

Grange Prestonfield Community Council

Minutes of Meeting 18th April 2018

Present: Janet Sidaway (JS) (Chair), Tony Harris (TH), Andreas Grothey (AG) (Treasurer), Ian Chisholm (IC), Sue Tritton (ST), Eileen Francis (EF), Henry Philips (HP), Denis Stevens (DS), Julian Newman (JN), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ), Bill Reid (BR), Mike Hunter (MH) (Vice-chair), Cllr Steve Burgess (SB)

Apologies: Joe Griffin, Maureen Edwards, David Stevenson, Ian Murray MP

Absent: Irene Hood, Philip Murray

In Attendance: Doreen Allerton (DA), PC Neil Mackay (Police Scotland, NM)

1. Welcome: JS welcomed everyone. On behalf of the CC expressed thanks to Doreen Allerton whose last meeting this is.

2. Declaration of Interests: none

3. Minutes of the Meeting 21 March 2018

The minutes had been circulated. Proposer (TH), Seconder (IC).

4. Matters arising not covered on the agenda

TH and Cllr Perry were to meet with Oliver Glick. TH is waiting to hear from Cllr Perry.

5. External Reports

(a) Police Report (PC Neil Mackay)

PC Mackay reported on various issues:

- Youth in the Meadows/South side anti-social behaviour and assaults. 8 people identified and charged, 25 separate incidents. One serious assault on a cyclist. Team out over Easter holidays to try to disrupt them. Some youth locally, some further afield. Made parents aware. Try to break pack mentality. Support from Task Force team from Grangemouth. 10 people caught with drugs, 4 arrested on warrant for drugs. 2 people with knives in possession, these are in custody.
- 16 vehicles damaged overnight 7/8 April. One of the GPCC members was affected.
- Summer will see a rise in more bike-thefts. Visiting B&Bs to make them aware since high spec touring bikes tend to be targeted
- Community Safety Partnership: Police have off-road motorbikes to access areas that were previously not possible and target anti-social off road motorbike behavior.

Question to PC Mackay: (JS) What are the inaccessible areas? NM: scrubland, Dalkeith Road business estates.

Motorbikes make a lot of noise. (ERJ) Where are youth diverted to? NM: Get off the streets for example into clubs.

One-on-one most are ok, try to break up the group mentality. (ERJ) What is there? NM: Crags Sport Centre, Bike Trax,

School sports clubs, etc. (ST) What Schools? NM: Gillespies, Boroughmuir, some further afield. Sometimes all over

Edinburgh - easy to get in touch over mobile. (HP) What about the motor bikers, from where? NM: Southside. (JS)

Arrests? NM: These were mainly of adults.(b) Councillors Report (Steve Burgess)

The council has been in recess since end of March. SB is on Transport/Environment committee. Before the last meeting SB took a motion what the council can do to reduce single use plastic following on from latest Blue Planet series. Committee agreed to report what council and its arms length organisations can do to reduce. Also what council can do to encourage the larger city/community. Got a Newsletter that reports. Other issues

- SARA has been pushing for more bus shelters. These have now gone up at western end of West Savile Terrace.
- Pavement reconstruction Savile Place/MacDowell Road to address pavement parking.
- For past year in discussion about lack of playgrounds in Blackford area. Not much other than Meadows playground. Toddlers playground at Blackford Pond. Contacted by residents to work on fund-raising. Looking for area: Rose Gardens, Rankin Drive Triangle, Watertoun Road. Lack of money is the main issue.

Then followed a discussion with SB about the South East Locality Committee following on from questions asked to Cllr Perry at last meeting. The next meeting is Monday 23 April 6.30 pm at the Council Chamber. There was confusion whether CCs are entitled to send representatives, how they would bring up issues and what issues to bring up. SB advised that any individual can attend any meeting. Items for discussion would need to be flagged up ahead of time

and be presented through a formal deputation. It would be up to the convener of the locality committee how to handle this. The locality committees are not replacement for neighbourhood partnerships. NPs do continue. SB and his Green councillor colleague have been pressing for a more informal process. Indeed one item on the LC agenda is how to better include the community. TH reported that EACC will discuss "Locality Committee First Impressions" tomorrow evening. It was pointed out that papers for the LC are online on the council website under SELC. This time we have received almost a week's notice, last time it was only 24 hours. Some discussion whether GPCC can support the informal route. After query from ST, SB confirmed that Newington Library is on the agenda for the next meeting, but this would also be an item that could be brought up through the formal route. (JS) mentioned that as part of the engagement process there is a SELC walkabout September 18. Date, area and key issues to be identified. We need to think about before the summer break who should go. To be discussed at the next meeting. This seems a good step. SB: Locality Manager Sarah Burns to take credit for that.

Other questions for SB:

- (JN) What happens to waste in the recycling bins: are plastic sorted out? SB: it used to be just plastic bottles since plastic film can not be processed. New facility at Millerhill has waste separation. What exactly it separates out not sure.
- (MH) Transport Mobility and Placemaking workshops. We are invited to attend. What kind of people will be at the workshops? SB: NGOs, Spokes, Living Streets. MH: We have to decide by Mon 20 April if we send someone. JH to go for Wed 9th pm workshop. Unclear if there are the same or different workshops on the 3 days. TH: might come up at EACC, if further information will circulate.
- (DS) Pelican crossing outside Prestonfield Community Centre. Children from nursery need help. Also OAPs and kids for the play park. 20mph does not work. DS has sent a petition with 220 signatures on prompting of Cllr. Perry. Not heard anything back. SB: There was a zebra crossing approved under Road Transport programme at Bernard Terrace. Council has limited pot of money and needs to prioritise. Pelicans are expensive. Maybe apply for Zebra crossing through Transport Capital Programme. DSs Petition was submitted 2 years ago. SB. Petitions committee has been disbanded since then. Should be done by the Transport Environment committee now. That would need 250 signatures. Lodge it again. Some discussion about how GPCC can best support this. Maybe safe routes to school would help. Unclear how this year's Capital Roads Programme budget will be decided. Office bearers to draft a formal motion to Neighbourhood Partnership. Could also be brought up at SELC.
- (AG) How does redoing pavements in MacDowell Road help with pavement parking? SB: raised kerbs, alternating single yellow lines.
- (HP) Information about what should be recycled and what should go to landfill is not good. SB: there is a lot of information on the council website.
- Trees in Conservation Areas. IC and MH have attended a council training event. The items in the planning report are just a notification not an application. Trees in conservation area are protected. In non-conservation area only trees with tree protection order. In conservation area applications are looked at by the council and they may put a tree conservation order on that. (TH) at least notification are in the planning list it used to be not at all. (TH) although it is not officially possible to comment on tree notification it may well help anyhow. It only gives 6 weeks warning before works can happen.

6. Reports of interest groups

(a) Planning and Licensing (TH).

Nothing on Licensing. Planning: Report has been circulated. Some items highlighted (details in the circulated report):

- After consultation with Planning subgroup objected to 15 St Albans Road. Con- sent has been granted this Monday.
- Scottish Braille Press has relocated to Robertson Avenue, Gorgie. Clears the way for planning process on Royal Blind School.
- Update on where we are with Local Development Plan (LDP).
- Chief Planning officer should have delegated power for all applications with less than 20 representations. Previously the limit has been 6. Not implemented until ratified at the council meeting in June. If we feel strongly about it ask ward councillors not to ratify this so that it can be consulted more widely. EACC will press for this as well. Marchmont/Sciennes CC and Grange Association have also raised concerns. SB: councillors will look to their parties planning person. These would be the right people to approach. Agreed that GPCC should ask ward councillors not to ratify this. Marchmont/Sciennes has a letter that we could use

as draft. (ERJ) if the 20 limit goes ahead then the only other way we have to bring this up is to bring it up with ward councillors. So their work will increase. SB: send four separate emails to the ward councillors.

- Estate Agents Savile on behalf of Millar Homes have started advertising houses on the old St Margaret's Playing Fields from Oct 2018. 5 bedroom semi-detached for £1,200,000.

(b) Roads and Transport (MH)

MH pleased to see that JN has agreed to take over chair of Road and Transport from September. Other points:

- We should think about next Capital Roads Programme (now called Neighbour- hood Environment Programme). SB: there are several allocations of money designated for Environment, Roads and Grants.
- (JN) Many potholes in our area. It is useless reporting these potholes one-by-one. Sub-standard repairs are a waste of money. Can we each collect information on streets where we each live and feed that to the council. We could then have a survey what has been done about each of these streets. How much detail should be recorded? (ST) official definition of potholes is 4cm deep. SB: with 4cm deep council is legally obliged to fix these within 24h. Hence the short-term repairs that don't last long. Apparently there should be a proper repair after more time. They are investigating better materials. SB: there is no harm in putting pressure on officials. But likely they will be put on a list and prioritise as normal. (BR) pavements are just as bad should also go onto the list. We do not need to be too scientific, just keep track. List to be circulated by JN by email asking for volunteers to survey streets near them. Back to Roads and Transport group to identify what information we need. There should be a definite timescale like end of June.
- An email from a Bus Campaign Group has been circulated. The email is from Chris Day who used to work for the council. Agreed to support in principle but ask for more information.

(c) Communications (MH).

Fraser has been in touch with website details. MH and AG to look at this. We currently paying about £70 per year for support of outdated Wordpress software.

(d) Environment (ST).

Suggestion to invite recycling officer at future meeting. Astley Ainslie: everything has been pushed back by at least 2 years. There will be a meeting soon. There is a community buyout group that has Robin Harper as chair. All of this is on the Grange Association website.

(e) Newington Cemetery (ERJ). They had another working party day. Some problems liaising with the council. Newington Cemetery would like to stay as a subgroup of GPCC at this time. Took some steps for GDPR compliancy. Contact details for NC on the GPCC website to be updated.. MH to do this. “@NewingtonCemetery” is the Twitter account. They will take part on doors open day 30 September.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

Chair's Report (JS).

JS thanked everybody for their work.

- Minutes: HP will minute in May, TH November, JN Jan-April (one of them). EF after June. JS asked for more volunteers.
- Compliance with GDPR for GPCC (excluding Newington Cemetery). JS has sent some thoughts to the “role of secretary” subgroup.

Treasurer's Report (AG).

Balance in the account (as of last statement dated 23/03) is £3385.14. There are cheques over £896 that have been issued and not cashed (mainly Newington Cemetery signage + insurance) and a further £198 (website + Newington cemetery leaflets) that are due. This leaves us with £2238.80 to spend, of which £249.65 belongs to Newington Cemetery.

Our website costs for last year where £167.96. These are webspace rental (£67.90), domain registration (£23.98) and extended support due to running an outdated word- press version (£76.08)

(ST) Should we plan the next newsletter as we have quite a bit of money. We should aim for Spring/early summer next year. Agreed.

Secretary's Report. Nothing to report.

8. Reports from Outside Groups.

(JS) We should have South East Locality Committee as first item on future agendas (probably straight after Councillors Report). Agreed.

(a) SCNP and subgroups (ST). Next meeting on 30 April.

JS expressed our sadness at Mags Campbell's death. A message of condolence had been sent on behalf of the GPCC.

(b) EACC (TH). There is a meeting tomorrow evening. Issues relevant to GPCC have been mentioned earlier. Other items are Trams, participatory budgeting and What does CC want from EACC. Discussion whether we want another Participatory Budgeting exercise. Concerns raised about way it was done last time. Should be with physical presentations rather than online. But otherwise strong support. 'Leith decides' is very successful, but Leith does have a distinct identity.

9. Date of next meeting.

May 16th (including AGM).

10. AOCB.

(ERJ) It is the month of celebrating CCs. What do we want to celebrate (on Twitter)? Suggestions include Newington Cemetery, Parking in Priestfield, 20 mph which was piloted here together with GPCC input. Also celebrate our group.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.