

**Grange/Prestonfield Community Council**  
Minutes of 21st November 2018 Meeting at  
Cameron House Community Education Centre

**Present:** Janet Sidaway (JS) Chair, Mike Hunter (MH) Vice-Chair & Secretary, Andreas Grothey (AG) Treasurer (left 8.30pm), Maureen Edwards (ME), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Tony Harris (TH), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ) (from 7.30pm), Julian Newman (JN), Bill Reid (BR), David Stevenson (DS), Sue Tritton (ST). Councillor Cameron Rose (CR) Ex Officio.

**Apologies:** Ian Chisholm, Joe Griffin, Ian Murray MP, Henry Phillip, Denis Stevens.

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

**In attendance:** Brian Leavey (BL) PC E0492 Police Scotland, Stuart Tooley Edinburgh University, Members of the Public: Sharlane Beveridge, Mathew Lopez, Jim Sorrell.

**1. Welcome and Apologies:** At 18.59 JS welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the members of the public. JS referred to the previously circulated motion to co-opt Alan Gilmour. This was proposed by JS, seconded by AG and approved unanimously, co-option to commence forthwith. JS stated that as Eileen Francis had left the Craigmillar Park Association (CPA), she could no longer be their nominated representative and therefore has resigned from GPCC. JS thanked Eileen for her contribution to GPCC. The post of CPA nominated representative is therefore vacant.

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None

**5a) Police Report:** JS stated that with the agreement of the meeting this item would be taken out of order to allow best use of police time and welcomed BL to his first attendance at GPCC. BL stated that Neil Mackay sent apologies but had provided an update for the meeting. An 18yr old male had been apprehended for robberies in the Meadows area, where there had been more police patrols and engagement with the community. The change of clocks initiative had involved handing out high visibility jackets to cyclists and checking on cycle lights with the onset of dark evenings. 8 persons had been arrested in an operation where banned substances had been seized. City-wide, on fireworks night there had been some opportunistic crime around St. Andrews Square and police engagement with businesses and residents was strengthened.

Questions to BL: 1. There was mention of a recent serious incident in the area, but as this is still under investigation no further details could be provided. 2. JS referred to the excellent police report and statistics by Ward provided to the SE Locality Committee (SELC) last meeting, which she had circulated to GPCC and asked if this could be routinely provided also to GPCC and whether it could be broken down into further detail such as CC area. To assist BL in responding CR stated that his understanding is that Police and Fire Reports alternate to each SELC meeting, so this meant that there would be a police report only every 6 months. BL left the meeting at 7.15pm.

**3. Minutes of 17 October Meeting:** Approved, proposed by BR, seconded by DS.

**4. Matters arising not covered by Agenda:** None

**5b) Councillor's Report:** CR stated that as Morgan Playing Fields is a separate Agenda item, he would refer to it when it came up.

**Waste & Recycling Collections:** So far since the rescheduling of routes following the change to garden waste collections, the altered arrangements have performed poorly.

**Budget Setting:** In February CEC would be putting its budget together after the Scottish Government had set its own budget which tended to follow 2-3 months after the Westminster budget. In response to a later question CR referred to an ongoing CEC public consultation accessible via the Council's consultation hub "Planning for change, delivering services 2019-2023". This consultation closes on 7 December.

**Local Governance Review:** The Scottish Government's consultation closes on 30 November and CR will be sending comments.

Cala Homes - Royal Blind School site forthcoming planning application: There is to be a briefing for Ward Councillors in a few days.

SELC Meeting 26 Nov: There is an update report on Newington Library which indicates that the air conditioning system is now working well except for a single recent incident and measures are being put in place to prevent this happening again.

**6a) Report of CC Scheme Review:** TH reported that he had forwarded to GPCC Members the slides used to illustrate a presentation at the EACC Committee meeting on October 25 about the CEC CC review. Proposed changes had not yet been publicised and there would be a consultation in the New Year. This might offer an opportunity to review the GPCC boundaries. CR referred to the last changes to the Ward boundary which had led to some anomalies.

**6b) Notice of SELC Meeting 26 November:** JS referred to the published Agenda for this meeting and the items on it, stressing that this is a public meeting open to all, but the public cannot participate. It is also available on the CEC webcast. An item on this Agenda, Morgan Playing Field, arises from an emergency motion from CR agreed at its last meeting and led to the next Item on the GPCC Agenda.

**7. Morgan Playing Fields:** A proposal to lease this field owned by CEC is to be put to the 4<sup>th</sup> December meeting of the CEC Finance & Resources Committee and the Report on this is available on the CEC website. At the last SELC meeting an emergency motion from CR was adopted whereby this report is to be considered by SELC before it goes to Finance Committee and hence it is on the agenda for SELC on 26<sup>th</sup> November. CR then gave a comprehensive review of what has happened so far, with the inability of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process to progress. As well as being publicly accessible, the field is used by a local school for football practice, it is Green Belt, Open Space and designated for flood management on the LDP. Fields in Trust (FiT) had also been allocated an interest in the title.

With agreement of GPCC Members, those members of the public attending the meeting with an interest in the matter were allowed to take part in the subsequent discussion rather than having to wait to AOCB at the end. AIG and members of the public pointed out what they considered were shortcomings in the consultation process so far and other factors such as whether there is a need for the number of 5 a side pitches in view of the number of similar EU pitches available on the other side of Peffermill Road. After a full discussion it was agreed that approval would be sought to send a Deputation to the SELC meeting, the scope and arrangements to be co-ordinated by JS and MH, neither of whom could attend on 26<sup>th</sup>. AIG and TH said they could attend, with a member of the public if available.

**8. Walkabout in the GPCC Area on 26<sup>th</sup> September – Progress Report:** The disused bin anchors in Dalkeith Road have been removed. There is still a problem of dog fouling and this needs further following up. Temporary traffic signage for roadworks is still an issue, in particular their removal timeously when no longer needed. JN & ME pointed out that temporary signs can be a hazard for pedestrians when they get blown over either because counterweight sandbags are inadequate or become displaced. Signs may also be moved by contractors carrying out the roadworks as they may not be the firm responsible for the signage. CR referred to Chapter 8 Signage, which is the code of practice for temporary roadworks signage and agreed there are shortcomings. GPCC to continue to monitor the situation.

## **9. Reports of Interest Groups:**

**a) Planning:** TH stated that the Report had been circulated and decisions are required on 2 matters:  
23 East Mayfield: It was agreed to submit the draft objection to the proposed change of roof materials.  
Former Royal Blind School Site Craigmillar Park: After discussion the request from Orbit Scot on behalf of Cala Homes to present their forthcoming planning application proposals is agreed provided that concerned local residents are included in any presentation event. This could be at the next GPCC meeting in January but if this timing does not suit the applicant, as GPCC would be in recess until then, the Planning Sub-Group is authorised to conclude arrangements.

**b) Licensing:** As reported at the last meeting MH confirmed that GPCC receives online notification of licensing applications and any of interest to GPCC will be notified to Members.

**c) Roads/Transport:** JN submitted a comprehensive written report to the meeting and it was agreed that this should be attached to these Minutes. Re the previous meeting ST reported on rather frustrating efforts to progress the removal of disabled bays when no longer needed.

**d) Communications/Publicity:** MH reported that the GPCC Facebook page continued to show an appreciable number of hits and is a good investment for a very modest outlay.

**e) Environment (including Astley Ainslie Hospital Site):** ST & TH reported that the AAH Group had had a productive meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October with Lesley Carus, a CEC Senior Planning Officer now involved with this site. ST was congratulated on the very successful co-operative efforts with local people and CEC in the Grange Association area on leaf clearing and bagging. Materials had been provided by CEC, with at least 45 local volunteers resulting in 600 bags for CEC to collect. If local volunteers come forward it is hoped to be able to expand this initiative into other areas in the future.

**f) Newington Cemetery:** ERJ reported on a Working Party on November 19<sup>th</sup> when about 800 bulbs had been planted and also a further Community Grants Fund application had been submitted. This is for £2000.00 for a secure on site toolbox and tools to expand the outreach locally so it is not dependent on members' ability to provide and carry their own tools to the cemetery. In this way it is hoped that more people will be encouraged to take part in working parties from wider community groups.

#### **10. Reports from Office Bearers:**

**a) Chair:** JS thanked everyone for their efforts. She will send out a separate invitation to GPCC Members for a party on January 5<sup>th</sup>. JS also pointed out that minute takers are required for the New Year months from January onwards. (ERJ subsequently volunteered for January provided that the start time stays the same.)

**b) Treasurer's Report:** AG reported that there is no change from the September statement.

**c) Secretary's Report:** It was noted that as required the Secretary keeps a record of all GPCC correspondence.

**11. AOCB:** ST suggested that the start time of GPCC meetings should be brought forward to 6.45pm in order to allow more time for discussion, now that the closing time of the meetings has had been brought forward. For further discussion at a future meeting and the time of the January 2019 meeting is to remain at 7pm. ST also suggested that the name of the minute taker be noted on the minutes and this was agreed.

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019

JS closed the meeting at 8.50pm

[Minutes taken by Tony Harris, minor changes agreed 16-01-2019]

## **GPCC Roads and Transport Report**

### *Roads and Footways*

Collection of information on Road and Footway Defects: Information has been supplied on Upper Gray Street and South Gray Street (well done, Vice-chairman!). Data collection on other roads is in progress. At tonight's meeting I shall seek some clarification on which roads volunteers will cover. Some work seems to be happening in Mayfield Gardens/Minto Street, with uncertain effects. Nothing is happening yet in East Mayfield.

### *Edinburgh Bus Users' Group (EBUG)*

On 14/11/18 I attended the third meeting of EBUG. It is still very much a work in progress, but with a useful combination of expertise and enthusiasm. Some liaison meetings have already taken place with CEC and Lothian Buses. EBUG is moving from an informal pressure group to an unincorporated association, and plans are at an early stage for a public meeting to be held during the first quarter of 2019. Four Community Councils currently have members on EBUG; an initiative will be launched to widen awareness and active participation on the part of Community Councils.

As previously reported, there is a CEC policy initiative to increase spacing between bus stops to an average of 400 metres. On a rough calculation I estimate that if applied to routes between the centre of GPCC and Princes Street this would imply the removal of three or four stops from each route. As we discussed at the last GPCC meeting, on certain roads such as Prestonfield Avenue the enforcement of a 400 metre average distance would reverse improvements that residents previously successfully fought for.

This initiative was discussed at EBUG. We understand that CEC is to conduct a trial quite far out (roughly Juniper Green / Hermiston area). Several members of EBUG think that the policy will come to nothing in view of the potential trouble and protests caused not only by removing existing stops but by setting up new ones to maintain an even spacing. However it is to be noted that a well-used bus stop in Clerk Street was already removed without prior consultation.

It was also interesting to learn that the replacement of Adshel by JC Decaux as the contractor for bus shelters has had some unintended negative impacts. Basically the new shelters may be seen as an aesthetic improvement at the expense of poorer functionality e.g. letting rain in and in some cases preventing passengers getting on and off buses. Priority has also been given to enabling passengers to see advertising material rather than to see approaching buses or bus tracker displays. Some bus stops in places where there is little market for advertising still have shelters that are owned by CEC. Adshel was not responsible for cleaning these. Under the new contract JC Decaux are responsible for cleaning all bus shelters, but doubts were expressed as to whether they are in fact doing so.

There is an initiative by the joint head of Lothian Buses and the Tram company to improve pedestrian navigation and signage at designated public transport Interchange points. This was applauded – however the need for consultation with transport users was emphasized, as was the need to build in bus-tram interchange planning at an early stage into any extension of the existing tram route to Leith and Newhaven.

At the Waverley Park AGM on Monday, the problem was raised of many buses being too full to stop in Dalkeith Road or Mayfield Gardens/Minto Street during the morning rush hour, and it was suggested that Lothian Buses have not taken adequate account of the knock-on effect for GPCC residents of the increased number of passengers travelling from newer developments on the outskirts of the City. Following advice from EBUG members I have been able to identify an appropriate officer in Lothian Buses whom to approach on this matter.

Julian Newman, 21/11/2018