,** and **TH** should be recorded as signatories for the cheque book.

c) Secretary's report

JG had nothing to report.

11. Reports of Outside Groups

a) SCNP and subgroups

TH noted that, if SCNP continued, it would be important to have a presence.

b) EACC

TH noted that a written report had been circulated, which was just for information.

Issues of refuse collection and recycling had come up at the last EACC. The City of Edinburgh Council were moving from using contract drivers to its own employees. Andy Williams was the new lead on refuse collection, with Gareth Barwell having moved to head of planning. **Cllr AD** said that she had raised response rates for the Council's correspondence.

12. Date of Next Meeting: October 18 2017

13. AOCB (including items from The Public)

None.