

Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council
Minutes of meeting 18 October 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, Ian Wright - Cllr Simita Kumar

In attendance and members of the public

Denise Fisher; Kate Kirkwood- ELGT

Apologies:

Andreas Grothey

Absent:

Bill Reid; Ellen-Raissa Jackson;

1. **Welcome.** – Ian welcomed everyone to the October meeting. Kate Kirkwood introduced herself - from Edinburgh and Lothian's Greenspace Trust. Running a consultation on Prestonfield Bowling Green.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – None

3. **Minutes of 20 September 2023** - Peter asked about the meaning of 'layers' on p.1. Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Points –

- Newington Cemetery - long running issue. The cost is high, not heard anything further since the last meeting.
- Dalkeith Road Planters - Ellen to update
- Planning vacancy - important - Ian Wright will raise with his community association AGM - to see if anyone can be identified. Could mention to Stuart Tooley. Stanley - is a CC expected to be able to cite the regulations and technicalities? Must be beyond the expertise of most? Sue commented that it's ideal to have someone who knows the detail, but it's important to make a good objection. Ian commented that it is in the statutory remit of CCs to comment. Ken asked if Raphael has the "cheat sheet" of terms for planning? Will dig it out. Grange - a lot of the contentious planning applications in the area - Nigel no longer on the Grange Association. Ken see's scope for liaison with the Grange Association. For CCs to dig and use the appropriate technical reference to get the point across. Need for greater expertise and training in this area. Points that could be made in the scheme review. Sue raised that need a number of objections, to carry more weight. if there is a contentious application, to get

people to object. Ian highlighted that having well argued objections on current planning rules and planning law is important. Contentious applications - good opportunity to have a public meeting and to publicise the CC.

4. Notice of Matters Arising -

Kate introduced the EGLT Consultation. Kate highlighted that the consultation is quite self-explanatory. Have been sharing the consultation leaflets with the community in adjoining streets. Is a social media tile asking how use Prestonfield Park, see how it's used, grow food, grow flowers, plants, vegetables, etc. Also asking about use of buildings. has been positively received in the Community. Have spoken to young people, have a junior and senior youth club. Spoken with Prestonfield Primary school, P6 & P7 involved. youth voice. looking for a widened demographic.

The Consultation is open to 17th November - keep open for as long a time as possible. ELGT has been commissioned by CEC, they will provide recommendations to CEC based on the consultation and to Cameron House. Detailed report to Council and a summary will be available in December. Consultations are just the first step in any change in the Community. Is desire for change to the bowling green space. Will put forward a proposal to the Council and say what ELGT are able to do. Reconnecting people with green and blue spaces across the City. Kate highlighted successful community garden in Gilmerton. Have had 45 online responses so far. Asked to share it as far as possible.

- Sally asked if there are funds available? Not from ELGT, there may be money from the Council - but is a case that put funding proposals together - that would be the next step. Proposal for design, level of complexity gives an idea of cost.

- Ken suggested that this project might fall within the ambit of the Place Based investment fund - there is a funding avenue. But money might not materialise for some time - 2025/26 fund.

5. Reports (External) –

Cllr Simita Kumar joined the meeting at 19:20 and updated with the following:

- New police officer for the area - appointed in September.
- Timetable for boundary review and timing of election.
- Applications for Short Term Lets - number of staff increased coming through. Lots of applications for the 1st October deadline.
- Phase 4 of communal bin review.
- Council work in terms of Reinforced Concrete - including primary schools etc. Of RAC identified - there are 8 schools in Edinburgh with suspected RAC including Colinton PS. Mainly in north Edinburgh and non in the GPCC area.
- Third party grant, every three years - gone live. New Criteria - have to be in Edinburgh, have to have Charitable Status - with turnover of under £2million. Non-charitable limited to under £25k/year. Aiming to get the spread correct across the City - rather than city centre and North Edinburgh. Looking for grass roots applications.

Questions to Cllr Kumar

- Ken asked if Cllr Kumar has come across the idea of Ward Forums by Police Scotland - instead of Police coming to GPCC, interested parties would go to a ward forum. Is a series in South West from 27th October - any plans for the South East? Cllr Kumar said that they have regular contact with the police - might be the time to ask for that. Ken highlighted how stretched the Police are - seems to be an initiative to arrange regular meetings with the police and community groups as a substitute to attendance at CC meetings.
- Stanley asked about the question of the roadsigns approaching Preston Street Schools. Raphael updated about the background to this. Simita Kumar reminded of the Greenback to Meadows consultation which is currently open.

6. Reports of Interest Groups -

a. Planning

- Raphael updated on the refusal of planning application for 5G mast on Grange Loan.

b. Licensing

- Nothing

c. Roads/Transport - Alan updated

- Extension of 20mph limit consultation. 58% of people who answered the consultation against. Lothian buses highlighted issues linked to timetabling of buses. Ian commented that it has reduced the average speed.
- Council discussing ban on SUVs in certain parts of the City, responsible for potholes etc.
- Council looking at feasibility of speed sensitive traffic lights
- 50 new electric buses being introduced by Lothian Buses.
- HES consultation on park use - suggestion to familiarise yourself with the different areas of the park.

d. Communications/Publicity - Paul updated

- Ken has made some good suggestions to make the website more sticky - to click through to bigger articles. New content now on the site.
- Paul said that the site looks a good deal more interesting. Cllr Kumar's links can possibly be transferred to the site.
- Paul will look at the analytics of the site.
- No update has been received on the grant application for the noticeboards.

e. Environment – Sue updated

- Leaf clearing in the Grange area - the Council has been good at supporting the leaf clearing efforts. Main problem is plastic bags - have researched re-usable bags - are problems with that.
- The Council is giving Grange Cemetery bulbs, wondering if the same is happening at Newington Cemetery - to be passed on to Ellen.

f. Newington Cemetery -

- Sue updated on the doors open day at Grange Cemetery - was poor weather but good to take part in the event.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

a. Treasurer Report -

Paul updated that the current bank balance is **£6,970**, made up as follows:

- **GPPC Account Balance - £2,889**

- No new income, £15 expenditure (Zoom sub)

- **Newington Cemetery Balance - £4,081**

- no new income or expenditure

b. Secretary

- CC Scheme review - consultation is now open. Would like contribution of views from CC members on the following areas:
- Response for ELGT consultation. - Ian to have a look and draft this. Named response or anonymous.

8. Reports of Outside Groups

- EACC - Scheme and Boundary review - EACC asking CCs to make their point. Discern a degree of discontent - CCs stranded in ability to do things and ability to be heard. Difficulties in funding updates, maintenance, admin, Comms etc. Valid point to be made along those lines. Engagement with Scot Gov in democracy matters conversations. Idea for an event in the New-Year? Consultation ends in February - Democracy Matters.
 - Grayfriars Charteris Centre - considering a bid to become a Climate Action Hub - needs a business case submission to be considered. Will post detail on EACC site.
 - Local Policing - a new departure.
 - Planning democracy - holding webinars in November. General interest - for people who may get more involved in planning issues.
 - Space based investment fund - dispersement in 2025/26 - aimed at sponsoring local projects.
 - Simita shared - Southside Community Centre stall outside Nicolson Street
 - Simita had an email - any local groups that are part of the Community Council - no newsletter to local ethnic minority communities. Discussion about representation from interested groups. Can register with the Council and send someone to the CC.
- Peter asked about how effective the newsletter was that was sent out in 2021 and whether one was worth doing. Ken commented that this is a fundamental issue. How to engage people in the run up to the 2024 elections. More meaningful engagement online - improving the website. Nothing beats word of mouth, schools, Grange Association - should be looking to explore in terms of name awareness. Public meeting on some pretext to see what type of conversation - real need to engage more effectively when the next election comes. Risk that small numbers come forward and the CC withers. What could be done? Could be usefully sending out copy, and using Grange Association newsletter, church newsletters etc.

- Simita - run adverts on Facebook - set target audience within specific post-codes for the area. Look for specific people to raise awareness and an email to link back into the Community Council. An interactive public meeting is a good way to go - not just speak at people. Look at how they contribute. Reach out to Churches etc. Facebook is good, but it's not used by those under the age of 40. Broaden out to use different avenues so as not to narrow the audience. All Councillors do use newsletters, small details. Use QR codes which are linked to a google form.
- Sue raised that used to have youth members from Gillespie's School - can't recall how they were appointed. Did come to previous meetings. By going through schools can reach parents that way.

10. Date of Next Meeting - Proposal to change meeting from Wednesday 15th November 2023 to 22nd November at 7pm

Action list

3 Actions ii)	<p>Newington Cemetery - Wall repair, work to commence soon.</p> <p>Dalkeith Road Planters - Erect a sign sponsored by GPCC</p> <p>GPCC Planning Vacancy Ad- vert for position to be drafted</p> <p>Community engagement –</p>	