**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of meeting 20 September 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, Cllr Pauline Flannery

**In attendance and members of the public**

Denise Fisher;

**Apologies:**

Sally Griffiths, Stanley Bird, Peter Jones, Ian Wright – Craigmillar Park

**Absent:**

Bill Reid; Andreas Grothey

1. **Welcome. –** Ian welcomed everyone to the September meeting. Ian noted that due to moving to a new area, Scott Paterson has resigned from the Community Council and thanked him for his contribution.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None

**3. Minutes of 19 June 2023** - Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Points –

* Newington Cemetery – Ellen updated – she has been in touch again with the Council. Very little progress on the wall. Preparatory work has been started. Has been contacted to put in a gate and a path. Cemeteries team not authorising this due to the lairs in the way.
* Dalkeith Road planters – Ellen to make up a sticker, planter doesn’t have a long enough life for a more permanent sign.
* 41 bus – The service has been reinstated in our area following pressure from the local community.
* Ratcliffe Terrace signage– Council confirmed that appropriate permissions had been sought for the barber shop signs.
* Lauder Road has been resurfaced and now almost complete.
* Planning vacancy – Ian has asked people who may be interested but had no response. Will publicise on the website.
* 8 Mayfield Gardens – objection submitted – no further update.
* 140 Causewayside Development – Cllr Flannery put in a request – pre-planning drilling which was done to look at the water table. Identified that there is potential flooding risk along with sewerage issues. No timescale for formal application.
* Communal bin review – Ian attended the session at Cameron House, issues of location and distance for residents. It is currently at design stage. Practical questions around this. Ken commented that it’s fine until it winds up outside the front door. Cllr Flannery confirmed that they are at design stage – should be three meters from a junction. Is about awareness. At Fingal Place – residents called for a site meeting with Council Officers – option to try for residents.
* Spatial policy consultation – Alan and Ken completed the spatial policy consultation.

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

**5. Reports (External) –**

Cllr Pauline Flannery updated with the following:

* Support worker strike, going ahead 26th, 27th & 28th September. Infrastructure staff, out of hours care etc. Teachers will be working and classes will be held virtually. Discussions are still ongoing.
* Short Term Let deadline – 1st October. Has had a lot of emails about this. Important people are encouraged to register. B&Bs exempt if they have an alcohol license, if they don’t need to apply for a license. Is a regulatory committee meeting on October 2nd. Will be more in there about STLs and how they will manage the programme. Encourage people to make sure they sign up. Avoid people facing fines – better to comply and see what happens in terms of the regulatory and evaluation and monitoring. Capacity for applications? Have been assured that there will be the capacity to process applications.
* Census material is coming through – proportion of 65+ increased. Up to 16.8% from 14.4%. Has a great impact in terms of provision for older people.
* Looking at SE local improvement plan, pertinent to Prestonfield. Main focus is equalities, eradicate poverty and address anti-social behaviour, rough sleepers and young people. Cllr Flannery asked if Prestonfield can have a focus as it has community centre, focus on the elderly, school etc. Ken asked about the status of the SE Local Improvement Plan. Cllr Flannery updated that it is getting there for the area. Put in place a plan to target all of the community groups in the area. Workshops are the next step, use Cameron House as a location point. Ken asked where does GPCC see itself in this? Is there a place for CCs?
* Prestonfield nursery won the Jamie Oliver good food award 2023. Promotes healthy lifestyles and parental engagement around food.
* Road crossings – main email bag – managed to look at when crossings are due – to be done. Mix of design, pedestrian refuge islands, or signalised crossings. Kilgraston Road etc. From August 2022 – decided rolling programme – 2030-31.
* Enquiries around 20mph speeds, Kilgraston, Priestfield, Dalkeith Road. Will be on a speed survey this autumn. Is a tolerance of 4mph.
* Greenbank and Meadows – Whitehouse loan. Have put out street letters for a consultation. Southside Newington Councillors not invited to the workshop. Area feeds into the route. The Council’s consultation hub, will run through to 22nd October. Are options, not to get rid of the route but will get rid of the pinch points.
* Lothian buses – are investing money in new Volvo electric double decker buses in spring 2024.

Questions to Cllr Flannery:

* Junctions – Alan asked why Cameron Toll isn’t included in the plans for improvement. The quality of the road is poor.
* Ian asked about the timing of CC elections – boundary changes and ward changes. The consultation will be in Q4. Ken thinks it will be Q2 of 2024 for the timing of the CC elections. Can’t cross MSP boundaries. Reduce situation where CCs straddle two Ward boundaries. Cllr Flannery advised to look at culture and communities report - that is where it will be on October 5th 2023. Report being given to that, should include more information.

**6. Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning**

* 23 Blacket place. Removal of wall and install a driveway. Blacket Association objecting.
* 80 Dalkeith Road – new building, removed all the turf and covered in plastic. Is a big reduction – is this mentioned in the plans? Ellen to report.
* Mast application – Grange loan, siting of boxes.
* Notifications for neighbours – is being reported as an issue in the area.

**b. Licensing**

* 1 application for a tattoo parlour in Blackford Avenue – deadline 10th October.
* Vape shop – Causewayside – next to the Old Bell – Second vape shop in the area, however GPCC didn’t receive a notification.

**c. Roads/Transport**

Alan updated:

LEZ – all zones in Scotland will have same charges, Glasgow court case on October 17th – outcome could affect the implementation of the LEZ.

* Pavement parking – to be implemented. Have to put signs up in areas which will be exempt. Questions of enforcement?
* Trams report has been released.
* Cycle scheme could be restarted in 2026.

**d. Communications/Publicity**

Paul updated:

* Website updated by Paul and Raph. Management of Facebook noticeboard – engagement through the page is higher than the website. Question of Comms – and support from Edinburgh CC. Looking for someone to take on the Comms.
* How to make the effort, Ken could lend a hand?
* Confirmed that application to Community Grants fund for two noticeboards to be sited in the GPCC area had been submitted.
* Sue asked if there are plans for a newsletter. Use the Grange Association more by using the newsletter. Advertise in the gang show programme? Ellen to ask. To send something to Sue to approach the Grange Association.
* Small grants fund -Raphael raised issues with the process for the Community Grants Fund - Michael Edwards – part of Community Empowerment – Communication.

**e. Environment –**

* Sue updated – open doors 23-24th September, Grange Cemetery will be open. Help from the Council to tidy up.
* Leaf clearing just starting. Have got new officials helping this year.
* Prestonfield Bowling club – planned consultation on Prestonfield Bowling Green – Kate Kirkwood from ELGT has asked to speak to the CC about this at the next meeting.
* Ellen updated that the friends of Inch park having their first AGM Wednesday 28th September at 7pm. Playground redevelopment – new trees etc. Enthusiasm and momentum.

**f. Newington Cemetery -**

* Newington Cemetery will not be part of Doors Open day this year.
* Have reunited several people from Canada with their relatives in the Cemetery. Used the old database to help with this.
* Have a draft of the tree trail, it’s a 12 page A5 booklet. Debate about signage.
* Had discussions about getting three planters at the entrance. Stone planters that are sourced made out of concrete and out of character with the cemetery so abandoned this plan. Now sourced whisky barrels.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

Paul updated that the current bank balance is **£6,986.**

* The GPCC account balance - £2,905. £980 income with no new expenditure.
* Newington Cemetery balance - £4,081 – no new income and expenditure.

1. Secretary.

* No further updates.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) -

Ken updated:

Scheme review and boundary review. West Edinburgh and a review of City Plan 2030 and City Plan 2040.

* Main issues relate to be more purposeful in engagement with people. Engagement with Grange Association, School Parent Councils. Interest in what we’re doing.
* Prestonfield interested in intergenerational reaching out and. Coorie in – sharing stories.
* Bridgend farm – incidents of vandalism? Engagement with the Bridgend community. Inch community?
* Risk of being inquorate – CCs are struggling to engage. Engagement fatigue.

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

**Action list**

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| **3  Actions**  **ii)** | **Newington Cemetery** -  Wall repair, work to commence soon.  **Dalkeith Road  Planters** -  Erect a sign sponsored by GPCC    GPCC Planning Vacancy Advert for position to be drafted    Community engagement – | Continued for updates  Ellen to produce a sticker    Notice to go on wesbite    Raphael & Paul to share Facebook info with Ken. |