

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Minutes of 19 June 2019**  
**Meeting held at Cameron House Community Education Centre**

**Present:** Janet Sidaway (Chair, JS), Mike Hunter (Vice-Chair and Secretary, MH), Isabel Clark (IAC), Tony Harris (TH), Bill Reid (BR), David Stevenson (DS), Sue Tritton (ST), Maureen Edwards (ME), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Joe Griffin (JG), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ), Councillor Steve Burgess (SB).

**In attendance:** PC Wong, Police Scotland,  
Stuart Tooley (StuT), Community Relations Manager, Edinburgh University.  
Member of Public: Michael McMullin.

**Apologies:** Ian Chisholm (IC), Julian Newman (JN), Andreas Grothey (AndG), Ian Murray MP.

**1. Welcome and Apologies.**

JS and MH advised that Henry Philip had stepped down and on behalf of the GPCC expressed their heartfelt thanks to Henry Philip for all his dedication and hard work which was greatly appreciated.

**5 a) Police Report** - JS proposed Police Report start meeting which was agreed.

PC Wong commenced the Police report advising that while Police Scotland had recently been involved with the Extinction Rebellion protestors, the following other issues were raised -

**Phone scams** -these had been increasing in the area. Residents should be aware that banks do not ask for personal bank details.

**Vandalism** - The Police were working with Edinburgh City Council (CEC) regarding vandalism in our area. A dedicated team has been set up at Howdenhall Police Station. Police Scotland are asking members of the public to contact 101 and report any vandalism incidents for this new Police team to investigate.

**Youth Motor Bikes (joyriding)** - recent reports of youths on motorbikes out joyriding. Believed to be youths outwith our area. Again police asking us to report any incidents to 101.

**20mph enforcement** - A dedicated Police Officer, Stuart Fraser has been tasked to investigate and enforce 20 mph in our area. Discussion took place regarding specific speeding roads. Please contact Stuart Fraser, Neil MacKay or PC Wong himself to complain about speeding. SB advised that he had received numerous speeding complaints and about taxi drivers taking shortcuts along Priestfield Road, Prestonfield Avenue, Suffolk Road, Brights Crescent, etc. PC Wong advised he would forward this information to the specified Officer.

**Crime statistics** – no updates available at present.

**Preston Street School Bike Bus project** - ERJ asked whom to contact to discuss. PC Wong advised to contact him as he had been involved in such schemes, and he would forward this information.

**2. Declarations of Interest** – None

**3. Minutes of May 15, 2019** - Approved after discussion took place regarding some amendments to the MInutes.

**4. Matters Arising not covered by Agenda** – None.

**5. b) Councillor's Report** - JS welcomed and invited Councillor Steve Burgess for his report-

**Climate Change Emergency** - SB advised that many people were not aware of what was going on at City level. In October 2018 the UN IPCC report on climate change set out the need to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and the Scottish Government Committee on Climate Change made recommendations that Scotland set a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions (i.e be carbon neutral) by 2045. In May 2019, the City Council agreed to work towards a net zero carbon target by 2030, with a hard target of 2037. In June 2019, Councillor SB proposed a motion for Edinburgh City to work together in partnership which was accepted by the Council and hopefully will be set up by the end of 2019, involving residents, Community Councils, and citywide partnerships, e.g. universities, health care, churches, etc. ( Note: details of the agreed proposal are available at [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4698/corporate\\_policy\\_and\\_strategy\\_committee](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4698/corporate_policy_and_strategy_committee), Item 7.4.)

JG asked where is CEC now positioned (e.g. cars, energy, etc) to achieve the target of carbon neutrality by 2030?

SB advised that CEC on course to meet its original target of 42% de-carbonisation by 2020. Successful de-carbonisation of electric grid renewables is a huge challenge which requires looking at energy use (e.g gas, electric,) and the cost of switching to cost to switch to renewable sources. In addition, the CEC has no control over how residents/businesses use energy.

CEC were looking at renewable forms of energy such as wind farms, to replace gas by hydrogen, and reduce the use of fossil fuels in public transport. ERJ asked if the carbon emissions target was for Council properties only or City-wide? SB replied the target was for both Council and City carbon emissions. CEC produce plans for putting their own house in order and other organisations would look at what they could do themselves and set their own targets. It is not just CEC, it has to be the City which requires people to be encouraged to come on board.

**Garden Waste charge** - ST asked if the £25 charge for garden waste would be removed.

SB advised that he along with a number of political parties were opposed to the Budget decision last October 2018 as it appeared to be charging to re-cycle garden waste. Approx 70,000 houses had signed up with £1.4m revenue which saved the ECC Budget **£0.5m**. However, not everyone had signed up which raised concerns over fly tipping, using landfill, etc. To re-instate free garden waste would cost approx £2m. CEC is mid- budget, trying to save £14m and to find additional £2m for Garden Waste is unlikely. The current Garden Waste appears to work and generates revenue despite administration costs, etc.

**Re-Use Cabin at Dalkeith Rd. Waste Recycling Centre** - ST and TH raised the issue that the recycle facility for furniture had been shut by CEC without informing public. Discussion took place with SB that the CEC incurred a cost to provide this service and that organisations may uplift bulky items. The CEC website provides information.

**Insulation** - ST asked if insulation standards in affordable housing are lower than private houses, TH advised that insulation standards are similar now, however the CEC could press the Government to encourage individuals to reduce consumption of energy and improve insulation in buildings which could save energy/money. SB advised all new housing must be built to same standards. TH confirmed that for the older stone buildings the existing legislation applied whereas the new legislation applied to new developments to reduce the energy levels.

**Communication channels** - SB advised that GPCC views could be expressed at different levels of community planning e.g. City wide partnerships, local community, Neighbourhood networks. However the locality level plans were at an early stage and not clear how they would work or function.

JG asked on the most effective way to become involved in the planning process. SB advised that this was not fully worked out yet for communities. ALG asked why new houses do not require to have solar panels which would provide more energy. SB advised Solar panels would save energy costs but new buildings required to have climate change requirements which does not include solar panels.

**Airport Emissions** - JG raised concern about Airport emissions and SB advised that all emissions should be included (e.g. shipping etc), and it was agreed that the Airports could be asked to join the climate discussion.

## 6. Reports of Interest Sub Groups -

a. **Planning (TH)** - TH advised he had circulated his Report .

**Peffermill** - ALG asked for clarification on the height of the proposed tower blocks for student accommodation. StuT would report back.

**14 Clearburn Crescent** - Flats and Meditation Centre - TH advised consent given in 2015. If the development included anything different this would require a new planning application. ALG observed it was a strange place to locate a meditation centre in the middle of a residential area.

**Royal Blind School** - TH update that on 29 May there had been a site visit with a good turn out.

**9 Relugas Road** - erect greenhouse - despite GPCC objection the Planning case officer had made a genuine mistake in the closing date and the planning application had already been granted.

**Kings Buildings Campus** - ERJ raised concerns regarding Bus shelter and traffic planning. TH said GPCC had objected as scheme meant losing trees for buses to turn round and not sure if sufficient space for this. StuT asked TH for a copy of GPCC objections and after discussion it was agreed to ask the case officer to provide StuT with a copy of GPCC objections.

**23 Minto Street** - Mansard Roof on rear extending - TH advised GPCC objections lodged.

**20 Mortonhall Road** - ST advised that the style of extension was not appropriate. TH to have a look.

**13 Lauder Road** - TH advised that permission approved for 3m driveway not 3.4m but owner has built 3.4m. Objection made.

**Grange Association** - Discussion that a lot of applications are given permission because of special circumstances e.g. house beside Newington Library used as accommodation for less able resident(s). When the person and/or special circumstances moves out/no longer applies the Planning Department should consider including a condition in the original Planning application that the alteration is restored to its original design and check up that this is done.

TH said he would take this to the Planning sub group.

**1 Kilmaurs Terrace** – Agreed to object on basis of traffic and parking. TH to take to Planning sub group.

**Planning Legislation** - It was noted that The Planning (Scotland) Bill which had been introduced to the Scottish Parliament in December 2017 was likely to be passed soon, and the GPCC regretted that Scottish Ministers had ruled out the right of Community Appeal on planning matters. (Note: The bill was passed on June 20).

**b. Licensing – Nothing**

**c. Roads/Transport – Nothing**

**d. Communications/Publicity** - MH advised that as a result of previous discussion regarding the GPCC Newsletter text had been reduced by approx 20%. He was still waiting on details of the Elections Returning Officer. SB advised that there was a meeting arranged for 2 weeks ahead for the decision.

MH drew attention to a map of the area covered by GPCC on the newsletter which would be useful to show residents the area covered. The map is the same map as on our website although there was more detail on the web site. Budget at last meeting agreed £1,000 for Print/delivery. MH sought quotes from 3 printers. One quote for 7,500 newsletters for £475. 2 other quotes awaited. Discussion took place about GPCC delivering the newsletters and it was agreed that the delivery would be incorporated into a print + delivery contract. MH expressed his grateful thanks to all the contributors for the texts.

**e. Environment** - ST advised there was not much to report. On Ashley Ainslie: Community Engagement Group meeting planned for next week to decide what to do.

Leaf clearing - ST advised that the Council will support Grange Association again if people in other areas would like to join in. Discussion took place and there were mixed views about leaf clear-up being a problem in the other areas. ST to contact other local Associations.

**f. Newington Cemetery** - ERJ advised it was mixed news. Tool Store - there was disagreement where to locate the tool store for all the tools which had been donated. Had considered tool store in catacombs but cost too high, also considered location near entrance. ERJ said TH had done excellent costings for some possible locations within the cemetery. Concern raised by ERJ regarding the SCNP Grant which must be used within 6 months period which is coming to an end soon. ERJ had not yet had a reply from CEC about the possibility of grant extension, despite having sent several emails.

Doors Open Day - next week the working group are meeting to discuss this event. JS advised that CPA had donated a cheque for £100.00 to Newington Cemetery - ERJ was delighted and indicated it could be used to buy trees/plants. JS thanked ERJ for all her hard work in this project.

## **7 Reports from Officer Bearers-**

### **a) Chair's Report**

JS expressed her thanks for the hard work put in by everyone.

**b) Treasurer's report.** - There was no update on the bank balance. In AG's absence, JS said that there was a possibility that CPA would contribute to the costs of arranging the two public meetings on the CALA development of the Royal Blind School. TH said he had submitted all the invoices to AG and been refunded. JS is to check the position with AG and CPA.

**c) Secretary's report** - nothing to add

## **8 Reports of Outside Groups**

### **a) EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils)**

TH advised he would be attending the next meeting, however the Regional Strategic Development Plan (RSDP) had been rejected by the Scottish Ministers. Now unclear how Local Development Plans will proceed as had been waiting on RSDP to be implemented. MH advised that the previous RSDP would still be in force.

**b) SNNN (Southside/Newington Neighbourhood Network**

ST advised as GPCC representative she attended this initial meeting which is Ward based for local planning network. Approximately 20 people attended. Some groups had not been invited and ST along with others provided details of other groups that should be invited. One of the attendees has taken on the Chair post, and once all relevant groups become involved in local planning further meetings will be held.

**9. AOCB -**

Discussion regarding the forthcoming elections. MH advised that he had received an email briefing about the elections but no specific dates.

Resignations -

Janet Sidaway (JS) (Chair) and Mike Hunter (MH) (Vice chair and Secretary) confirmed their intention to resign from their GPCC posts in September 2019, as reported in April.

Julian Newman (JN) has also advised of his intention to resign from GPCC.

JS wished everyone a wonderful summer vacation.

**The meeting closed at 8.50pm.**

**Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 18 September 2019.**

Minutes recorded by IAC