**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of meeting 21 June 2023**

Meeting held in person at Prestonfield Community Centre and via Zoom

**Office Bearers -**

Chair - Ian Chisholm; Joint Vice Chairs - Paul Rowllings, Ellen-Raissa Jackson; Secretary- Raphael Bleakley; Treasurer - Paul Rowllings;

**Members present:**

Sue Tritton, Alan Gilmour, Ken Robertson, Scott Paterson, Peter Jones, Sally Griffiths, Stanley Bird; Cllr Simita Kumar

**In attendance and members of the public**

Ian Wright, Chair of Craigmillar Park Association, Denise Fisher; Isabel Clark,

**Apologies:**

Paul Rowllings; Ellen Raissa-Jackson

**Absent:**

Bill Reid; Andreas Grothey

1. **Welcome. –** Ian welcomed everyone to the June meeting
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None

**3. Minutes of 17 May 2023**- Minutes agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Points –

* Newington Cemetery – No further update on the status of the wall. Sally said she’d been in touch with Daniel Johnson MSP who contacted the Council about this. Someone from Council been in touch with Ellen. Council insistent on doing themselves and can’t afford to outsource. Time to prioritise the work.
* Dalkeith planters – left to September meeting
* 41 bus – Ian looked at the changes. Ken to write on behalf of GPCC, Sue and Ken to work together to write to Lothian Buses. View that Lothian Buses should effect better communications with local councillors before enacting change. Has any consideration been given to subsidise the 41 bus to ameliorate the claim that the route is not economical. Cllr Kumar said that they have been inundated with correspondence about this. The first time they heard about it was at the same time as the public. Lothian Buses are adamant that footfall for use of the service has decreased, due to people’s changed working patterns. Cllr Kumar supportive of co-signing a letter. Would re-consider actions in the future if there is demand. Does not consider this a closed matter. CC to copy Councillors into the letter.
* Ratcliffe Terrace – Ian has written to the Council about the illuminated signage
* Ian has mentioned the planning vacancy to interested parties.

**4. Notice of Matters Arising -** None

**5. Reports (External) –**

Cllr Simita Kumar updated with the following:

* Communal bin review. In person consultations going on from 29th June to 13th July. 11th July session at Cameron House.
* 140 Causewayside consultation – next one is 27th July. Cllr Kumar to be part of the planning sub-committee so has to step back from commenting for now.
* Has received a number of emails objecting to 5G mast on Grange Loan This proposal is now open for comments, which must be lodged by 14 July. Objections can be submitted on the Comments tab of the application
* Speeding on Mayfield road – community police officers engaged for speed checks.
* Dalkeith Road and Blacket Avenue closed with temporary lights to 2nd July causing traffic in the morning. For the water mains connections.
* Savile terrace will be closed from 20th June – 7th July for Scottish Water.
* Cameron House summer school has issues around funding. Have applied for community grant funding, hope will help to advertise their youth programme.
* Cllr Kumar attended Prestonfield Primary School summer fair, well attended. Raised £2,000 for playground improvement.
* Council officers going through guidance and briefing on judgement on short term lettings. For the Council to decide the details. In our ward there is a high prevalence short-term lets. With legal colleagues for advice. Will advocate the political stance for this.
* Consultation by SG effective community engagement on local planning guidance, closes 13th September.

Questions for the Cllr Kumar.

* Alan asked how long the Council determine that road works should take? Gave example of road works on Peffermill Road where there was no discernible progress for a number of days. Cllr Kumar gave example of other bodies wanting to carry out works, they need to specify the timescale required. Can feedback where believe work isn’t being carried out.
* Sue asked about roads being resurfaced – roads which didn’t need resurfacing, Dick place etc. Lauder Road requires it and hasn’t been resurfaced. How does the Council decide who gets priority. Lauder road is over-due in being rehabilitated. Can raise Lauder Road, a road safety issue. Council has allocated biggest budget ever to road repairs, need to understand the method for deciding resurfacing. Why Dick Place, St Albans have been done**.** GPCC to provide a statement to Cllr Kumar, about Lauder Road surface, in particular as this is a key bus route.

**6. Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning report**

* **8 Mayfield Gardens/ Brights Crescent** – Isabel gave background on the sale of the land and the development of a two storey house. Quite an impact on the neighbouring property. CEC has not informed residents, no letter or no further notification. Found out by word of mouth. Currently 28 comments. Concerns for the residents of Brights Crescent, where is the fairness and accountability within the Council? Current site is small. Has an impact on other sites as there are different locations where a similar model of property could be developed. Sign for notification was in the wrong place and neighbours were not notified of the proposal.. Privacy and daylight issues, not a householder development. Couple of trees to be removed as part of the development. Ian to submit the objection
* **140 Causewayside** development – Second public viewing on 27th July, may carry some amendments in the light. Sue, some concern about overshadowing, this hasn’t been properly taken into account. The building is huge on Causewayside. Difficult to see what is happening. An interim comment would be helpful to set out issues. The developers have been in touch to meet. Scott raised that it’s a commercial building with no footprint. Other areas have medical surgeries, dentists etc. has this been taken into account. To put a cohort of students in, will add to need to services. They said the density would go up from 38% - 41% in the post office sub-code area. Is there a student density problem. Ian asked Richard Scothorn for a report on this, and is still waiting for it. Flagship project Tim o’Shea’s. Possible to see an architect’s model?
* **Communal Bin Review –**Meeting at Cameron House on 11th July. Are all residents advised? How will they be sited on Dalkeith Road. Improved quality of bin and regular bin emptying. Is this happening. Scott raised that it is the single most communicated issue on Facebook and Nextdoor. From the point of view of the Community Council, there are always complaint of where bins are sited.

**b. Licensing**

* No items.

**c. Roads/Transport**

Alan updated

* Booking system to be scrapped from the recycling centre from 1st August.
* Trams to Leith are now up and running.
* Glasgow LEZ up and running. Public information about the LEZ? Blue badge holders have to apply for an exemption.
* Ban on Petrol Vehicles by 2030 could be scrapped. Sales of electric chargers fallen.

Sally gave an update on the CPZ in Waverley Park. Online meeting with Cllr Scott Arthur, 5th June and Gavin Brown with senior officer responsible for parking. 12 residents attended. Gavin Brown, proposing an alternative in a Permit Parking Area – used for cul-de-sacs. Waverley Park is quite enclosed. He’s come back to suggest it could be extended to an area like theirs. Would pay for permits at CPZ rates, visitors would have to be given permits by the people they’re visiting. Time is 8:30-17:00. Minimises the street lines etc. Sent to the Feuers Committee. The Council is not keen on amending the current PPA. Will take extra time. Would need to restart the whole process. Consultation may take place in July. Concern about the Mayfield Bowling Club, could have some pay-to-park bays for the Bowling club, would still need to pay. Scott Arthur suggested could go through the Community Council with a solution to Queen’s Crescent being used as a rat run. Council has recorded that the average speed is 16.4mph in Queens Crescent – within the tolerance. Discussion turned to the number of rat runs in the CC area, including Blacket Avenue and various streets down towards Craigmillar Park. Discussion considered

Ken raised that the four emergency road closures are up for review – how to approach?

Ken reminded that the spatial policy consultation closes on 9th July Ken and Alan to draft a response on behalf of the CC.

**d. Communications/Publicity**

* Confirmed that application to Community Grants fund for two noticeboards to be sited in the GPCC area had been submitted.

**e. Environment –**

* No Update

**f. Newington Cemetery -**

* No Update

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

Paul updated that the current bank balance is **£6,021**

* The GPCC account balance - . No new income with expenditure of £46 for Zoom subscription and Grange Fayre fllyers
* Newington Cemetery balance - £4,081. No new income or expenditure

1. Secretary.

* Cameron house booked to March 2024

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) -

* Next meeting is on Thursday 22 June 2023
  + Nothing further to report.
* Also a further meeting on 6th July reporting on festivals Edinburgh

9**AOB - Open Forum -**

* **GPCC into 2024**
* Proposals for Edinburgh Boundary changes, whether this affects Community Council boundaries? Whole of Newington will be moved into Central Edinburgh. Consultation closed on 17th June. The CC is across two parliamentary constituencies.
* Ken thinking about what GPCC looks like next year. Bigger, more proactive, visible. Currently have a lack visibility, lack clout and presence. Ways and means of doing that. Need to recruit and push on. Need to engage more locally. Residents association. Have an invitation to speak to Prestonfield Primary Parent Council and should speak with Preston Street Parent Council. Engagement fatigue, affects many others. Good number of community councils find themselves struggling with relevance. Ought to be more closely engaged in local planning and neighbourhood networks. Exists well in NW Edinburgh.
* NW Edinburgh have a small cohort of engaged community councils. Challenge is that there is big expansion so they are galvanised. Strong community engagement facility in place. Led by CEC officer who works enthusiastically, produce a community newsletter.
* Catalyst is Council’s promise to put engagement foremost led by Andrew Field.
* Sue commented that Grange/Prestonfield that the area is not a natural community.
* Bridgend Community has a vibrant community effort to support. Commonality with other CCs. An open day?
* Community Newsletter – Should a fresh newsletter be drafted? For the next meeting.
* Stanley and Communty Flag – a vehicle to raise the visibility of the Community Council.

10.  **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 21st September 2023 at 7pm**

Action list

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| **3  Actions**  **ii)**    **5(a)**  **6.a Planning report** | **Newington Cemetery** -  Wall repair, work to commence soon.  **Dalkeith Road  Planters** -  Erect a sign sponsored by GPCC  41 bus. To write to Lothian buses to raise Community Concerns    **Ratcliffe Terrace** Illuminated Signage AG Barbers    Road resurfacing – how is priority decided and why hasn’t Lauder Road been given priority?  GPCC Planning Vacancy Advert for position to be drafted  8 Mayfield Gardens / Brights Crescent– objection to be submitted  140 Causewayside development  Communal Bin Review  Spatial policy consultation | Continued for update at September meeting  Longevity of the planter to be assessed.  Sue and Ken to draft email to Lothian buses and copy to ward Councillors  Await response from Council officers    GPCC to provide a statement to Cllr Kumar for follow-up.    Ian to submit objection    GPCC to submit questions after second event on 27th July.  GPCC members to attend session on 11th July at Cameron House.  Ken and Alan to draft a response on behalf of GPCC |