**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 22 February 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, Andreas Grothey, Stanley Bird, Bill Reid, Cllr Pauline Flannery, Cllr Simita Kumar;

**In attendance and members of the public**

Ian Wright, Chair of Craigmillar Park Association, Alex Marshall

**Apologies**

Stuart Tooley – University of Edinburgh, Ellen-Raissa Jackson

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

**3. Minutes of 18 January 2023**- Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Points –

* Newington Cemetery wall damage. – No change in status
* Dalkeith Road planters – No further update
* Council committee structure review – Status quo to remain.
* Dalkeith Road bins – No further update.
* Planning – issue with Tony resigning. Sue suggests need to monitor the planning lists. Ian to forward the planning lists for Raphael to circulate.
* Pot holes – Sally updated that someone from roads operations had been in touch with her following her reports of pot holes in MacLaren Road and surrounding streets. Sally meeting with technician to go over issues and what needs to be done. Highlighted that they didn’t realise that there is a problem with the Council online form based on Sally’s feedback. Probably will get some potholes sorted on MacLaren Road. Ian raised resurfacing Mayfield terrace. An ad-hoc process, there doesn’t seem to be a plan for repairing potholes.
* Blackford pond flooding – Sue reports that the levels have gone down and the island has appeared, but badly damaged. Sue has asked if this will be repaired as the island is artificial.

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

**5. Reports (External) –**

Councillor’s report: Simita Kumar updated

* Budget meeting on Thursday – SNP doing a joint budget with the Green group. Trying to reverse education cuts supported by council officers. £200k for youth work, extra £110k for Rape Crisis organisations.A progressive budget proposal.
* Cllr Kumar has been working with Prestonfield immigrant project. Support for older people on a Monday – extra £200k for groups comes from conversations with people, not being well supported in the community.
* Strategic review of parking, papers have been circulated. Pre-consultation for the Grange area.
* Ian mentioned that the groups proposals are amendments to the council’s budgets. Asked about what proposing to change and how fund. Cllr Kumar raised charging for increased funding through Council tax changes, taxi card changes asked to be rolled back.
* Cllr Flannery – endorsed Cllr Kumar’s comments that they’ve been working hard on the budget proposals. There is a consensus amongst the parties about not having any education cuts. For the Lib Dems, the priorities are education, extra for roads and pavements, green spaces and prevention of flooding. Main source via 5% increase in council tax. Within the bounds that have been set by Council officers. High percentage of council tenants in area, will be an increase, but no more than 5% which is around £5/week.
* Cllr Flannery is on housing and homelessness committee - looking at repairs, retrofitting and new-build. Focus to move all areas along and not sacrifice one area for another.
* Cllr Flannery raised that with the CPZ – B1 is proceeding, Prestonfield status is monitoring. Legal process will begin in spring, is about the design, not about objections. That opportunity will happen later in the process. Will have opportunity to affect those.
* Ken, asked for confirmation of status of B7 and B10 which are subject to monitoring. Decision taken that CPZ would go across whole of B1 area. East Mayfield felt not appropriate – amendment not successful. One is proceeding and one is monitoring.
* Cllr Flannery raised the Mayfield Road student accommodation development – lengthy letter from Derek Roden who manages TROs, in contact with Clerk Contractors who manage the work. Phase 1 will be completed in two weeks. Phase 2 is yet to start because of the major problem of the Scottish Power cable which was discovered. Could result in further 12 – 15 month delay. Worst case that there would be another closure that would have to be implemented on that road. Knock-ons due to rat runs etc.

**Questions from Community Councillors:**

* Sally asked about the Lib Dem amendment to split the proposed CPZ West of Mayfield road, East of Mayfield Road not happy, including Waverly park. Cllr Flannery said that from reading the response the Impression is that people in Waverley Park not happy with CPZ, from reading the reports. Sally commented that the Waverly Park association have comments about the design and would want to comment on the design.
* Sue said that she doesn’t know anyone who is unhappy with B1 Priority Parking Area, thinks that B1 is very successful, including lack of street furniture connected to this.
* Scott raised a query about a parking permit issue he is having in his street, Cllr Kumar to pick this up.
* Micro-asphalt on Relugas Road and gas works update. Ian Wright raised that Lady Road was done recently but the micro-asphalt is already disintegrating. Not fit for purpose with heavy trucks and buses. Needs to be reviewed. Ken endorsed this for Blackford Avenue. In a high-traffic neighbourhood, it doesn’t work and is a waste of money.
* Cllr Kumar said that she also receives mail relating to road surfaces. Ken suggested the need to impress on professionals isn’t working. Sue mentioned that pressing of pot holes has been going on for 20 years.
* Peter asked about potential cuts to leisure facilities such as swimming pools and sports centres due to high cost of energy. Cllr Kumar confirmed that there are no cuts suggested in this area.
* Ian Wright – raised solar panels, in places such as the Commonwealth Pool, Cameron Toll, no solar panels, asked why Council isn’t pushing this, lots of potential to generate power. Cllr Flannery thought this is a good idea. Within planning there is likely to be an overhaul of regulations, but hamstrung with a private firm and buildings.
* Sue raised that new buildings going up now that aren’t developed to be sustainable. Cllr Kumar mentioned societal responsibility, understanding of energy impact. Retrofitting is difficult. Money allocated for retrofitting, impact of inflation has hampered the budget for this work. Offer an alternative on the challenges the Council is facing. Stanley, raised retrofitting of listed buildings and look at needs in conservation areas. Blacket association now has a sustainability sub-group.

**6..  Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning report**

Not been many applications in the area, however reinforce the need to get someone involved in these issues.

* Ken – in context of conservation areas, need for greater flexibility for individuals to achieve a better balance in energy use. Double glazing, charging points, use of solar panels, can’t access grants if living in a conservation area.
* Raphael had received a note from Tony Harris to update that the next CEC LDP City Plan 2030 – Formal examination – update from 20th Feb. A reporter has been appointed to carry out the examination of conformity with the planning authority’s participation statement which will commence in due course.
* Ken reported that Broughton and new Town CC have successfully rebutted a proposal for a network of bin hubs, private consultants to look at damage it would do to these areas. Likely to have spill-over effects into other areas.

**b) Licensing**

* 6 Dick Place – Basement Bike Brothers – application for a civic license, in a residential area. Deadline on 27th February. The business is already established. Business been in place since May 2020. Sue to check if Grange Association has looked into this.

**c). Roads/Transport**

Alan raised the following points –

* Parking penalty charges going up to £100 from current £60 level. This hasn’t increased for a number of years. Suggestion that the additional revenue will be used to tackle potholes.
* Council blueprint for changes in the City over the next ten years:
  + £1billion to be spent on walking and cycling for active travel – restrict traffic in key city centre roads; forth ferry proposal; proposal extension of tram line to Dalkeith.
  + Proposals for restrictions on key roads and Holyrood road.
  + Reduce parking spaces on well served public transport routes.
  + Integration of travel tickets across the city.
  + Improve bus stop designs, to make better lit. New on-street screens to be introduced over next 24 months.
  + Introduce priority signals for buses, including on Dalkeith Road.
  + Active travel schemes – Cameron Toll, Craigmillar Park. Goal for every resident to be within 250 – 400m from a cycle network.
  + Deliver 10,000 drop kerbs and 200km of cycle lane.
  + Target reducing mileage on roads by 30%
  + Will go out to public consultations.
* Cost of repairs to North Bridge have increased to £86million.

Ian Wright asked how trams can be brought down Lady Road and how will this work with a new hotel? Only logical route would be to take it round Cameron Toll shopping centre. Alan said that they’re still trying to work out the proposed route for the tram.

Cllr Kumar commented that there is a tension of a historic city that’s growing in size and the need to develop new facilities to meet the growing population.

**d) Communications/Publicity**

Paul and Scott said that the website and Facebook pages have been updated. Sue asked if could highlight the CPZ plans on the website. Stanley suggested posting something for a planning – advert to be drawn up.

Ken raised the next Community Council elections. Suggestion that this could be as late 24/25, could do with new assistance now. Get something out on Facebook – need new blood to co-opt onto GPCC. Provision of training into planning issues? Training in abeyance until next election – a lengthy process. Sue suggested – a planning official who lives in the area retires? Cllr Kumar suggested other CCs might want training, could ask officials to put on training sessions. Cllr Kumar to look into CC elections.

**e) Environment**

Sue updated that leaf clearing, Sue and Peter met with a Council officer – Liam Bain to discuss what happens with the leaves, including use in energy generation. Will circulate information.

**f) Newington Cemetery -**

Ian updated that the snowdrop walk was very successful. There is now a tree trail which has been developed, working parties have continued. Cllr Kumar updated on the wall, no further information since the January update.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

Paul had distributed to GPCC members.  Balance of **£6,419.00**.

* GPCC account balance - **£2,110,** expenditure of £245.00 (Website hosting, email & Zoom).
* Newington Cemetery - **£4,309**. No new expenditure or income since January report.

1. Secretary. - Nothing to add.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) -

Ken gave general observation that some CCs are in rude health and others are struggling in terms of resources and people. Need to think hard about gearing up commitment etc.

EACC hosting a double header on transport, pot holes to vision. Gavin Brown, Head of Network Management & Enforcement; Cliff Hutt, Head of Roads & Infrastructure; Daisy Narayanan, Head of Placemaking & Mobility. Wish them to start with addressing major issue of potholes. Won’t win hearts and mind without tackling pot hole epidemic.

End of March Mandy Watt will address EACC about the budget and the backdrop to this. Asked Angus Murdoch to address EACC on waste management, from pickup to processing at Millerhill. Understanding the mechanics of collecting litter is good to be better informed. People in the Council have to plan for city change, not an easy task. EACC have to be critical observers.

Cllr Burgess had provided GPCC material on Council business plan. Lengthy documents, aims of the city and people who shape the policy. Sent Raphael a one page summary – key thing is that there are three priorities, good place to live and work, net zero city and tackling poverty. Ken highlighted that they aim to work with CCs, but the Council is also required to set a balanced budget by statute.

Bill reminded people that there are difficulties for people who don’t drive, pavement clutter and issues with people not putting bins away. Scott said that he was asked to raise the path from John Leslie’s down Radcliffe terrace. Issues with community engagement – people don’t know who to go to, lack of representation in the community.

9**AOB - Open Forum -**

Discussed gift for Tony Harris. Sue and Paul to arrange.

10.  **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 7 pm**. .

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| **3  Actions**  **ii)**  **5(a) and 6(f)**  **xii) GPCC Planning Vacancy** | Newington Cemetery -  Wall repair, work to commence by February 2023  Dalkeith Road  Planters -  Erect a sign sponsored by GPCC  Bins - Dalkeith Road  Last 4 years have blocked pedestrian access.  Bin relocation review ongoing.    Enquire about plans for CC elections and advertise post on Website/Facebook. Look at options to co-opt new members | Continued for update at March meeting  ERJ to email CEC about sign being erected on Planters in Dalkeith Road – continued to March  GPCC keeping watch on progress |
| **5) a Councillor Report** | Parking query raised by Scott | Cllr Kumar to respond |
| **6 (b) Licensing** | 6 Dick Place licensing application | Sue to check with Grange Association to see if they will respond – deadline 27 February |
| **6(d)**  Communications & Publicity | CPZ plans to be posted on GPCC website. Planning advert to be designed for Facebook. | Paul to post the information circulated by Cllr Burgess |