

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Meeting of 21 February 2018

Present: Janet Sidaway (Chair, **JS**), Mike Hunter (Vice-chair, **MH**), Joe Griffin (Secretary, **JG**), Ian Chisholm (**IC**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Tony Harris (**TH**), Henry Philip (**HP**), William Reid (**WR**), David Stevenson (**DaS**), Sue Tritton (**ST**), Cllr Cameron Rose (**CR**) – joined later.

Apologies: Andreas Grothey (Treasurer), Doreen Allerton, Ellen-Raissa Jackson. Julian Newman, Ian Murray MP.

Absent: Irene Hood, Philip Murray, Denis Stevens.

Also in attendance: PC Chris Harris (**CH**) and Sylvia Lambie, member of the public.

1. Welcome

JS welcomed all **GPCC** members and a member of the public. She proposed that the Police report be taken after Agenda Item 2 to allow **CH** go off duty after a long work period. This was agreed; the Agenda Item numbers are retained with these Minutes but set out to reflect the actual order of business as carried out.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5a). Police Report

CH referred to community policing activities he had recently been involved with concerning gangs in the Meadows and at Moredun. The gang at the Meadows could be large (up to 30 participants) and intimidating for members of the public. Current models of smart phones were targeted and he urged that these should be kept out of sight. He had been involved in other community policing such as bicycle theft offences where it was hoped that charging those responsible for these crimes would deter those involved from moving onto other activities such as car crime.

CH pointed out that the Criminal Justice Act came into force on the 18th January. This could lead to a change in statistics as now a member of the public had first to be reported by the police before being arrested and for young people the Children's Reporter has to be notified.

Following a question last month from **WR** about disability hate crime, **CH** gave a personal detailed briefing to **WR** about this. The available statistics only detail those reported to the police and cover all designated hate crime for Edinburgh:- 2015/16 – 36 incidents, 2016/17 – 13, 2017/18 to January – 10.

Questions to **CH** from **GPCC** Members:-

HP asked about the age range of the gangs – mostly 13-16, mostly male with some females.

JG enquired about numbers of activists. The Meadows gang activity is mostly after dark, with 6-8 activists in a gang of 30. The few girl members could encourage bravado amongst the boys, some of whom could be well behaved when away from the gang. The Moredun gang is usually smaller, up to 20.

ST asked where gang members came from. It was thought mainly around the Meadows for that gang. Moredun mostly local but also could be from Craigmillar and the Wisp. For operational reasons it is not appropriate to be more specific.

IC enquired about community policing into schools. **CH** confirmed this is part of their activities citing James Gillespie's.

MH referred to the prevalence of "phishing" and examples were mentioned of sophisticated and persuasive techniques used. **CH** said he would try to get statistics on phone fraud. Police Scotland published figures but he would enquire whether these could be broken down locally.

As there were no more questions, **CH** left the meeting.

3. Minutes of 17 January 2018

Re Item 7) Roads and Transport of the Draft Minutes, under Area B7 Parking, **JS** reported that a member of the public had requested that the report of discussion be amended and a suggested revised text had been received. After discussion it was resolved that this change be agreed and **MH**

was asked to amend the Minutes accordingly and put this version on the website. Subject to this change, the Minutes were approved, proposed by **DaS** and seconded by **ST**. **MH**

4. Matters arising not covered by other Agenda Items

JS referred to GDPR coming into force on 25th May. **TH** reported that more information may emerge from the EACC Committee meeting the following evening, 22nd February, when the CEC Legal Services team member responsible for the CEC GDPR CC Guidance is due to attend. **TH** would report back after that meeting. **TH**

JS also referred to the suggestion by **ST** to invite EUSA SCNP Representative Oliver Glick to come to GPCC to talk about student housing, **ST** had made an initial approach and after discussion it was agreed to invite him formally to the March meeting. **JS**

5b). Councillors' Report

CR reported on the following matters:-

- i) Royal Blind School – Craigmillar Park Campus: **CR** understood that missives for sale had been exchanged a couple of weeks prior with the preferred purchaser Cala Homes, legal burdens about the original feuing of the site having been dealt with. It had also been agreed that the Braille Press would relocate to new premises at Gorgie (2a Robertson Avenue) probably during March, which would then leave a clear site for planning application to proceed. It could then take 2 years before any development might proceed.
- ii) Astley Ainslie Hospital site: **CR** referred to a meeting taking place that evening at the Eric Liddell Centre by a group interested in a community buy-out for the site or part of it.
- iii) CEC Budget Day: This was taking place the following day, 22nd March. Some cuts had been reduced so that the money available is now down by 0.5%.
- iv) SE Locality Committee (SELC): The inaugural meeting had taken place that afternoon. This had been a procedural meeting. 5 meetings a year are to take place. The Convenor for the 1st year is Cllr Mandy Watt, (Labour - Morningside Ward) and Vice-Convenor is Cllr Melanie Main (Scottish Green - Morningside Ward). At the next meeting a report is to be submitted on how community groups can feed into the SELC. Another matter is CC boundaries but this is a city-wide issue involving also the Edinburgh Partnership and will not proceed quickly. A report is also to be produced about where to meet. City Chambers has the advantage of being easy to get to but out of the area.

Questions to CR:

Reflecting the earlier discussion about “phishing”, there was concern about scam calls on mobiles. The ICO website has useful guidance.

ME asked about the low level of LED street lighting. **CR** thought her previous complaint about Prestonfield Gardens had been deal with, but would look further into it if necessary. **WR** pointed out the difficulty of being able to ascertain house numbers as LED street lights did not illuminate porches and front gardens and **CR** said they were designed to reduce light pollution and concentrate on the road and footway.

JS and **MH** said they had each attended part of the SE Locality Committee meeting. They were concerned about the short notice to the public of the meeting and how CCs are to engage in the future.

ST referred to SCNP, a recent meeting of which she had attended as the GPCC board member. She had tried to get an update on the long-standing Newington Library issues but was told a report would instead be going to the Locality Committee, yet this had not happened at today’s meeting. She understood a report will now go to the next SELC meeting. **ST** also referred to what happens to disabled parking bays when people move and they are no longer needed by that person. No action seems to be taken to remove these bays despite neighbours reporting. It was acknowledged that other disabled badge holders can use these spaces as use cannot be discriminated against. **ST** will email details to **CR** for further investigation. **ST**

Re item ii) above **ST** explained the history of the involvement of local CCs with the REH/AAH sites over about the last 6 years, where a group had had regular meetings with NHS Lothian throughout about the future of these sites. Last year a Forum was established by NHS Lothian to

look at the future disposal of the AAH site and public engagement arrangements for its possible use. Master planning is to be undertaken to ascertain possible development proposals and establish “best value”. The Forum members are representatives of NHS Lothian, HubcoSE and Marchmont/Sciennes, Morningside, Merchiston and Grange/Prestonfield CCs. The latter had been asked to take a lead together with support from Grange Association. **ST** and **TH** are the GPCC Forum members. This Forum has a different role from any “buy-out” group, although being aware of its existence and keeping in touch with it. In response to a question from **JG**, it was explained that although NHS Lothian is responsible for preparing the site for sale the proceeds of disposal accrue to the Scottish Government. At the conclusion of Agenda Item 5a) **CR** left the meeting.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

a) Planning/Licensing: On Licensing, after discussion it was agreed to take no action on a forthcoming application by the Carlton Cricket Club to vary its alcohol licence.

On Planning, the attached report had been previously circulated and **TH** drew attention to the following items:-

42 Grange Road: The new application is better than the one withdrawn last year and unless the Grange Association has differing views meriting reconsideration, no further action to be taken.

41 Priestfield Road: **TH** reported views expressed by **ERJ** in an email and following further consideration he would also recommend that GPCC should object mainly on the grounds of overdevelopment. **IC** endorsed this view stating that he understood neighbours opposite are concerned and would object. It was agreed that GPCC will object and **TH** will draft comments for the Planning Sub-Group to consider. It was also mentioned that there is another empty property in Kirkhill Road and **TH** said he would try to find out more about this. **TH**

IC mentioned 44 Blacket Place in this week’s planning list. Generally the proposals could be an improvement on the existing but there is a concern about the new vehicle access crossing CEC maintained roadside planting. **IC** (Blacket Association) and **TH** to liaise further. **IC/TH**

Also 2 Oswald Road in the Grange Conservation Area where the Grange Association has some concerns which **TH** will monitor and suggest any action to the Planning Sub-Group. **TH**

ST referred to neighbours’ concern about 14 Fountainhall Road where the application is for sub-division and attic conversion, but CLP (Certificate of Lawful Purpose) consent for attic conversion has already been obtained and there is no reason for GPCC to object to the remainder of the proposals.

b) Roads/Transport: As there is no sub-group convenor, **MH** reported. The email about South Central Decides was not entirely clear about the result, but by implication East Mayfield had been approved and no doubt confirmation would be received. On voting, most had been online, with only a few votes recorded at the pop up events, which therefore did not seem worthwhile. No further details had been received from CEC Transport about the additional B7 RPP spaces.

c) Communications/Publicity: **MH** reported that we had not been able to contact Fraser Graham who had been moving and would progress the new website as soon as practicable.

d) Environment (including Astley Ainslie): **ST** reported on her efforts to report on the CEC website long-standing leaf deposits on footpaths, gullies etc. Whereas the reporting of defective streetlights is comparatively straightforward facilitated by online maps, leaf deposits do not have a separate category so litter reporting has to be used. The system would not accept the notification and generally the CEC website is difficult to navigate.

The Astley Ainslie Hospital site had already been covered in discussion with **CR** under Item 5b above. There is to be a Forum meeting the day following on 22nd February.

e) Newington Cemetery: **ERJ** had produced a report which **TH** went through and is attached to these Minutes.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

a) **Chair: JS** thanked others for their hard work. The Locality Committee inauguration which she had attended had already been covered in discussion with **CR** in 5b above. The role of Secretary is under continuing discussion with the group which volunteered to look at this and it is hoped to report further to the next GPCC meeting.

b) **Treasurer's Report:** As **AG** is away, **MH** reported. There has been little movement in the account and the financial situation is much as reported last month.

c) **Secretary's Report:** All matters had already been covered.

8. Reports of Outside Groups

a) **SCNP: ST** reporting as SCNP Board Member for GPCC stated that most matters had already been covered. The on/off attitude by CEC towards NPs had not helped and it is unclear how the relationship with the Locality Committee structure will play out. The responsibility for Community Grants has been transferred to the Locality Committees.

b) **EACC: TH** reported that there had been no meetings since the last GPCC but there is an EACC Committee meeting the following evening 22nd February which will be reported to the next GPCC meeting. A response to the draft Planning Bill had been submitted by EACC.

9. **AOCB:** There was a general discussion with all about the Priestfield Road Parking issues including an update on the Scottish Widows travel plan. The member of the public stated that there is a Facebook page and online group with about 20 local people keeping in touch with each other. **JS** stated she had not yet had a reply from CEC Transport on progress with implementation of the extra 42 RPP spaces, and would ask again. **JS**

The Meeting ended at 8.55pm.

GPCC: Newington Cemetery Sub-Group – Report for GPCC meeting on 21st February 2018

The Newington Cemetery working party continues to operate during the winter months and has now successfully cleared most of the ivy from the catacombs, as well as carrying out some additional planting and general tidying up. The annual snowdrop walk event will be held on Sunday 25 February from 1pm to 3.30pm and volunteers will be on hand to welcome and guide visitors around the cemetery to see the best shows of our spring flowers. We have printed and distributed colourful flyers around the neighbourhood and would welcome help from GPCC with the printing costs (approximately £25).

The group is interested in pursuing a number of long-term projects, including improving access to the cemetery, installing a compost area, planting trees and repairing paths, all of which would involve significant grant applications. In addition to practical work, the group receives several inquiries each month from members of the public who are trying to trace the graves of relatives etc and there is a need to hold some of this information for the archives (another important element of the project). This poses some practical problems in relation to the group's current status as a sub-committee of GPCC, most urgently in respect of the new data protection regulations. Reluctantly, TH and the group's archivist Dennis Smith are looking into ways in which we could separate from GPCC and become a standalone body, perhaps as a "Friends of Edinburgh Parks and Cemeteries".

Some members of the Sub-Group are meeting the CEC Biodiversity Officer on 12th March to see how we can best protect the wildlife areas of the cemetery.