

# Grange Prestonfield Community Council

19 September 2018

## Minutes for Approval

**Present:** Janet Sidaway (Chair, JS), Mike Hunter (Vice Chair, MH), Tony Harris (TH), Julian Newman (JN), Maureen Edwards (ME), Andreas Grothey(AG), Eileen Francis (EF), Sue Tritton (ST), Ian Chisholm (IC), William Reid (WR), Cllr Ian Perry (IP).

**Apologies:** Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ), Joe Griffin (JG), Henry Philip, Denis Stevens, Ian Murray MP.

**Absent:** David Stevenson, Irene Hood, Philip Murray.

**In Attendance:** Gavin Donoghue (Public Affairs Manager, University of Edinburgh).

1. **Welcome:** JS welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Declarations of interest.** There were none.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 June.** These had been circulated. Proposer (ST), Seconder (TH).
4. **Matters arising not covered in the agenda.** There were none.
5. **Reports (External)**

*a) Police Report*

No police representative was present (it was assumed this was because they were dealing with the effects of severe storm damage) .

*b) Councillor's Report*

Budget

IP indicated that an overall budget had been set by the Council for four years. There would be consultation before detailed budget allocations would be made. The Labour/SNP coalition that governed the city had no majority so support from other party/ies would be necessary. The Council also wished to consult residents on expenditure priorities. Given the need for budget cuts, should the Council continue to do everything on a reduced basis or should it concentrate on maintaining good core services. The outcome was inevitably uncertain.

Morgan Playing Fields

With regard to the Morgan Playing Fields, IP reported that Street Soccer was not a viable organisation for a community buy out. It was likely that they would instead seek a lease arrangement from the Council at which point more consultation with local residents would be required. Considerable concern was expressed that local residents were not aware of the latest position believing that the non-viability of the community buy-out scheme meant that the Morgan Playing Fields were safe from development. Given the strong local opposition to the development of the Morgan Playing Fields, as recorded in the minutes of the GPCC meeting of 20 June, it was agreed that the Chair (JS) would write to the local residents who had attended that meeting to inform them of the possibility of a lease arrangement proposal from Street Soccer. An offer to host a meeting with local residents on the issue would also be made. (A communication on this basis has now been sent).

IP also raised the possibility of using volunteers to monitor the operation of the 20mph speed limit. Police resources were insufficient to do so fully given other police priorities.

South East Locality Committee

Since IP was about to depart to attend another meeting, the opportunity was taken to raise concerns about the relationship, or lack of it, between the Locality Committees and Community Councils. Perhaps CCs could use the local ward sub-committees of councillors as a means of communicating their views. There was no mention of Community Councils in the recent papers for the SELC meeting. MH asked about the status of the pavement replacement for East Mayfield, which had attracted the second highest ranking in the participatory budget grants scheme. Despite several requests for information, GPCC had not received official confirmation of the amount of money allocated or when the project would go ahead. IP indicated that local councillors were not involved in participatory budget proposals, which were set up to follow community rather than political priorities.

Other issues raised while IP was present

Disabled parking place signs should be removed when no longer required.

When work was completed by utilities they should remove no longer needed temporary road signs rather than leave it to the Council.

Shared spaces on pavements, e.g. for cyclists and pedestrians, should be better signed particularly for the visually impaired.

## **6. Morgan Playing Fields**

The issue had been sufficiently discussed under the Councillor's report item.

## **7. Walkabout in GPCC area with City Council officials**

On Tuesday 18 September a team of GPCC members had met a number of Council officials for a walkabout round an area of the GPCC to highlight various issues of concern. The route followed ran from Cameron House via Peffermill Road to Cameron Toll up the Dalkeith Road to Priestfield Road and back to Cameron House. Concerns were raised about road and traffic issues and problems with communal bins particularly in the shopping area in Dalkeith Road. It was agreed that a note of actions promised would be prepared. (This has now been done). It was agreed that another walkabout in a different area of the GPCC would be beneficial in due course.

## **8. Report of Interest Groups**

### **a) Planning/Licensing**

TH indicated there were no major issues to raise either on licensing or planning.

The proposal for 25 student flats at 20 Duncan Street had been refused but the owner's appeal was not yet resolved. The application for a 15 person HMO at Abercorn Guesthouse raised possible concerns and TH would consider a response.

In relation to the King's Building major development, TH indicated that he would make detailed comments on the planning application when submitted. Gavin Donoghue, Public Affairs Manager of the University of Edinburgh, indicated he would welcome discussion with the GPCC on this and other proposed developments by the UOE.

Concern was expressed about the Council's implementation of its policy on tree removal. The policy was good but implementation less so. It was agreed a discussion on this issue at a future meeting of the GPCC would be helpful.

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

JN confirmed that he would chair the Roads and Transport sub group. It was agreed that his suggestion of a survey by GPCC members of road and pavement defects would be useful, and would allow priority areas to be identified.

It was suggested that it would be helpful for the GPCC to contact the Edinburgh Bus Users Group on matters of mutual interest.

### **c) Communications/Publicity**

The agenda had been put on the website. The Facebook posting to publicise the meeting had been seen by over 600 people.

### **d) Environment (including Astley Ainslie)**

ST indicated that there had been rather unsatisfactory communications from NHS Lothian to the AA group considering proposed developments. A meeting would take place shortly with NHS Lothian.

### **e) Newington Cemetery**

Newington Cemetery was included in the Open Day programme for 30 September.

## **9. Reports of Office Bearers**

There was little to report. AG indicated that the annual maintenance grant of £900 had been received and the bank balance was just over £3000.

## **10. Reports of Outside Groups**

### **a) EACC**

TH indicated that there had been some discussion in the EACC about their response to the Council's community planning consultation. TH stated that the GPCC response to this consultation has been sent to the EACC Secretary to assist in this along with those from other CCs. The Council had a short-term group looking at Airbnb for the purposes of regulation and licensing.

## **11. AOCB (including items from members of the public)**

Some concern was expressed about the luminosity of LED lights but others pointed they were better and cheaper.

## **12. Date of next meeting: 17 October 2018**