**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of meeting 22 November 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. Stanley Bird, Peter Jones, Cllr Tim Pogson,

**Members present on Zoom:**

Sally Griffiths, Andreas Grothey, Peter Jones, Paul Rowllings

**In attendance on Zoom:**

Ronald Shaw – Liberton & District CC

**Apologies:** Stuart Tooley

**Absent:**

Bill Reid;

1. **Welcome. –**
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.

Discussed highlighting the difference between members being present in person and online.

p.1. Sue highlighted that Nigel is still on the Grange Association.

Action Points –

* Newington Cemetery – Ellen updated that the wall is coming along slowly, A Council Officer is building and repairing the wall. Cllr Pogson had spoken with him and had hoped to get some apprentices to help with the wall build. Ellen highlighted that there should be some money from insurance and unclear what has happened to this. Commented that there should be a budget for repairs.
* Planning vacancy – Ken offered to look again at the “cheat sheet” – partial solution to look at the basics, use the right phrasing could be part of a solution. Sue raised that it’s about putting together valid reasons for an objection. Cllr Pogson commented that Community Councils can’t be experts in planning and it’s the role to raise what they want to say. Planning reports official consultations – CCs are the statutory body. Put a box on the website to say looking for a planning. Training likely to be offered near the start of the next CC term. Cllr Pogson to ask whether training is a possibility. Planning officers to come to an early CC meeting after the next round of CC elections.
* ELGT consultation – Ian looked at this, either community gardens and allotments. In terms of CC view wasn’t sure. Consultation has now closed. Ellen raised that the Dumbiedykes community garden is good, activity in the community garden in the Meadows. Ken suggests that this falls within the ambit of a local place plan – is there any mileage of the CC advertising that this could be used by community groups to kickstart space for public use. Cllr Pogson suggests that an idea could come off the back of the consultation recommendations. A group would need to be constitutionally organized.Can comment once consultation report is published, could go through planning.

**4. Notice of Matters Arising -**

None

**5. Reports (External) –**Cllr Pogson updated:

* At the last Council meeting – one important aspect for the City – a housing emergency has been declared. Have approximately 5000 households in temporary accommodation. Are the first major local authority to declare a housing emergency. An opportunity to bring everyone to the table including the Scottish Government to focus minds on a policy and funding point of view. Is a tactic to focus on the challenge.
* A consultation has opened on the workplace parking levy. Levy would come back to the council for roads improvement. Open to 6th February. Range of views within the Council, there is no uniform view on this. Currently no fixed view about how it should be administered. NHS premises are exempt. Alan raised there is no real model to follow as the only place it has happened in is in Nottingham. Council asking if it’s something they should do .
* Controlled parking zone is still on it’s way in this areal (B1). Looking for detailed plans which will come out soon. Detailed design of the scheme to be published. Prestonfield and B7 (Priestfield) is being monitored. Sally raised that they were going to launch their planning process last spring. The information hasn’t changed since then. Cllr Pogson doesn’t have a timescale for the consultation. Is about the detail of where the parking spaces will go.
* Communal bin review. This has been consulted on. Some feedback on locations. Every site where there was an issue, the council have looked to resolve it. Ken commented that it’s a doorstep issue – it only affects those where a bin hub is placed directly outside their house.
* Short term lets – came in on October 1st. Applications being processed. Quite a lot of them are being refused.
* Pavement parking – Council is now committed to enforcement powers from January. Looking at high pressure streets – what will the implication be – where will they go? Big pressure areas such as Portobello. Alan raised that there will not be any additional parking attendants. Suggestion is that reporting will be done via a website. Sue raised issue of cars not fitting on driveways and causing obstructions and whether this would fall under the ambit of pavement parking.

Alan raised issue of roadworks being started and not being progressed – example of work started on Peffermill road on a Friday afternoon and nothing progressed for 12 days. Cllr Pogson mentioned that there is a team that monitors TTROs. Council will get out and speak to the contractor. Stanley raised that temporary traffic lights don’t work well with permanent traffic lights. Could have better coordination.

Ken highlighted that Paul has put up some links on the website for grit bins, pot holes, etc. But not one for this issue. Cllr Pogson to see if there is a link that could be added to the GPCC website.

**6. Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning**
* No further update
* SE locality improvement plan. Ken updated that the plan has been behind the curve. All relevant CCs were involved including community centres. How to further the present locality improvement plan. Conversation turned to where they will do them. Focus on sites rather than endeavors. All community centres under pressure. Community empowerment and engagement team will move to assess how to undo blockages and impediments to this. Stuart Tooley is Chair of local improvement planning partnership. CCs have a pivotal part to play. Cllrs Flannery and Burgess were in attendance. Cllr Pogson commented that there was a first meeting at Goodtrees in Moredon. The focus of conversation, is taking something like SE Edinburgh area – is that a sensible focus on an improvement plan. – how much common identity is there? Will see what comes out. Is about focusing on priorities and themes, such as anti-social behaviour, reinforcing the work, volunteering. Cllr Flannery is nominated person who would know about this work on the LCPP.

 **b. Licensing**

- Nothing

**c. Roads/Transport - Alan updated**

* Roads across the city have been classified – on a RAG basis – 12% have problems.
* Bus lane penalties are now £100
* Issues with new bus trackers – just displays a timetable and not showing live tracking. Problem is the existing system has been failing and becoming less reliable.
* 20mph zones – roads Alan asked about the outcome of the Council’s consultation.
* Ian W raised the impact of closure of lots of churches across the City.

**d. Communications/Publicity - Paul updated**

* Ken sent on pieces to add to the website. Looks much livelier.
* Advertising for the planning role – draft wording for a vacancy. Many other community councils – GPCC needs someone with an interest to consider planning applications – lead on our coordination of a response. No previous experience required.
* Cllr Pogson – raised Planning Aid Scotland – might have support and resources and Cockburn Association.

**e. Environment – Sue updated**

* Astley Ainsley – discussion about sale – sale for a purpose around health and welbeing. Talking to stakeholders who have an interest.
* Leaf clearning is expanded. Ian raised that the Council have been round Blacket to clear leaves.

**f. Newington Cemetery -**  Ellen updated

* Going to put more dog bags in the cemetery.
* Sent round the tree trail proofs. Have paid for it to be designed, £350 invoice.
* Put up 20 bird feeders.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

Paul updated that the current bank balance is £6,955, made up as follows:

• GPCC Account Balance - £2,874

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

• Newington Cemetery Balance - £4,081

   - no new income or expenditure

Noticeboards application – paul has been chasing this. No updates on decisions for the grant application. Cllr Pogson to chase.

Ken suggested building our own noticeboard to put in Newington Library.

1. Secretary.
* Boundary review – Ken has offered a draft by the Board – could be a discussion paper for EACC. Could submit to GPCC Authority given to office bearers Scheme review doesn’t examine the effectiveness of CCs. Deadline December 8th
* Cameron House nursery closure consultation - Raphael to draft response.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

* EACC - Ken updated:

CEC invitation to prepare Local Place Plans (submit by Sep 2024); community organisation endeavours to re-shape, re-scope, re-design local public land sites and amenities. There is a lot of background here: <https://planningedinburgh.com/>  Guidance on what to think about in advance, from Planning Democracy: <https://www.planningdemocracy.org.uk/2023/local-place-plans-why-bother/>

'Understanding Scotland's new planning system': An excellent webinar presented by the Principal Reporter at the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division of Scot Gov: How to begin to find your way around National Planning Framework 4 and Local Place Plans. There are three more in the series, hosted by Planning Democracy and the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (6 Dec, 17 Jan, 31 Jan). Find the slides and lots of links in *EACC Papers >> Planning 2023*. More detail on the webinars here: [Winter Webinar Series](https://www.planningdemocracy.org.uk/2023/webinar-series-on-understanding-planning-local-development-plans-npf4-and-greenbelts/)

Douglas Rogers (Marchmont & Sciennes CC) made a deputation to the Planning Committee on 15 Nov, following-up on his work with the Conservation and Adaptation Consultation Working Group (see below; 4 Sep). He is pursuing his proposals for handbook guidance on insulation for homeowners in heritage (pre-1919) and conservation areas. This link, [Planning Committee 15 Nov 2023](https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/g6743/Public%20reports%20pack%2015th-Nov-2023%2014.00%20Planning%20Committee.pdf?T=10) , carries the report by the Executive Director of Place on the Conservation and Adaptation Consultation itself (Page 133). You can find Douglas Rogers' deputation paper on the EACC site here: <http://www.edinburghcommunitycouncils.org.uk/index.php/eacc-papers?folder=Planning%2B2023>

“The (Scot Gov) *Democracy Matters* national engagement is an opportunity to propose models of community democracy that will enhance collaboration and ensure that communities benefit from all of the skills and capacity available to them." (Tom Arthur, MSP). The Scot Gov consultation details are here: <https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/democracy-matters/> .

**Open forum**

Sue proposed authorizing the treasurer to buy a Christmas gift for the Cameron House security person.

 10.  **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 17th January 2024**

**Action list**

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| **3  Actions****ii)**  | **Planning vacancy****Newington Cemetery** **CC scheme Review****Cameron House Nursery Consultation****Gift for Cameron House security staff** | Continued - website to be updated.Continued for updatesRaphael to submit response.Raphael to draft & submit responseRaphael to arrange     |