

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**Minutes 18 September 2019**

**Present:** Janet Sidaway (JS) (Chair), Mike Hunter (MH) (Vice-Chair & Secretary), Maureen Edwards (ME), Tony Harris (TH), Sue Tritton (ST), David Stevenson (DS), Bill Reid (BR), Ian Chisholm (IC), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Isabel Clark (IsC), Cllr Alison Dickie (AD)

**In attendance:** PC Neil Mackay, Stuart Tooley (UoE) (StT)

**Apologies:** Andreas Grothey (AG) (Treasurer), Julian Newman (JN), Joe Griffin (JG)

**Absent:** Denis Stevens

**Public:** Stefanie Murr

- 1) **Welcome:** JS welcomed everyone and said that, unless there is a contested election, this would be her last meeting as GPCC Chair. As previously, she suggested that the Police Report be heard first to allow the PC to leave.
- 2) **Police Report:** PC Mackay explained that he was just back from paternity leave and provided the following updates:
  - a) In June drugs had been targeted with assistance from CEC. There is a 6-month programme of drug enforcement in Southside. This is continuing.
  - b) A male had been arrested on sex-assault offences.
  - c) A 16-year old male had been arrested for the theft of a very expensive bike.
  - d) Update on a sex-assault in 2016. A 40-year-old male had been extradited from Germany.
  - e) Several housebreakings in the Mayfield Road area – a 17-year-old was caught in Crawford Road.
  - f) A group of young people had committed offences in Nicolson Street area in early July. They had been before the Children’s Reporter and the group is now behaving.
  - g) Recorded crime is down in the Meadows.
- Questions to the PC**
  - a) AIG asked about the results of speed checks in the Prestonfield area. The PC didn’t know
  - b) AIG asked about the proposal to ban parking on pavements. The PC said that the Police view was that an offence occurs if there is a clear obstruction
  - c) JS asked what the public could do about speeding vehicles. The PC said an immediate call should be made to 101. A request for a speed check should be made to the PC.
  - d) ERJ asked about the planned “Climate Strike” on Friday. The PC said there would be no action unless there is disorder.
- 3) **Community Council Elections:** Cllr Dickie is Returning Officer for GPCC. She said she had, so far, received no nominations. It was noted that, in previous elections, all community councillors had received individual invitations to remind them that they had to apply. AD agreed to send forms to everyone.
- 4) **Declarations of Interest:** None
- 5) **Minutes of 19 June 2019.** Accepted as a correct record. Proposed by TH; seconded by ERJ  
IsC was thanked for the production of the minutes.
- 6) **Matters Arising:** None
- 7) **Councillor’s Report:** Cllr Dickie said that many issues had been raised by the PC. Other main issues included:
  - a) **CEC Budget.** Issues to consider include poverty, wellbeing, inequality. There are very hard decisions to make when we’re in difficult financial times
  - b) **Parking:** Problems in the Kings Meadows area – see Roads & Transport

- c) **Prestonfield area:** Issues include housing and homelessness. Local organisations include the Prestonfield Neighbourhood Project and the Community Education Centre – which is a fantastic facility.
- d) **Brown Bins:** AIG said many people are having difficulty in applying for a permit and long waits when people phone for help.

## 8) Reports of Interest Groups:

### a) Planning:

- i. **Signs at Kings Buildings:** TH drew attention to the new sign at the junction of Mayfield Road and West Mains Road – which has been erected although permission has not yet been granted
- ii. **Trees in Blackford Avenue:** Request to fell 6 trees in the grounds of Camilla House Care Home has received a lot of opposition and GPCC has formally objected.
- iii. **Peffermill Playing Fields:** An application has not yet appeared and StT says it is expected in October. There is concern that this will be led to an increase in the parking problems being experienced by residents in Kings Meadows. ERJ asked StT about the expected height of the student accommodation – probably 10 stories.
- iv. **Craigmillar Park Conservation Area Character Appraisal:** Work on a revision of this is underway and GPCC will be able to comment when it is available for public consultation – possibly in the New Year.
- v. **New Local Development Plan – City Plan 2030.** Consultation on the main issues report will run from December 2019 to February 2020.
- vi. **23 East Mayfield:** New extension has been built higher than shown on the approved plans, and there are other issues.
- vii. **Bus stop at KB.** Approved – despite objections from GPCC. TH agreed to send a copy of GPCC objections to StT.

### b) Licensing: No applications in our area.

### c) Roads and Transport: JN had circulated a report – particular issues include:

- **Parking in King's Meadows:** Problems with inconsiderate parking from users of Peffermill facilities. This is worst when there is a major event. StT said that it was a problem in the University holidays when the facilities are used by others. Now students are back these problems should reduce. Cllr Dickie said she had received many complaints.
- **East Mayfield footway:** Cllr Dickie agreed to find out when the resurfacing will be done.
- **Dalkeith Road:** problems with buses.
- **Blocked Gullies:** All agreed that this is a major problem – it is now easier to report these on the CEC website and everyone encouraged to do this.

### d) Communication: MH reported that the newsletter was slightly overbudget as the delivery company was VAT registered. MH was congratulated on organising another excellent edition.

### e) Environment:

**Astley Ainslie Hospital.** CEC had held 4 consultation events to supplement the events organised earlier by the AA Community Trust – about 200 had attended. CEC will use the results of the consultations to produce a Place Brief on which GPCC will be able to comment. The AAH will be open during Doors Open Days (DOD) with various activities and walks available.

### f) Newington Cemetery: The Cemetery will be open, as part of DOD, on Sunday September 29th – selected graves will feature people with international connections. There will be a Fungi Foray on October 6th starting at 230pm. An extension of the time limit to the grant for the tool store is being requested.

## **9 Office Bearers Reports**

- a) **Chair's Report:** JS had circulated a report and indicated this would be her last as Chair. She had got involved with the CC in 2013 after reading an article in the newsletter. Particular achievements included Newington Cemetery, improvements to East Mayfield, protecting the Morgan Playing Fields, and the scrutiny of all planning applications in the area. She thanked everyone involved.
- b) **Treasurer's report:** AG reported (by email) that the last bank statement showed £4794.34, of which £2417.15 is for Newington Cemetery. Since then £1147 has been paid for printing and delivery of the newsletter.
- c) **Secretary's Report:** MH said that after 12 years on the CC (since its formation) he was not standing again. He will pass all papers etc. to the new secretary.

## **9) Reports from Outside Groups:**

- a) **EACC:** TH said he has been the Planning spokesperson for EACC but no longer wishes to be the GPCC rep. There will be an update on the Local development Plan on the following day.
- b) **SNNN (Southside Newington Neighbourhood Network):** ST had attended a meeting the previous evening – only 5 community reps had attended (out of over 20 groups invited). Tim Pogson (Southside CC) had been elected as the SNNN rep on the Locality Community Planning Partnership. The SNNN may be involved with various community grants but there is still considerable confusion about the remit and purpose of these neighbourhood networks. TH commented that Community Councils have statutory functions in Planning and Licensing and it is important that these new structures recognise this.

- 10) AOCB.** ERJ asked everyone to think of possible new members and encourage them to apply.

The meeting closed at 20.50.

Minute taker: ST