

Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council
Minutes of 15 September 2021
Meeting held via Zoom

Elected Office Bearers -

Chair - Ian Chisholm. (IC); Secretary- Raphael Bleakley (RB); Vice Chair -Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ), Treasurer Paul Rowllings (PR); Minute Secretary - Isabel Clark. (IAC)

Present :

Sue Tritton (ST), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Sally Griffiths (SG), Ken Robertson(KR), Tony Harris (TH), Peter Jones (PJ), Bill Reid (BR), Cllr Steve Burgess

In attendance

Ellie Roger (University of Edinburgh)

Apologies : Scott Paterson (SP), Stanley Bird (SB), Julian Newman (JN)

Absent - Maureen Edwards (ME),

1. **Welcome.** - (IC) Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting after the summer break.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of 21 June 2021-** Previously circulated Minutes were agreed with two minor amendments.

Action Points -

i). Maki and Ramen - ERJ advised that premises are being used to cook food for three other restaurants and increased number of artic/large lorries parking blocking narrow road and/or on the pavement which prevents other drivers/pedestrians passing. Unsatisfactory answer received from CEC Licensing Dept that the restaurant was covered by Hot licence and no other licence required as using premises as a catering outlet.

Recent incident of artic lorry parking to off load and other drivers could not pass safely. Deliveries taking place during day and night time. Residents view is not suitable place for kitchen as narrow road and located on edge of no loading zone.

Cllr Burgess advised that a specific office deals with licensing and also anti social behaviour. GPCC could make direct approach to owners not to have deliveries during night, ask drivers to park responsibly. Cllr Burgess could make enquiries as to use as a commercial hub; Parking infringements/obstructions Police could deal with. GPCC to write to Thai Restaurant owners detailing concerns and ask them for suggestions to resolve problems. ERJ to prepare draft GPCC letter.

ii) Newington Library - Covid 19 Test Centre. Closed until at least October 2021 IC raised concern regarding when Newington Library would re-open. SG advised that she had received a letter from Scottish Government that the premises would

continue to be used as a Covid Test Centre until at least October 2021. Keeping watch on this issue.

iii) Dalkeith Road Waste Bins/litter. RB advised that Cllr Rose took matter up with member of public.

iv) Cyber Scam - RB confirmed that the information had been circulated after the June meeting.

v) Peffermill Playing Fields Sport Event - AG advised that two events had been held during the summer. Parking cones had been placed round streets one week and next week no cones just barriers. Both systems to restrict parking appeared to work. AG not sure if vehicles moved further afield to park.

vi) Newsletter - Discussed later at 6d(ii)

4. Notice of Matters - None

5. Reports (External) -

- a. Councillors Report - **Steve Burgess advised** -
- Early August 2021 CEC resumed business with climate emergency. CEC are looking at its own emissions e.g. heat/lighting for schools, burn waste, vehicle fleet, etc, with target of net zero by 2030. By April 2021 draft plan in place with final version due October 2021. City wide Net Zero Strategy - CEC leading way and discussing with stakeholders, universities, CEC emission reduction plan but huge gap as about 100 schools require to switch to more efficient energy systems. Burgess advised he is the lead for our area involved in the Eco/climate changes which includes active travel and spaces for people.
 - CEC decided to change approximately a quarter of the emergency measures introduced under the Travelling Safely initiative. eg CEC decided to remove some temporary measures in George IV Bridge and Forrest Road while retaining other measures elsewhere.
 - Parking Review continues - GPCC Phase 3 area. Informal consultation to be reported Transport Dept in October 2021 and then decide on what to do with implementation in Summer 2022.
 - AG enquired why the Low Emission Zone in the City Centre covers a small area. Cllr Burgess advised that he was disappointed with the reduced area, ongoing deliberations and pushing Transport Dept for wider area. Do not know if initial approach was introduce palatable area then widen/improve it.
 - RB raised that the proposal was disappointing as Preston Street School was outside the Low Emission zone and inadequate for children at this school. Also at Scottish Widows building the cones reducing the number of lanes northbound had been removed, and need reinstating. Cllr Burgess was aware of the Preston Street School issue and also the CEC Low Emission Team. There was a meeting with the school Head Teacher. General discussion about the emission levels in this area and Edinburgh University interested in carrying out research into emission levels. CEC monitored the

proposed low Emission zone area and compiled a Report for the Transport Dept. Cllr Burgess to forward Transport Report to (AG)

- AG advised that Phase 2 parking had been delayed until Autumn 2022 which would impact on Phase 3 being pushed back for GPCC area. Burgess commented that Phase 2 was not GPCC area and that consultation not a referendum; people opposed to changes more likely to make their views known. CEC carried out market research which covered a wider range of people and showed support for active travel measures e.g. pedestrian walks, cycle lanes and reduce volume of vehicles.
- SG raised that CECs own internal audit report was damning about way the emergency measures were done and now CEC going to consult for Net Zero Strategy. if CEC do not like the result of the consultation will they overturn it? Cllr Burgess commented that opinions are important but Spaces for People (pedestrians more room on pavements/ cycle lanes) was an emergency and no time for consultation period. There was some consultation with stakeholders including Police, Ambulance, etc. Lots of people wrote in to CEC with complaints/concerns and Cllr Burgess hoped their views were taken on board. CEC have taken into account resident views and changed plans.
- ST advised that 20 years ago there was discussion to try and implement carbon neutral buildings (e.g. in schools) but CEC advised not financially viable. In GPCC area CALA developers are being allowed by CEC to build new houses with gas boilers - Why are Councils allowing this knowing it will change in a few years?
- Burgess advised that there were a couple of schools being built now to PassivHaus standards. Scottish Government regulations do not require developer to install renewables at present. Previously used to have requirement but not now as in climate emergency.
- Gully cleaning - KR advised aware CEC strapped for cash, however, significant weed growth at kerbs, gullies which is stopping heavy rain storm water flowing away. Basic housekeeping required to clean pavements, gutters, gully, pot holes, etc. Myriad of projects, however, fundamental distrust of CEC by people= that CEC do not care. KR suggested that there is a wider issue that CEC must get basics right otherwise citizens will not engage.
- Cllr Burgess agreed that it's important build trust between CEC and residents, nobody is ignoring this. Resource, staff, and funding is an issue. CEC operate a rotation system around all the gullies and if blocked, respond where resources to do so. Recently gully staff transferred to other teams. Cllr Burgess asked GPCC/residents to identify Gullies, then contact CEC requesting them to be cleared.
- KR commented this was not helpful - he had reported this problem 1 year ago and recently 3 weeks ago and still not cleared by CEC. KR to send details to Cllr Burgess and again to CEC.
- ST advised that CEC had been picking up dirt/gunge clearing gullies but then leaving the gunge, nearby which did not solve the issue.
- Cllr Burgess asked GPCC to make representations to Transport Convenor and he will also make requests.

(b) Police Scotland Report - No Written Report received

IC advised during Covid, Police Scotland did not use Zoom to join meeting but eventually agreed to provide written Report. Unfortunately no written Police Report for this meeting. IC to discuss with Police Scotland.

6. Reports of Interest Groups -

a. Planning

TH spoke to the Planning Report circulated to GPCC members. TH commented that planning was strategic at one end with the nuts & bolts at the other end which made it difficult due to Covid and sometimes lack of resources. Increased number of planning applications resulting in increased workloads for case officers.

- St Crispins School Site - TH advised increased number of objections still under assessment. CALA planning application was complicated however everybody managed within 2 week period.

Appeals -

- East Mayfield Gardens
- Edinburgh University Peffermill Sports Ground-

- City Plan 2030 - Delayed. due to be re-submitted .Public consultation may be Christmas
- Short Term Lets - Support from Scottish Government treat as change of use
- Climate Strategy - for information some Planning implications in Report have to be dealt with in Local Plan.
- Enforcement - Mayfield Gardens replaced old windows with PVC windows in a listed building
- Application at 34 Blackford Avenue - awaiting assessment.
- Parking space in front garden of 187 Dalkeith road – refusal of application was upheld.. ERJ thanked TH for his work on this.

Pollock Halls - Pressure on student accommodation as increased number of First Year students who must get accommodation. ERJ suggested that at Pollock Halls students sharing rooms which previously were single rooms only. ER Not aware of students sharing rooms. Will enquire and update GPCC

b) Licensing –

One application on Ratcliffe Terrace. No comments from Community Councillors received.

c). Roads/Transport

AG gave a report on roads/transport

- AG advised that Spaces for People is now known as Travelling Safely.
- Parking Phase 2 delayed until Autumn 2022 which will likely delay Phase 3 in GPCC area.

- Low Emission Zone_-Previous discussion that certain vehicles would be fined if enter City Centre Low Emission Zone. To be implemented May 2022 and become active June 2022
- CEC charges (fines) for certain higher emission vehicles (not buses) who enter zone- First offence - £60; Second Offence £120; Third offence £240; Fourth offence £480 and every subsequent time. Require to wait 3 months with no further offence then start at beginning charge £60. Bus charge - capped at £960. Exceptions include Blue Badges, vehicles over 30 years old, emergency, military, showman (circus), motor bikes/mopeds
- Just Eat Bikes scheme –is no longer being operated in Edinburgh due to vandalism.

(d). Communications/Publicity.

- i. Newsletter- PR advised the designed version for printing was at final draft. Applied for Small Grant funding bid over the summer and waiting for decision. Discussion that may have to review all articles submitted due to ongoing changes (eg Phase 2 delayed impacts on GPCC Phase 3 area
- ii) Community Engagement update –Scott Paterson has continued updating the Facebook page over the summer.

(e) Environment

ST advised -

- Leaves - important to clear gutters before the leaves fall. Usually, a group of Volunteers in Grange area pick up leaves then CEC pick up the bags.
- Grange Cemetery Open Doors Day - ST asked for this poster to be put on GPCC website. Poster to be sent to PR for display on GPCC website

f) Newington Cemetery

ERJ advised they had sorted out email issues. However, concern raised about the metal funding for Newington Cemetery as not confirmed if payment sent to GPCC, or elsewhere. GPCC Bank statements may confirm position.

First working parties due to start Monday 20 September 2021, 10am at Newington cemetery. Anyone interested in joining working party would be appreciated. General discussion about Tool Store security as tools going missing from Grange Cemetery storage area.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

- a. Treasurer Report - (IC) covered in AGM Minutes
Approval of draft Accounts by Andreas Grothey (former Treasurer) deferred for further information
- b. (RB) Secretary – No further update

8. Reports of Outside Groups

- a. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) GPCC Representative
- Carbon Neutrality Edinburgh 2030: What it means and how we get there

KR had circulated his report prior to meeting. EACC Chairman to engage with GPCC and attend the October meeting. GPCC requires to take a role on key matters such as the LEZ and Net Zero and project CEC message to residents. What practical steps GPCC could do and need to think about this - may require separate meeting/discussion. Express GPCC view and take on feedback.

The proposals are aspirational and underfunded. Discussion that EACC being consulted and has strong voice with CEC on proposed plan for City Centre reform. (KR) advised that Citizens Advice (England & Wales) and Citizens Advice Scotland may help with practical advice which may be worth requesting details.

9 AOB - Open Forum -

IC Chair closed the meeting at 9:05pm

10. **Date of Next Meeting and AGM - Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 7 pm.**
Via Zoom

3 Actions	Licensing Former Thai restaurant Licence for Restaurant but appears to be a take away CEC reply that Hot Licence covers current use	GPCC to write to Thai Restaurant owners raising concerns re vehicles (RB) to prepare letter.	By 20 October 2021
3 Actions	Newington Library - how long closed for Covid Testing.	GPCC keep watching brief Scottish Government information at least until October 2021	By 20 October 2021
5(a) Report	Transport Report Gully issues - CEC not clearing gully etc.	Cllr Burgess to email Transport report to (AG) GPCC and Cllr Burgess to write to Transport Convenor re gully issues. (AG, KR) (AG) to send details of Gully to Burgess	Before 20 October 2021
5) b_ Police Report	No Written Police Report	IC to raise with Police Scotland again	Before 20 October 2021

6(a)	Student Accommodation (Pollock Halls) Students sharing rooms previously only one occupant.	ER Edinburgh University - to feed back about students sharing rooms to GPCC	By 20 October 2021
6(e)	Grange Cemetery Open Doors Day Poster Request to display on GPCC website Open Doors Days- 25 + 26 Sept 2021	ST to forward poster to PR to arrange display on website.	ASAP Please display before 20 Sept 2021 or earlier.
6(f)	Newington Cemetery Metal Funding payment Establish whether payment made to GPCC Bank Statements would confirm position.	ERJ to liaise with PR regarding GPCC Bank statements to confirm if payment made	By 20 October 2021
7(a) Treasurers Report	Draft GPCC Accounts (PR) to contact former Treasurer Andreas Grothey and obtain all documents including bank statements for completion of accounts. (ERJ) to contact Accountant to enquire if will audit GPCC accounts	PR to action ERJ to contact Accountant and update (PR)	ASAP

8(a) EACC	EACC Chairman to address GPCC October meeting	RB and KR to arrange EACC Chairman to address GPCC for 20 October meeting.	ASAP and by 20 October 2021
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