

Grange Prestonfield Community Council

Cameron House Community Education Centre

Minutes 17 October 2018

Present: Janet Sidaway (JS) (Chair), Mike Hunter (MH) (Vice-Chair & Secretary), Henry Philip (HP), Tony Harris (TH), Sue Tritton (ST), David Stevenson (DS), Bill Reid (BR), Eileen Francis (EF), Ian Chisholm (IC), Julian Newman (JN), Denis Stevens (DeS)

Apologies: Andreas Grothey (AG) (Treasurer), Maureen Edwards (ME), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ), Joe Griffin (JG), Ian Murray MP

Absent: Philip Murray (PM), Irene Hood (IH)

1. Welcome: JS welcomed everyone – and noted that no councillor or Police representative was present.
2. Declarations of Interest. None
3. Minutes of the Meeting 19th September 2018: previously circulated. Proposed by TH; Seconded by EF
4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda) None
5. External Reports: None – due to absence of Police and Councillors.
6. South East Locality Committee:
 - a) Report on September 24 meeting: JS said she had attended for the first hour and was interested that the Police had provided the detailed statistics about local crime that GPCC had requested. She would contact the Police and ask for local statistics.
 - b) East Mayfield funding: JN had contacted Alan Duncan (CEC) who reported that funds have been identified to enable the full length of the pavement to be resurfaced; planned for this financial year.
7. Morgan Playing Fields: JS drew attention to Cllr Cameron Rose's blog about this matter. MH noted that this matter is mentioned in a recent "Green" newsletter. TH said no planning application had yet been submitted. The Ward Councillors did not appear to be supporting one side or the other. JS reminded the GPCC that JG had recommended that GPCC should hear both sides of the case. TH referred to a possible link between the granting of approval for the building of Cameron House centre and the retention of the playing fields – it appeared that there was no formal link.
8. Walkabout with CEC Officials on September 18. JS had circulated an email from CEC listing actions from the walkabout. As far as could be seen nothing has yet been done (e.g. changes to wheelie bins).
9. Reports of Interest Groups.
 - a) Planning and Licensing: TH said these should be separate agenda items (they had been combined as TH had dealt with both) as they are separate matters. MH receives lists of licence applications and agreed to forward to all GPCC if there are applications in our area and have a separate agenda item. MH confirmed that there are no new licensing applications in our area.

TH had circulated a list of planning applications in (or near) our area and drew attention to the following:

- i. Abcorn Guest House, 4 Mayfield Gardens: Objection to the 15 person HMO application sent by GPCC – 109 objections submitted.
- ii. 69 Mayfield Road (under "Mango Tree"): Application for change of use to "residential". This is adjacent to the railway line. Agreed that TH would submit a "neutral" comment pointing out that this change of use could affect the amenity of future residents and, as such, is contrary to the LDP.
- iii. Midmar Paddock. This is outside GPCC area (and not directly adjacent) – MH had received an email asking for GPCC support. TH said GPCC will continue to monitor applications etc. and that individuals could make personal comments etc. Those interested could register with savemidmarpaddock@gmail.com.
- iv. Edinburgh City Spatial Policy: TH had attended 3 workshops and encouraged everyone to look at the relevant documents – consultation closes on November 12.

- v. CEC Planning Upgrades: The system upgrade is planned for early November and will mean the Planning Portal is unavailable during this time.
- b) Roads and Transport: JN had circulated a report. He mentioned three particular issues:
 - i. Pothole survey: JN produced sample sheets for volunteers to complete showing potholes and pavement defects in named streets. He asked volunteers to send names of streets they would survey by October 29. There was some discussion about exactly what information would be sent to CEC.
 - ii. Bus Users Group: JN had received information saying that there is consultation about a target of 400m spacing between bus stops. He would try to find out more details about the consultation.
 - iii. Bus Lanes: Bus operators have requested the extension of operational hours to 0700-1900 . There will be public consultation on this.
 - iv. Disabled parking spaces: ST is trying to get a private space removed now that the person for whom this space was introduced is no longer resident.
- c) Communications and Publicity: MH said this meeting had been advertised on the GPCC Facebook page and had received about 500 hits. It was agreed that this was a good way of advertising the CC.
- d) Environment and Astley Ainslie site:
 - i. Astley Ainslie site: ST reported that a meeting of the Community Council group with NHS Lothian was held on 24 September and the promised details about appointing consultants to oversee a masterplan had not yet been received. Contact had also been made with the CEC Planning Officer dealing with development of the site. There is also a group looking at possible asset transfer of the site.
 - ii. Leaf clearing: ST is trying to liaise with CEC about getting community leaf clearing in the Grange area. If successful this could be extended to other parts of the GPCC area.
 - iii. Communal Bin problem: TH said that a bin at the west end of Mentone Terrace is being abused by commercial operators who dump stuff in the middle of the night. He will contact the councillors.
- e) Newington Cemetery: More than 70 visitors attended on Doors Open Day on September 30. ERJ had reported more people interested in volunteering. TH reported that new plants and compost were being purchased, and plant at the War memorial had taken place on October 16. A fungus walk was taking place on October 21 at 2.00pm.

10. Reports from Office Bearers

- a) Chair's Report: JS thanked everyone for their work and reports. She suggested holding a New Year Party on Saturday January 5 at 7.00pm for GPCC members and their partners. This was agreed.
- b) Treasurer's Report: AG reported no change from the September report.
- c) Secretary's report. Nothing to report.

11. AOCB

- a) Possible problems with HMOs. TH reported that there was some local concern about the increase of HMOs in the area, which he had wanted to raise with the Councillor present. As this had not been possible, he suggested that it would be useful to have a special meeting to see what information was available on rented accommodation in the area. This was agreed, and TH and JS will liaise and request relevant information.
- b) Councillors and Police: IC said that GPCC should complain about the lack of representation at this meeting. JS agreed to write.

12. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21st November 2018

The meeting closed at 8.30pm