

**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Minute of meeting 16 June 2021 held via Zoom**

**Elected Office Bearers**

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

**Present**

Sue Tritton (ST); Alan Gilmour (AIG); Scott Paterson (SP); Sally Griffiths (SG); Julian Newman (JN); Tony Harris (TH); Ken Robertson (KR); Alan Gilmour (AG); Peter Jones (PJ); Andreas Grothey (AndG); Cllr Cameron Rose.

**Apologies**

Tony Harris (TH); Stanley Bird (SB); Bill Reid (BR).

**Absent** - Maureen Edwards

**In attendance**

Stuart Tooley, (StuT) (University of Edinburgh); Vineet Lal; Denise & John Fisher; Pauline Flaner; Isabel Anderson.

1. **Welcome.** - (IC) welcomed everyone to the meeting. (IC) advised that the AGM would be continued to the next meeting, to allow for finalisation of the GPCC Accounts.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of 21 April 2021** - Previously circulated Minutes were agreed.

**Action Points** -

i). Thai Restaurant - Cllr Rose apologised and advised that he was still waiting on response. (DF) advised that the Thai Restaurant was being used as a Store room not a restaurant which (ERJ) agreed was the issue and waiting on confirmation of the licensing terms.

ii) Neighbourhood Watch Scotland (NWS) Information - (SP) advised that his street had been added to NWS and he was receiving emails which he was adding to GPCC Notice Board.

vi) Newington Library - Covid 19 Test Centre. Closed until August 2021  
GPCC sent a letter with concerns raised by members and residents to CEC. CEC reply did not answer the questions raised. Cllr Rose advised that Councillors were not consulted and informed only before this happened. Testing being ramped up and not sure if will remain closed after September 2021. Keeping eye on this issue.

vii). Parking /road changes. (KR) advised that due to roadworks being carried out in the area he and other users were finding the ongoing road changes very difficult

to negotiate. Discussion that Cllr Dickie had provided an immediate reply after the meeting and this issue to be discussed later on Agenda.

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

#### **5. Reports (External) -**

##### **a. Councillors Report - Cllr Rose:**

- Spaces for People and Low Emissions zone due for discussion at Council sub-committee tomorrow (Thursday 17 June). Likely it will be referred to full Council meeting.
- Waste Collections - number of areas where routine waste collection has become an issue. Cllr Rose advised he had been round the area today and things looked okay. If any waste collection issues Cllr Rose requested people to e mail him with details. (AG) advised that he had been informed by CEC that they were waiting on litter bin stocks arriving to replace the litter bins already removed.
- Cllr Rose advised that Vineet Lal was making a presentation about the fabulous work his late Mother Saroj Lal had made to the Community.
- (SG) enquired about the Spaces for People Report which is to be discussed at the Roads/Transport section.
- (RB) raised that a member of the public had contacted GPCC regarding the litter/bin collection near the parade of shops on Dalkeith Road. Cllr Rose asked (RB) to provide his contact details to the resident to help resolve the issue.

##### **(b) Police Scotland Report**

Written report submitted. Discussion whether could extract information and put on GPCC Notice Board. Police Scotland specifically requested that the information provided in the written Report was not to be displayed anywhere. Police were to send a leaflet about cyber scams, this has not been received~(RB) to ask Police to re-send email.

#### **6. Reports of Interest Groups -**

##### **a. Planning**

(TH) had circulated the planning report to GPCC members for consideration.

- Blacket Place - (IC) advised that as this was in a conservation area the view of the Blacket Association is that knocking down garden walls to create off street parking will be objected. This application uses the pretext of installing a vehicle charge point.
- Craigmillar Park - application to chop down trees and pollard other trees on boundary with St Margaret's Nursery - ( ERJ) advised that the application had not been successful.

- Cameron Toll/ Edinburgh University Peffermill Sports Village (ERJ) enquired about an update on the progress of this proposed development. (StuT) advised that the planning application had been rejected, Edinburgh University had appealed and this appeal is now with the Scottish Government Reporter who had asked for more information from stakeholders, including SEPA. Scottish Government now to determine the planning application, with the decision out of the Council's hands. (STuT) hoped the decision would be overturned but will let GPCC know outcome.
- (KR) enquired about Edinburgh University prospectus for future Student Accommodation due to current circumstances. (StuT) advised that in his view demand for higher education had increased due to the economic situation. Demand for higher education can be counter-cyclical with the University sector doing well during times of economic difficulties as people opt to undertake further education. Demand is still high - currently online learning is the position at present, but anticipate increased return to face to face teaching on campus from next semester (Sept 2021). Therefore there is unlikely to be an impact on provision of university accommodation.

#### **b) Licensing - No licensing issues**

#### **c). Roads/Transport**

##### **Spaces for People (SfP)**

(AG) advised that the CEC have published the results of two surveys. The first was weighted Market Research carried out in March 2021. This found 60% in favour of SfP measures, changes, 20% against and 20% neutral. CEC also published the results of the consultation with residents and business which gave very different results residents 60% for and 40% against. Businesses 20% for and 70-80% against the SFP measures. (AG) stated that it's apparent that residents and businesses who responded are clearly against the current changes. (AG) suggested we should look in our area at what works and what does not work.

Cllr Rose raised that there had been lots of contributions reflecting the range of views on the SfP scheme. (SG) said that 18,000 people had responded to the CEC public consultation and it appeared CEC were rejecting the public opinions in favour of the view shown in the market research. CEC do not appear to listening to public views and appear to indicate willing to make some changes but despite all the concerns raised about the chaotic changes on Craigmillar road.

Cllr Rose said most SfP projects will continue in the medium term in our area. The Newington Hotels group are very active on this issue. He had received a lot of responses largely opposed to the changes. He'd received representations from some cyclists had expressed their views that the cycle lane changes did not help in Craigmillar Park. Cllr Rose acknowledged that the market research was weighted to reflect Edinburgh's population.

(SG) enquired if GPCC could contact all four ward Councillors identify problems residents are experiencing and gather information to campaign on.

(KR) CEC have a difficult task. GPCC have to get the issues out to residents. There is a move by CEC from Temporary measures to Experimental measures CEC are trying and adapting but now CEC require to adapt. (KR) suggested a table of issues and put onto GPCC website asking residents to tell us what they think about the new measures.

(SP) advised that the Facebook Group is available for anyone to post any comments on it which may prompt conversation. (PJ) expressed that Spaces for People made an assumption for walking/cycling and no more vehicles in city centre, however some people still had mobility problems and required vehicles to go places. (AndG) raised that the market research is weighted and is likely to more closely reflect local opinion. Raised that walking is more inclusive to people in the community, fewer than 50% of residents in the area own or have access to a car. Those opposed to the measures are more likely to have their voices made clear. Also raised that felt that those voicing opposition to measures because people have mobility problems are using this as an excuse when in reality this affects a very small proportion of the population.

(IC) said clearly a division of views which illustrates the difficulty of reaching agreement but GPCC will keep trying and may reach agreement in the future.

(JN) raised concerns about the way CEC has gone about obtaining the goals - Floating bus stops/car parks good solution but the sudden way brought in has caused a lot of hostility for spaces for people. CEC need to understand how people feel, and the type of City they are creating long term.

(IC) Government asks Councils to promote walk/cycle but not public transport as much. (JN) noted that UK Government scaring people away from public transport. (IC) said GPCC trying to get general views on GPCC Website.

(AG) raised concern about e-scooters and whether they should be used on pavement or road. Believes that they are not suited to cycle lanes. Cllr Rose advised he was not an expert on e-scooters but they are limited to 15 mph. Not sure of legal position and he would read more about them. (AG) advised e-scooter users require insurance as they have electrical power.

Meadows Quiet Route - Cameron Toll to Sciennes School - (AG) had been raised at previous meeting as a quiet walkway. (IC) advised a number of cycle routes already proposed but waiting on funding.

Grange Road Crossings - (ST) advised being implemented and causing difficulties. May want to wait until Sept 2021 when should be in place before discussing the Meadows Quiet Route.

Peffermill Playing Fields Event - August 21. (AG) Note circulated at May meeting. Concern where vehicles park during this event in August. . (PR) advised no response from Edinburgh University to GPCC email.

(STuT) advised he was not sure if this event had been confirmed as taking place however he advised that tickets are on sale, (StuT) to raise matter with Sports Dept and email reply to GPCC.

#### Low Emissions Zone (LEZ)

CEC have published proposals to introduce a Low Emissions Zone in Edinburgh. This includes fining drivers of petrol cars registered before 2006 and diesel cars registered pre=2015. (AG) described the boundary, which runs just north of the GPCC area. (ERJ) expressed her view that the Centre Zone should be extended wider. CLLR Rose advised initially the option covered more of the City but this was viewed to be unworkable and unpopular.

(JN) raised the question of improving the pavements. Cllr Rose advised £21million had been allocated to road works but was unsure how much of this would be spent on pavement improvements.

#### **(d). Communications/Publicity.**

- i. Newsletter - (PR) advised he had requested GPCC leaders to submit contributions from each Group to include in the GPCC Newsletter. After discussion about timings, length of articles, previous old newsletters it became clear that the email had not been received by some members (PR) to re-send email and timescale to be extended.

Treasurer - (PR) has volunteered to become GPCC Treasurer and is looking to move the bank account from a cheque only account to allow for online banking facilities.

#### i) Community Engagement update

(SP) advised the Community Notice Board on Facebook Group was going well. (SP) had raised the issue of Dalkeith Bins with CLLR Dickie but no progress yet. Cllr Rose informed GPCC that CEC was reviewing the siting of bins area by area and this was ongoing.

#### **e) Environment**

(ST) advised that electric public charging points were required. Astley Ainslie Hospital - Daniel Johnston due to have a meeting with Group. (ST) to chase up.

#### **(f) Newington Cemetery**

(ERJ) advised that they are planning a working party in September 2021. They have a newsletter which will be distributed as a PDF.

### **7. Reports from Office Bearers**

#### a. Treasurer Report (ANdG) Report -

(IC) expressed GPCC grateful thanks to Andreas for all his work as Treasurer. Draft Accounts had not been Audited yet but should be completed for next meeting in September 2021 when holding AGM. There is £4,082.96 in the account. £2,349.80

belongs to Newington Cemetery; £589.16 is allocated for GPCC cheques. GPCC has a balance of £1,144.00

- b. (RB) Nothing to report, information previously circulated to GPCC members.

## **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) spoke to his report. CEC are committed to Net Zero Carbon target by 2030 which is a significant change. GPCC is in a strong position to convey what CEC trying/intends to do which is same position with Mobility Plan. GPCC through Newsletter/ Facebook can convey the depth of these issues and provide a balanced view. (AG) and (KR) can start making residents aware of what CEC has to do, intends to do and residents responses.

Cllr Rose advised that he (and his colleagues) receive papers six days before meetings and due to significant number of pages in some reports (300 + pages) require to be selective at what he/they read in the reports.

(KR) advised the Cockburn Trust had a meeting and focus was on the new head of planning who set out his priorities for the Planning Department due to a loss of very experienced staff.

- b. Southside Newington Neighbourhood Network

(RB) advised he attended a meeting in June, but few people present. The meeting set out the plans for local grants this year. £37,000 is available with the first tranche to be awarded by the end of August. The Network will meet again before the end of June to discuss further and to select a Chair and Vice-Chair.

## **9 AOB - Open Forum -**

Vineet Lal gave a presentation about his mother Saroj Lal's life and his campaign to name the new school being built at Cannan Lane, Edinburgh after her.

(IC) thanked everybody and closed the meeting at 20:50

**10. Date of Next Meeting and AGM - Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 7pm.**

## Actions

<b>3 Actions</b>	Licensing Former Thai restaurant Licence for Restaurant but appears to be a take away	CLLR rose to check and confirm Licence terms  No response yet
<b>3 Actions</b>	Newington Library - how long closed for Covid Testing.	GPCC keep eye on this issue.
<b>5(a) CLLR Report</b>	Dalkeith Road Waste Bins + Litter	(RB) to provide CLLR Rose contact details to resident
<b>5) b_ Police Report</b>	Cyber Scam police email	(RB) to contact police to resend
<b>6(c)</b>	Peffermill Playing Fields Sports Event - August 2021	(StuT) to raise GPCC concerns with Sports Dept re parking etc and email rely too GPCC
<b>6(d)</b>	Newsletter - Articles to be submitted by Group leaders to include in GPCC Newsletter  Discussion not received email from (PR)	(PR) to resend email for articles and extend timescale.