

**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council
Minutes of 19 April 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 Tim Pogson

In attendance and members of the public

Ian Wright, Chair of Craigmillar Park Association, Denise Fisher

Apologies

Ian Chisholm, Andreas Grothey, Stuart Tooley – University of Edinburgh,

1. **Welcome.** – Ellen welcomed everyone to the April meeting

2. **Declarations of Interest** - None

3. **Minutes of 22 March 2023** - Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Points –

- CEC elections – Council have confirmed will be in 2024 following a boundary review.
- Newington Cemetery. Ellen has received an update from Andy Hulme. Will start within the next two-three weeks. Delay due to the temperature required to set the lime mortar.
- Dalkeith Road planters – no further update about how long that will last.
- Bin review – is likely to reach this part of the city over the next few months. Cllr Pogson updated that this will move into design and implementation phase. Report going to transport and environment on 18th May which will specify detail and timescales. Debate on bin review at 16 March full Council meeting. – Council asked to provide more consideration and respect of individual placing decisions from the Council, particularly on planning and design. Confirmed there will be a programme of consultation including looking at practical issues.
- Lady Road resurfacing – Cllr Pogson confirmed that a problem with the aggregate had been identified and this will be corrected at the cost to the contractor.

- Planning – Minto Street, Ian Chisholm submitted an objection based on Blackett Association. Ian to follow up with the enforcement team for the Causewayside signage
- Planning vacancy – Ellen suggested pressing on with finding a replacement.

4. Notice of Matters Arising - None

5. Reports (External) –

- Cllr Tim Pogson updated:
 - Council has been in Easter recess, so not much Council activity over the last month.
 - CPZ introduction in the area. Cllr Pogson has been receiving correspondence about this from residents.
 - A new Friends of Inch park group is being established following the funding bid submitted to the UK Government Levelling Up fund for the redevelopment of Inch House and Inch Park. Decision to keep this group going through a Friends group. Meetings are ongoing to get the group constituted with an AGM in June. Suggested GPCC could promote this. Want to take elements of the park redevelopment, and seek funding to realise key elements of the proposal. Playground, litter, and traffic in the area are issues.
 - Has received an email from a resident in Mayfield Road, concerned about lack of enforcement of 20mph. Cllr Pogson has flagged with Police. Ellen raised that the Police had contacted GPCC prior to the pandemic about community speed enforcement. A no-conflict means of enforcement. Discussion about speeding in the area and lack of enforcement.

Discussion about local policing issues:

- Ellen commented that the quarterly police report doesn't include much detail to the area however it did highlight issues with kids on electric bikes in the area.
- Police advertised a bike marking event and didn't show up. No information for people.
- Cllr Pogson suggested that police could attend future CC meetings if specific issues to raise. Cllr Pogson to ask if they can attend a future meeting.
- There was discussion about slow police responses times in response to incidents that have been reported in the local area. This includes property being targeted by local youths, reports of assaults by youths with balaclavas on bikes and sheds in gardens being broken into. There was further discussion about the lack of enforcement for traffic violations, in particular ensuring speed limits are adhered to and issues at traffic junctions. In summary there is a perceived inadequate police response to anything from anti-social behaviour, theft, serious traffic violations and gratuitous violence. Cllr Pogson said the Council has an anti-social behaviour team. The CC discussed how to raise the

profile of repeated instances reported in the area and whether this should be publicised online.

6. Reports of Interest Groups -

a. Planning report

- Raphael updated that there have been a lower number of applications in the weekly lists. Some may have merit for comment.
- Tony Harris gave a personal update on 15 Dalkeith Road. Some changes proposed, main point is that it's better that the height has come down. Suggestion to ask for more CG impressions of what it could look like. Reduction in affordable housing in the update is also noted. Sue suggested that the CC restate original objection and let Councillors know and add a version of the section drafted by Tony. Suggestion to ask Stuart Tooley if the University has a position on the development at 15 Dalkeith Road.
- Ellen updated that the university has planted new cherry trees in the area near the lodge in Pollock Halls, replacing some of the trees that have been felled. .

b. Licensing

- Ken raised lack of licensing and planning spokesmen in CCs. Ongoing consultation in the licensing board. Public review in statement of licensing policy, underlying issues is overprovision in some areas. Raphael to circulate details.

c. Roads/Transport

. Alan updated:

- North Bridge re-opening to two way traffic on 21st April. But overall work will take two more years.
- Council projects, including "Lothian Boulevard" with the aim to transform, £3.5million via Sustrans.
- Increase in parking fees by 20%, extra income to go to community led projects.
- Inter-school travel week, prize to get kids going – active travel. Three categories. Raphael raised that Prestonfield Primary school have now commenced a bike bus ([Twitter link](#)).
- Parking meters on way out as they use 3G network and these are being phased out, likely to happen in Edinburgh.

Ken updated on the City Mobility Consultation which is now live on the CECs [consultation hub](#). 26 questions EACC website, looking for all views. All encouraged to fill out, can we offer a GPCC view. Cllr Arthur suggested that this is slanted towards pedestrian movement. To circulate, Ken and Alan to look at issues that GPCC can agree on.

d. Communications/Publicity

- Paul and Scott updated, not much activity or traffic on website or Facebook page.

- Ken mentioned that he has an outline idea for fostering outside engagement. Paul asked if there is a best in class CC that we could follow. Ken raised that some CCs are struggling. EACC looking to identify specialities and pool expertise across the City's CCs. Paul raised that there was an attempt to get treasurers together and it didn't go anywhere, looking for ideas and experience about how to be a treasurer and auditing accounts etc. Ken to contact Julie Whiteman to pick this back up. Drumbrae, Currie, Northfield and Willowbrae. Ken commented on engagement fatigue.
- Stanley suggested a competition for a Community Flag, logo or motif – use it to engage with schools and others in the Community. Use this as a vehicle to drive engagement. Stanley to get some information via the Lion Court who have their own engagement packs. Ken raised that it's a competitive environment, competing with many different organisations within the neighbourhood network. In context of the area, we are in competition for other's time and attention. Discussion about different vehicles of communication and the need to be able to create content.
- Grange Association Fayre, GPCC could have a stall there – 13th May. At Newington Library – Discussion about whether GPCC will be able to sufficiently cover a stall. Ken to see if there is availability for a GPCC stall. Paul could put some information together which would be more current.

e. Environment –

Sue updated:

- House next to Avenue Stores, 34 Blackford Avenue. The property has been designed and is being built to PassivHaus standard, wondered if it would be possible for the owner to give an overview of the build process.
- Blacket association looking at environmental issues, solar panels, Air Source Heat Pumps etc in conservation area. Impact on streetscape. Ken raised that there is a current consultation on that type of issue in this area. Ellen suggested that this could be a publicity focus for GPCC. Stanley to see if there is anything Blacket Association can share.

f. Newington Cemetery -

Ellen updated:

- Friends of Newington Cemetery have restored a bench.
- Issue at front of cemetery with people parking their vehicles. Plan to get a stone tub to stop people from parking near the entrance of the Cemetery. Suggestion to use noticeboards in Cemetery to make people aware of these.
- Plants in the cemetery are looking good, result of hard work of Friends group.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

a. Treasurer Report -

Paul updated that the current bank balance is £6,310:

- The GPCC account balance - £2,001. No new income with expenditure of £95 for insurance
- Newington Cemetery balance - £4,309. No new income or expenditure.

b. Secretary.

No further update

8. Reports of Outside Groups

- a. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) -
 - Ken updated have had Cllr Mandy Watt highlighting low funding from Scottish Government. Big funding gap.
 - Helpful session from waste collection and cleansing department, helpful follow-up. Comprehensive contact list on Waste and Cleansing issue. Will give an update on recycling ambitions for the city.
 - Sessions on transport. New JCB machine to deal with pot holes.
 - Ken has updated the website and include more recent content.

9 AOB - Open Forum -

10. **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 7pm including AGM.**

<p>3 Actions ii) 5(a) and 6(f)</p>	<p>Newington Cemetery - Wall repair, work to commence soon.</p> <p>Dalkeith Road Planters - Erect a sign sponsored by GPCC</p>	<p>Continued for update at May meeting</p> <p>Longevity of the planter to be assessed.</p>
<p>6.a Planning report</p>	<p>Ratcliffe Terrace Illuminated Signage AG Barbers</p> <p>15 Dalkeith Road revised application</p>	<p>Ian to notify CEC enforcement team about lack of planning application.</p> <p>Resubmit revised comments reflecting on revised application. Follow up with Stuart Tooley to see University of Edinburgh's position on the application.</p>
<p>GPCC Planning Vacancy</p>	<p>Advert for position to be drafted</p>	
<p>6. c. Transport</p>	<p>City Mobility Plan consultation</p>	<p>Alan and Ken to look at the questions and identify which areas GPCC could agree to contribute comments.</p>
<p>6.d.</p>	<p>Community publicity – creation of a community motif.</p> <p>GPCC presence at Grange Association Fair – 13 May</p>	<p>Stanley to get some information via the Lion Court who have their own engagement packs for working with local groups.</p> <p>Sue / Ken to enquire about availability of a stall / possibility of publicising GPCC at this event. Paul to supply materials if required.</p>