

Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council
Minutes of meeting 17 May 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, Stanley Bird; Andreas Grothey; Bill Reid; Cllr Pauline Flannery

In attendance and members of the public

Ian Wright, Chair of Craigmillar Park Association, Stuart Tooley, University of Edinburgh; Denise Fisher, PC Johnny Wong; PC Brandon McKenna.

Apologies:

No apologies

1. **Welcome.** – Ian welcomed everyone to the May meeting and explained the approach to the meeting which included the Annual General Meeting. The police report was taken first, with the meeting adjourned for the AGM.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – None

5. Reports (External) –

b. Police report

The meeting started with representatives from Police Scotland, PC Johnny Wong and PC Brandon McKenna. They highlighted that there's nothing overly different to other areas in Edinburgh in relation to anti-social behaviour, including youths roaming the streets. Raised that recorded incidents including egging that happen in a number of areas. Deal with it by conducting door to door enquiries, also speak to shopkeepers about selling eggs to kids. Issue with eggs being thrown at buses. Suggested that residents don't engage with perpetrators as they want residents to chase them. Incidents should be reported to Police Scotland. The lack of resources means that they can't always get out there quickly enough to catch them. Police will try and do home visits with parents, if kids are identified.

Police Scotland said if wearing a facemask or balaclava, hard to ID perpetrators. Put it out to schools, ID through clothing use school link officers, to help identify perpetrators. Cllr Pauline Flannery raised the issue that even when perpetrators are identified, little action is taken – at most they may face a children's reporter.

Road traffic, electric bikes and balaclavas – can identify where coming from and their destination. Can't chase people on a bike because of the danger to the public and danger to riders. Crime in progress, emergency ongoing call 101. Can email incidents.

Raised by GPCC an issue on Lady Road of scramblers going past – wheelies up the road. – Police recognised an issue with youths congregating round McDonalds.

Peter asked whether this applies to electric scooters. Noted that they are illegal on public roads. Often when people on scooters see a Police van, they get off and push so. Strategy for dealing with incidents comes from high up in Police Scotland.

Police Scotland confirmed that they can't attend every GPCC meeting, because of resourcing pressure.

Meeting adjourned to begin the AGM at 19:15 and recommenced at 19:45

3. Minutes of 16 April 2023 - Minutes were considered, typo of "Lyon" corrected. Minutes agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Points –

- Newington Cemetery – Ellen updated that a Council worker had appeared to start work on the Cemetery Wall. They had explained that the Council has decided that the contract to reconstruct the wall is too expensive. Council worker started to clear the site of debris, however they haven't returned. Ellen has written to Andy Hume to underline that this is a listed wall and that specialist repair work is required.
- Sally raised that she was at the Grange Fayre and had spoken with Daniel Johnson MSP about the wall. He made a note of this. Suggested it may be worth contacting his office about this? Cllr Flannery followed this up two weeks ago. Said they were going to divert old tram slabs, work to be imminently done. Cllr Flannery will take this back.
- Planning report, Ian asked if the Council want him to pursue the new sign on Causeway side with CEC. Ian to write in.
- 15 Dalkeith Road. Raphael updated that he had submitted a revised objection including Tony's observations about the changes made in the application. Stuart Tooley had confirmed that Edinburgh Uni don't usually respond to planning applications unless there's a material impact on the University and will have unlikely responded to the 15 Dalkeith Road changes. GPCC had been invited to outline reasons for objection at a planning sub-committee hearing.
- Advert for new planning spokesperson. Discussion about how to handle. Stuart raised that there is a volunteering hub where opportunities can be advertised. Stuart to send a link. Heriot Watt. Discussed newsletters. Ken suggested planning democracy, Councillor Ross? Pauline can ask about this.
- City Mobility Plan consultation – Ken has considered this. About levels of priority rather than agreeing a response. Ken has circulated a proposal. No point in being contentious. The final statement where respondents can summarise in 30 words. Outline is that the principles are fine, but make sure it is attainable and achievable, don't get carried away with false ambitions. Protecting local business interests.
- Community Motif – Stanley had made contact, hasn't been able to draw it all together and will circulate it. Continued to next meeting

- GPCC presence at Grange Association Fayre. Paul created a flyer, Ken handed a number out the rest have been distributed to various community venues. Cllr Pogson had commented on the quality of the leaflet.

4. Notice of Matters Arising - None

Pauline Flannery updated with the following:

- Andrew Kerr CEO of CEC visited the Ward on Friday 12 May. He is visiting all 17 Council wards. Concentrated on Prestonfield and Cameron house and Southside community centre. Wanted to show him the Eastern side of the ward because it's more neglected but also has community activity and this is generated by volunteers. Facilitated conversations from Cameron house and Prestonfield. Cross referencing with groups and different activities at Southside Community centre. Cllr Flannery has identified that each community group felt quite isolated. No umbrella group for community groups, would be good for them to informally to support. Ken commented on the genesis of the neighbourhood network. Is the Council's intention to revitalise these avenues. The potential is that in the NW locality, one of the engagement team produces a newsletter that brings together the activity of the neighbourhood groups. Cllr Flannery commented that it's important to know about how well used the community centres are e.g. footfall of 2000 people per week in Cameron House, 1,000 in the Charteris centre. Seven youth clubs use Cameron House
- Cllr Flannery has a motion about Bridgend Farmhouse who are on the reserve funding list, won't know if they've got funding until September 2023. Have had a community grant for the last two years. Not able to plan and develop in the interim. Believes that we need to be vigilant that we look after the local assets. It's a solid resource. Unsure of the complete rationale behind the lack of security of funding.
- CPZs – a concern for B1 on Eastern Side of Mayfield road. Asked if it can join up with western B7 – this is not likely to happen. Is dividing people. Cllr Flannery has a question for Cllr Scott Arthur. Legal planning process will begin in July if this go ahead. This is another consultation on the detail of the plans. This is Phase 3. Phase 1 is Leith and is being done as a pilot, but phase 2 is on hold to see the outcome of Phase 1. Question why Phase 3 is going ahead. Cllr Flannery stressed the importance in getting it right. Residents should put in objections as they matter. Sally said that Cllr Scott Arthur has offered an online meeting with residents of Waverley Park on June 5th.
- Removal of 41 bus. Is about connectivity and frequency. Commented that there are issues getting to Galleries, Waverley etc. Rationale from Lothian Buses is unclear. An arm's length organisation from the Council, no direct control from timetabling and management. Not to say that residents can't object. Wants to know how they assess the criteria for underuse. They don't count people who don't pay, only counting passengers who pay. Don't count older users or those under 22. Cllr Flannery confirmed that the Councillors did not know that this was happening, not kept in the loop about this issue.
- Sue commented that survey may have been done in the past year and there's been a bottleneck at Forrest Road, would be interested to do a survey before

the 41 vanishes before the service vanishes. Asked Ian as Chair of GPCC to write to Cllrs and to Lothian Buses about the impact of the removal of the 41 bus.

- Also issue of timetables not matching up for the buses that will remain. Sally asked how does this fit with Council's strategies, city mobility plan etc?
- Composite motion on Prestonfield bowling green, people want a say about how this will be used. Potential to turn these into allotments. All Ward Councillors are keen on looking at how best this is used.

6. Reports of Interest Groups -

a. Planning report

- Stuart gave an update on the Peffermill redevelopment plans.
 - Has been ongoing for the last five years. Jim Aitken has retired from the University, rationale on team sports and lack of student housing. Neat solution to have both on same site with accommodation and sports facilities. Most people impressed with scheme. Was rejected by CEC 5-4 vote and rejected by the Scottish Government's reporter on appeal.
 - The needs for student sport and team sport still exists. Still a lack of capacity of student accommodation. Lots of private accommodation, studios and not suitable for many students. University has to think about the accommodation offer. The site has good links to three campuses. Pressure on the city centre in Southside and Fountainbridge, is changing the city.
 - Peffermill slightly further out and is the University's own land.
 - Will possibly come back with a proposal going through the planning system, brings forward a proposal which is more amenable to local residents, councillors and the local development plan.
 - Area is designated as green belt. Increase amount local community can use that site. Increase the local community and students can use that site. At the moment it's a closed area for students. Want to explore what would be helpful to a local community. Currently at the creative stage. Could include facilities including a community hall, a Forest school, walking paths for dog walkers
 - University likely to come forward with something this year.

b. Licensing

- No items.

c. Roads/Transport

. Alan updated:

- Different changes in Number 2 bus stops at Hermiston Gait not the Gyle
- 30 bus doesn't go to Musselburgh anymore but to QMU
- Day ticket £5, contactless caps at £4.80.
- Council has listed top 40 dangerous junctions. Commonwealth pool, Lady Road Roundabout, Grange Loan/Kilgraston Road. East Preston Street. Cllr Flannery commented that Council looking at early interventions in all of them.
- Self driving buses now active.

d. Communications/Publicity

- Paul updated, that they' have been looking at website traffic, no discernible change.

e. Environment –

Sue updated:

- New Passivhaus building next to avenue store. Architect will be talking to the Grange Association.

f. Newington Cemetery -

Ellen updated:

- Have a project to put planters at the entrance which has been agreed.
- Checked with Council about what land is owned by whom.
- Tree trail – needs to find a new graphic designer as current one retired.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

a. Treasurer Report -

Paul updated that the current bank balance is £6,067

- The GPCC account balance - £1,986. No new income with expenditure of £15 for Zoom subscription
- Newington Cemetery balance - £4,081. No new income and expenditure of £228 for materials.

b. Secretary.

No further update

8. Reports of Outside Groups

a. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) -

- Next meeting is on Thursday 25 May 2023
 - Two speakers – Harold Toberman – Chair of Edinburgh Bus Users Group.
 - Angela Benzes, consulting with Corstorphine CC about small business.

9 AOB - Open Forum -

10. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 7pm

3 Actions ii) 5(a) and 6(f)	Newington Cemetery - Wall repair, work to commence soon.	Continued for update at June meeting
	Dalkeith Road Planters - Erect a sign sponsored by GPCC	Longevity of the planter to be assessed.
5(a)	41 bus. Chair to write to Lothian buses to raise Community Concerns	Ian to write to Lothian buses
6.a Planning report	Ratcliffe Terrace Illuminated Signage AG Barbers	Ian to notify CEC enforcement team about lack of planning application.
	15 Dalkeith Road revised application	Resubmit revised comments reflecting on revised application. Follow up with Stuart Tooley to see University of Edinburgh's position on the application.
GPCC Planning Vacancy	Advert for position to be drafted	
6.d.	Community publicity – creation of a community motif.	Stanley to get some information via the Lyon Court who have their own engagement packs for working with local groups.