**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 18 January 2023**

Meeting held 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, Cllr Steve Burgess

**In attendance and members of the public**

Ian Wright, Chair of Craigmillar Park Association, Denise Fisher.

**Apologies**

Stuart Tooley – University of Edinburgh, Bill Reid

1. **Welcome. –**Ian welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting. Isabel Clark no longer on the CPA committee so is no longer a member of GPCC. Ian paid tribute to Isabel’s work as Minute Secretary and will be much missed. Ian Wright attending on behalf of Craigmillar Park Association.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None

**3. Minutes of 16 November October 2022**- Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Points –

* Newington Cemetery wall damage. Cllr Burgess updated that Andy Hulme the Council officer in charge of repair, waiting for temps to increase so the contractor can carry out the wall. Hope to start work in January or February 2023. Team to be in place next week to prepare the work.

* Dalkeith Road planters – no further updated, Ellen to chase up.
* Council committee structure review – Cllr Burgess provided an update in his report.
* Dalkeith Road bins – Cllr Burgess surmised that following September meeting a short-term solution was put in place with the bins and street furniture were moved up the street. In the longer term the officers are going to put the bins on to the road. Needs to be done as part of the communal bin review. Ellen asked if it would be possible for the cleansing team to check on a regular basis (monthly) that the bins haven’t drifted down towards Priestfield Road. Cllr Burgess to ask for this to be looked at.
* Planning – Ian gave an overview of the planning role and the next steps following Tony Harris’s resignation from GPCC.
  + Three options available for the role. 1. A named individual takes forward planning role. 2. A rota is established with members taking a month each, looking at the lists and reporting back to GPCC. 3. A representative from each area takes over looking at the lists for their area to identify any proposals of concern to share with GPCC. The meeting discussed the merits of option three:
  + Sue raised that CCs have a statutory role in planning which local community groups don’t. Need someone to raise the objections if needed. Sue is in Grange area, Tony has worked well with the representative in the Grange Association. Sue to raise with Grange Association.
  + Peter said that this has been discussed within Waverley Park Feuers – will speak with Dale and take back to GPCC. Peter asked how GPCC will deal with bigger planning applications.
  + Ian Wright – happy to speak with CPA committee, how best to do it as a group.
  + Ian Chisholm – happy to look at local list and consult with Blacket association planning officer.
  + Ken raised that this is a minefield. Practically how link with the lists, get weekly lists.
  + Alan offered to cover Prestonfield but mentioned there are very few planning applications in the area.
  + Council guidance about the planning system can be found at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/community-planning/community-councils-planning-system>
* Pot holes on Maclaren Road – Sally explained that she has listed and reported each pothole on Maclaren road – no response from the Council. Has put in a customer complaint. Cllr Burgess offered to pick up pot hole issues with Sally. Explained distinction between pot holes and poor condition in road. Depth defines a pot hole and they should be mended. A two stage process, temporary repair before doing a more permanent repair. If people complain, they do get attention. Council does have road inspectors who inspect roads, but this is on rotation.

b) No update on St Crispin’s site from Cllr Kumar

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

**5. Reports (External) –**

Councillor’s report:

Cllr Burgess updated:

* Changes in terms of Council Committees. Came to full Council meeting in December under Political Management Arrangements. Three options were described. Option 2 that officers recommended, involved merger of the Transport Committee and Planning Committee. Not accepted by Councillors as Transport has a large workload, felt very difficult to handle. Option 1 was accepted, which is largely the status quo. Main decision was about the Transport & Environment Committee, will now meet every four weeks rather than every eight weeks. Some other transfers of Committees taken place including beefing up of Culture & Communities committee. TROs going from Transport to Regulatory committee, as its quasi-judicial decisions. Council will be adding another parent rep to the Education Committee – to allow for coverage across both primary & secondary school with a rep for each. Changes to come into effect after the Easter recess.
* Council Business Plan raised at December meeting. Labour administration hasn’t been possible to come up with a political programme. Administration asked Council officers to refresh the Council’s business plan. Consultations taken place with each party. Labour/Lib Dems/Conservatives agreed on the business plan. Will be produced and made public ahead of the next meeting in February which will also include Council Budget decisions.
* Meeting of Policy & Sustainability Committee on 17 January. Consideration of Cllr Burgess’ motion to endorse a call for an international treaty on plant based food. Encourage people to move towards plant based foods. Aim for changes for example in schools, introducing vegetarian options in schools. Motion was endorsed and the Council and will look at how plant based eating can be incorporated into Council catering.

**Questions from Community Councillors:**

* Ken asked where the best place would be to find out the detail of the Business Plan. Cllr Burgess explained that the minutes of the December meeting haven’t been published yet and won’t be published until before the next Council Meeting. However worth looking at Business Plan report on December 15 2022. Recommendations by officers were agreed with some minor changes. Cllr Burgess happy to send detail of what was agreed to Ken.
* Ellen asked about gritting during the recent cold snap. Roads were gritted, but pavements were not gritted, with people walking in the road to avoid ungritted pavements. Pavements are a priority, asked what happened with the Council in relation to the current cold snap? The last cold weather in December was much better targeted. Cllr Burgess explained that there are limited resources, Council prioritises gritting with public transport routes at the top of the list. Is a cascade of prioritisation. Will be a report on this to the Transport Committee that explains the gritting hierarchy and how they approach it. Cllr Burgess can share latest report on the approach. Doesn’t think it’s a case of the Council being caught out.
* Sue, raised that it would be helpful to publicise the fact that if you clear the pavements outside your property you won’t be held responsible as there were previous scare stories that you could be held responsible for an accident if you do clear the pavement. Denise sought reassurance that if pavements are cleared, householder is not held responsible. Discussion highlights confusion in what residents ought to be doing and the Council’s responsibilities. Council website statement of guidance – <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/severe-weather/clearing-snow-ice>

**6..  Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning report**

Tony Harris’s update planning report was considered with no further comments.

Ken commented that there is a dearth of people who are qualified and keen enough to take up the type of work and input on providing planning comments. Guidance, there are a number of issues. Provision of EV points which clash with planning practice, or issue of replacement windows. Each will have a different approach to the issues that are considered in the planning function.

**b) Licensing** - None.

**c). Roads/Transport**

Alan raised the following points –

* CPZ – Alan gave a recap of the decisions made across the City including Leith (Phase 1) Corstorphine (Phase 2) which was voted against and returned to Committee. Felt that controls not generally required, but proposals met City Plan and City Mobility Plan, LEZ proposal to tackle climate change, with a recommendation to move the CPZ forward. Alan highlighted 80% against in Corstorphine, but air quality needs to improve.
* Cllr Burgess stated that there is an obligation to have a statutory consultation if going to make changes to roads. Council do consult to get residents views. The general framework is that if decide to go ahead and undertake TROs to make changes to parking, have to be formally consulted on. Objections must be considered and responded to. Depending on the nature of the objection, may have to be referred to the Scottish Government reporter for a decision.
* Cllr Burgess confirmed that will have to be a further formal consultation if changes to B1 area are to go ahead. Objectors have to give material reasons against changes. His sense is that it’s now at the stage that trying to prevent commuter traffic, not just about seeing what residents want, having to work out how to stop commuter traffic coming in. While majority of residents responding to consultation don’t want this, officers recommend go-ahead as looking at the bigger view and broader policy. The difference between residential priority parking, lack of enforcement due to lack of resources. CPZ brings in a revenue stream which can employ parking attendants to police the scheme.
* Cllr Burgess heard back from Council officers to go ahead with bringing in a CPZ for the entirety of B1 and not separating it into two. There was some discussion about dividing B1, this was not the decision of the Committee. A design has to be brought up. CPZ has to be designed, residents, pay parking and double yellows. Legal TRO process then to be gone through, will take a couple of years including official consultation.
* Sue raised that she was involved with getting Priority Parking Zones introduced. She highlighted that people are satisfied with it, there is not much clutter, street furniture, only require warden control for a short period. Do still have to pay for permits in Priority Parking Zone. Think that to impose something against the views of residents will make the Council unpopular.
* Sally raised that the report on Phase 3 – 74% of residents in the area were against the proposals. Initial parking review carried out before Covid, people’s working habits have changed and the report doesn’t acknowledge this. Majority of responses across the eight areas came from B1. GPCC didn’t take sides but encouraged people to respond to the surveys. Doesn’t think that the GPCC should sit on the fence.
* Peter asked about the evidence for reduced emissions due to introduction of CPZ.
* Ken highlighted that the balance was 34% in favour and 64% against. The detail shows some nuanced commentary from residents. The Council has different priorities, City Plan 30, 20 Minute Neighbourhoods, Air Quality, in particular in Corstorphine is an issue. Evaluators have taken individual views in the report. Each response from the 600 in B1 is detailed in the report. If GPCC wants to support the larger objectives of the council, cleaner city, transport etc, need to make a decision about how position ourselves.
* Ian agreed in that we would be unlikely to get a unified view from GPCC on this issue.
* Sue commented that a major issue is a good opportunity to hold public meetings and publicise itself. This idea was supported by Andreas. Main way of getting commuters to stop parking in town is for the Council to provide a much better park and ride service.
* Ken, asked what happens at the next stage. May be a window of opportunity for GPCC to bring this to public view again. Asked what venue could be used.
* Scott raised that there’s no night bus linking to the park and ride at Sheriffhall.

Alan gave an update on other transport issues including pot holes in Edinburgh, pavement parking ban, car park ticketing waiting periods and consultation to extend the 20mph, deadline 8th February. Plans to extend bus lane times from 7am-7pm.

Ian Wright raised that on Lady Road, recent resurfacing work has already disintegrated. The quality of the resurfacing is poor, grooves in the road with chasms. Asked who organised the repair system as it’s not effective in heavy traffic.

Ken raised that Blackford Avenue had also been resurfaced recently. Disintegration already apparent. Raises questions about the way the process is pursued.

**d). Communications/Publicity.**

Paul updated nothing to add other than the usual posting. Asked about grant process for a noticeboard, waiting for grant process to reopen.

**e) Environment**

Sue – leaf clearing worked really well this year, Good support from the Council and Cllr Burgess. Other areas such as Waverley Park have leaf clearing. Complaints about plastic sacks which don’t degrade. Sue has arranged to meet with the two officers who run the scheme on Wednesday 25th January, looking to reduce the use of plastic. If anyone wants to join the meeting or give information to let Sue know. Blackford Pond very badly flooded. Paths are flooded, asked Cllr Burgess to report this.

**f) Newington Cemetery**

Working parties were held in November and January to plant some of the bulbs generously supplied by Mortonhall, and to clear the area around the bench by the war memorial. Hope to carry out some further planting next month. Council staff completed the filling in of potholes in the main paths using the aggregate that the Friends group had purchased.

Helped two relatives to locate graves belonging to their ancestors – and disproved a rather bizarre rumour that Sean Connery’s parents were buried in the cemetery.

The tree trail that we tested in September has proved very popular and are working on producing a pamphlet (with photos) and a PDF to put on the website. Mortonhall have supplied a new map, which still needs a bit of work, and we will have to wait until the trees are in leaf before we can complete the photos. Have committed £500 to designing and printing the pamphlet.

In nature news, seven of the cemetery’s eight bird boxes had been in use this year.

Hopeful that the work on the Newington Cemetery wall will start once the weather improves.

Plan to hold our annual snowdrop walk in February. However, e are postponing making a decision about the date for a couple of weeks to see how the weather (and the snowdrops) develop.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

Paul had distributed to GPCC members. There was no new income since last month’s report and only a couple of small expenditure items.   Balance of **£6,664.00**. GPCC account balance = **£2,355**; Newington Cemetery - **£4,309** income of £885 from metals.

1. Secretary. - Nothing to add.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) -

Ken will publish the meeting link for the 26th January. Two presentations, 1 Andrew Field and Community Engagement. 2. Cllr Scott Arthur – longer term transport vision. February meeting will focus on more local transport issues. Community Planning in Edinburgh and Edinburgh partnership, in context to reinvigorate local community planning partnership, which comes under the aegis of Edinburgh Planning partnership. Raphael to circulate.

9**AOB - Open Forum -**

Tony’s service to GPCC – appropriate to mark retirement. Plus a card to Isabel. Sue to follow up.

10.  **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 7 pm**. At Cameron House Community Centre and online.

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| **3  Actions**  **ii)**  **5(a) and 6(f)**  **iii)**  **Bins - Dalkeith Road**  **xii) GPCC Planning Vacancy** | Newington Cemetery -  Wall repair, work to commence by February 2023  Dalkeith Road  Planters -  Erect a sign sponsored by GPCC  Watertoun Road - St Crispins site.  Cllr Kumar advised CEC meeting on Monday and she would provide update afterwards.  Bins - Dalkeith Road  Last 4 years have blocked pedestrian access.  Bin relocation review ongoing.  Agreed to consider individual responsibilities for different areas of GPCC – members to speak with local community groups about this and report back in February | Continued for update at February meeting  ERJ to email CEC about sign being erected on Planters in Dalkeith Road – continued to February.  Still awaiting update from Cllr Kumar.  Cllr Burgess to ask if bin teams can check the position of the bins on a monthly basis.  GPCC keeping watch on progress  Report back at February meeting. |
| **5) a Councillor Report** | Cllr Burgess to contact Ken re: details of the agreed business plan. |  |
| **6(e)** | Blackford Pond flooding – Cllr Burgess asked to report the flooding |  |
| **8 EACC** | EACC – meeting link to be circulated |  |