**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 16 November 2022**

Meeting held at Cameron House Community Centre, 34 Prestonfield Avenue, Edinburgh, EH16 5EU,and via Zoom

**Office Bearers -**

Chair - Ian Chisholm; Joint Vice Chairs - Paul Rowllings, Ellen-Raissa Jackson; Secretary- Raphael Bleakley; Treasurer - Paul Rowllings; Minute Secretary - Isabel Clark.

**Members present:**

Sue Tritton, Alan Gilmour, Ken Robertson, Scott Paterson, Peter Jones, Sally Griffiths, Tony Harris, Denise Fisher

Cllr Simita Kumar

**In attendance and members of the public**

Jean Gardner, Denise Fisher

**Apologies**

Ellen-RaissaJackson, Stanley Bird, Bill Reid

1. **Welcome. –**Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of 26 October 2022**- October Minutes agreed. Proposed by Scott and seconded by Paul

Action Points -

i).CityFibre Broadband - Dalkeith Road - Cllr Kumar confirmed that works nearly completed and mess cleared up.

ii) Newington Cemetery - No further update.

iii) Dalkeith Road Planters - continued to next meeting for update.

iv) Summary of CEC Committees - Committee re-structuring ongoing. Discussed at 5(a) Councillor’s Report.

v). Bins - Dalkeith Road - Discussed at 5(a) Councillor’s Report.

vi) Grange Community payback Scheme - Scott advised had discussions with Cllr Flannery.

vii) Police Report - Quarterly Report from Police.

viii) Planning - 9 Relugas Road issues - See 6(a) Planning

ix)  GPCC Noticeboard – Paul contacted CEC about possible grant. Response received that require to wait until next year as grant applications closed.  However GPCC application for grant on CEC list.

x) Open Forum Issues - Discussed during meeting and at item 9.

xi) Card/ Flowers for former GPCC members Maureen Edwards and Julian Newman.

xii) GPCC Planning Vacancy – Tony standing down end of 2022 and the chair (IC) invited notes of interest for this position.

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

**5. Reports (External) -**

1. Councillor Simita Kumar gave a two part slide presentation which will be forwarded to members. Cllr Kumar expressed that she is thoroughly enjoying her new role as a Councillor working with her fellow Councillors in this area.

* Newington Cemetery - Wall damage - awaiting tenders.   No further update.
* Dalkeith Road Bins - aware of issues. Street furniture had been removed and made safe for pedestrians accessibility.
* City Fibre - Dalkeith road - should have been completed by October 2022 and mess cleared up.
* Consultations -
* Short Term Lets - 22 December 2022
* Council Housing - 23 December 2022. Shortage of housing for Ukranian refugees.
* Licensing Board - 30 December 2022
* 20mph City Mobility Plan/link - tbc
* Political Management Arrangements - December 2022
* CEC Committee Structure -  6 Executive Committees;  19 other committees,  4 Joint Boards and other request boards. Every single political group coming in with comments.
* Council budgets - each group has a budget proposal for next year. Can ring-fence some funding for some projects.
* Christmas lights switch on at Prestonfield Memorial Garden on 12 December 2022 at 17.15.
* Ken enquired if CEC having any update on the consultation in respect of events management and if there is any update on the Council’s new Community Empowerment & Engagement service that is emerging from an organisational review of the current Lifelong Learning services being led by Andrew Field.  - Cllr Kumar to enquire and advise GPCC.
* Sue raised that some residents had mentioned to her their view that CEC should be clearing the leaves up in GPCC area. Other Councils managing to clear leaves without local residents requiring to do this task.   Cllr Kumar advises that CEC budget finite.  Street cleaning is a priority.
* Sally asked what priority is being given in CEC budget for repairing pot holes in side streets such as MacLaren Road. Cllr Kumar advised in the manifesto there was to be an increased budget for pot holes however recent cost of living crisis cuts had an impact.   Next budget coming up and road maintenance is a priority. Sally to email Cllr Kumar concerning McLaren Road issues.
* Paul advised that the CEC website allowed residents to report blocked drains and CEC clearing them within a few days.
* Ken enquired when Budget planning process scheduled to be completed for re-surfacing work in Southside, and across the City?. Cllr Kumar advised CEC Budget discussions have started to set the Budget for next year. Will go to Full Council February/March 2023.
* Peter commented it was important that CEC kept the bike lanes in good order as they had pot holes which were dangerous for cyclists.
* Cllr Kumar outlined her work over the first six months:
* Casework - involved emails, home visits, site visits, etc. She has assisted with 200-300 cases.
* Surgeries -
* Newington Library - 11am every 3rd Saturday each month.
* Cameron House - 12 noon - every 3rd Monday each month.
* Committee services/Council Services -
* Working to present a motion to full Council on providing a Guaranteed Interview Scheme for care experienced young people but not implemented yet.
* Cllr Kumar is on the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee and the Education, Children and Families Committee.
* Cllr Kumar advised she is the Chair for SNP Councillors Group.
* She is also a spokesperson for Fair Work, Economy and Equalities.
* Cllr Kumar provided her contact details in her presentation which can be viewed on the GPCC website.
* Cllr Kumar to forward her slide presentation to GPCC for display on the website.

b. Police Report -   Quarterly Police Newsletter received.

**6..  Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning**

Tony presented the planning report.

* **Appeal against refusal of 21/03813/FUL – 49 Dwellings on St Crispin’s School site** - Planning consent likely to be granted, subject to agreements, quite soon. Cllr Kumar advised that all Councillors were meeting on Monday and she would provide an update after the meeting.
* **12 Esslemont Road – Car parking space in front garden**. Objection as details are not in accordance with CEC Guidance for Householders.
* **9 Relugas Road** – **Pottery and Art Room in garden ground as caravans.**  Revised version of GPCC July Commentary has been produced. Have had a response on 14th of November from Paul Lawrence, CEC Executive Director of Place, saying that he has followed up with colleagues and will respond further as soon as possible.
* **5 Dalkeith Road – Scottish Widows Site** - Public consultation closed. CEC planning portal records 41 objections and 13 comments in support. All applications awaiting assessment.
* **CEC Edinburgh’s Thriving Greenspaces 2050** - given a few ideas but asking GPCC members to forward any views to Tony.
* **CEC Housing Land Audit and Completions Programme**- what sites available.Councils require to have housing sites available for a 5 year period.  CEC plan expires 2026.

Tony intimated his intention to stand down end December 2022. Further, he will submit the January 2023 report but will not attend the meeting. However, he will continue with issues (eg Cameron Toll, Caravans issue etc) and work with whoever takes on the Planning Role.

**b) Licensing** - None.

**c). Roads/Transport**

Alan raised the following points -

* **Bus Stops** – Lothian buses criteria for bus stops is usually Max 400 metres apart. Bus stops on a slope the Max distance is 10 metre less for every 1m gradient.
* **George Street** - proposed transform to pedestrian area only - cost £36million.
* **Get Me Home Safely** - pre-requisite that all businesses ensure their workers get home especially late night staff.
* **Congestion Charges -** CEC encouraging people to use Park & Ride and buses. For example Sheriffhall Park & Ride has 561 vehicle spaces and usually 8 buses an hour.
* **Parking at Work** - £650 per year to park vehicle at work could be introduced.
* **Low Emission Zone (LEZ)** - LEZ been in place 6 months now. However, CEC have not erected any signs, (2 year grace period before start fining drivers). Applications for grants (£2,000) for non-compliant vehicles closes in March 2023 and full details on CEC website.   Discussion that on Google Maps it can indicate the vehicle is entering an LEZ.
* Discussion that Glasgow Council have erected solar powered electronic signs that light up when a cyclist is coming down a road cannot see.
* Gyle Santa Train - 4 and 5 December 2022.   Adults £5.   Children £3.50

Raphael advised he had been at a recent focus group discussing Electric Vehicles (EV’s)  and plans for CECs electric charging point strategy in.

* Currently only 2% of households in Edinburgh had EV’s but number expected to increase rapidly.
* The challenge in Edinburgh is only 34% of households have access to a private driveway.
* CEC have bid for national money to install charging points.
* There were 3 zone areas and GPCC were in Zone 2 area.
* Hubs for charging vehicles in different parts; aim is not impinge on footway; aspiration that residents should live in walking distance from a charger.
* Discussed would not want to lose space on footways - charging stations could be installed in the ground. The use of lampposts - not good in Edinburgh as lampposts set back and power issue).
* Discussions that still encouraging EV’s with current energy crisis, require planning applications for driveways to access their own supply.   Garages were installing charging points with rapid charging.

**d). Communications/Publicity.**

Scott and Paul advised nothing to add other than the usual posting..

(**e) Environment**

Sue updated on leaf clearing in the Grange area.

**f) Newington Cemetery**

Tony advised that the Working Group were meeting to plant trees and clear up on Monday 21st November

**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 £5,892.00.

(b) Secretary. - Nothing to add.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils -   Ken updated on the AGM, to take place on 24th November.  Expect presentation by Chief Executive of EVOC, election of Office Bearers - Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, with Ken nominated for the Secretary role. There are also 12 Panel seats of which only five names put forward at present, however, the board can invite others to join,

Ken and Raphael to circulate AGM link to GPCC members.

9**AOB - Open Forum -**

Raphael advised he had previously received emails relating to various concerns -

1. Lack of bus shelter on Craigmillar Park between Wilton Road and Suffolk Road.
2. Speeding
3. State of grounds opposite the parade of shops on Mayfield Road near West Saville Terrace.    Already raised and discussed.     New Highway Code gives pedestrians priority over bikes/vehicles at junctions.   Discussion that with current 20mph speed limit - speeding may not be as prevalent in some areas.   Enforcement of speed limits by police is an issue.

**GPCC Planning Vacancy -**

The Ian expressed the gratitude of the GPCC to Tony Harris for his dedication, expertise and long service to various Community issues especially planning matters.

Ian asked GPCC members to consider the future Planning post vacancy as Tony Harris was standing down  at the end of December 2022. Discussion that CEC will provide training and education for people who are new to Community Councils. Discussion that EACC may be a good avenue for all Community Councils to receive training as similar vacant planning posts in other areas. Scott advised that Open University also provided planning training.  He will forward the link to GPCC.

10.  **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 7 pm**. At Cameron House Community Centre and online.

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| **3  Actions**  **ii)**  **5(a) and 6(f)**  **iii)** | Newington Cemetery -  Wall damage tenders out for repair again  May take until Spring 2023 for work to be done  Dalkeith Road  Planters -  Erect a sign sponsored by GPCC | Tenders out again Continued to next meeting for update  ERJ to email CEC about sign being erected on Planters in Dalkeith Road. |
| **3 Actions**  **iv) Summary of CEC Committees**  **v) Bins - Dalkeith Road**  **xii) GPCC Planning Vacancy** | CEC Review ongoing.  Bins - Dalkeith Road  Last 4 years have blocked pedestrian access.  Bin relocation review ongoing.  Applicants update | Review of CEC Committees update from cllrs  GPCC keeping watch on progress  GPCC discussion who will take on the Planning role. |
| **5) a Councillor Report** | Any CEC consultation in respect of events management?  Any arrangements for Community and Environment project involving Andrew Field?  Cllr Kumar to enquire and advise GPCC.  McLaren Road - Pot Hole issues – Sue to email Cllr Kumar  Cllr Kumar - Slide Presentation  Cllr Kumar to forward to GPCC | Cllr Kumar to enquire and advise GPCC |
| **6(a)** | Watertoun Road - St Crispins site.  Cllr Kumar advised CEC meeting on Monday and she would provide update afterwards. | Cllr Kumar to provide update after CEC meeting |
| **8 EACC** | EACC  AGM link | Ken and Raphael to circulate EACC AGM link to GPCC members |
| **9 Open Forum** | GPCC Planning role  Open University link. | Scott to forward link to GPCC |