**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 21 September 2022**

**Meeting held at Cameron House Community Centre, and via Zoom**

**Elected Office Bearers -**

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

**Present:**

Sue Tritton, Alan Gilmour, Ken Robertson, Tony Harris, Scott Paterson, Stanley Bird, Julian Newman, Peter Jones, Bill Reid, Sally Griffiths, Cllr Steve Burgess, Jean Gardner, Denise Fisher

**Absent:**

Andreas Grothey, Maureen Edwards

1. **Welcome. –**Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of 21 June 2021**-  Circulated Minutes were agreed. Proposer: Stanley, Seconder: Sue

**Action Points -**

i).  Broadband works- Raphael advised area cleared up now. However new fibre broadbands works on Dalkeith Road and gas works which raised concerns for school runs. Busy road and unsafe to use due to big trucks taking over pedestrian area. Raphael to write to both parties (City Fibre and Gas contractors) raising concerns for safety etc.

ii)   Newington Cemetery - accident damage to wall - discussed at 5(a) and 6(f)  Continued for update from Cllr Burgess.

iii) GPCC Meetings -  meeting held in person at Cameron House Community Centre and via Zoom. Equipment now purchased for hybrid meeting.   Discussion if could use TV in meeting room and Raphael, Paul and Scott to enquire and consider if possible.

iv).Short Term lets - Scottish Government imposed rent freeze.  Issue is now require to be registered with CEC, tourist tax, Planning issue - possible change of use.

 (v) Ken’s motion to tidy and clean up City of Edinburgh as a priority for new Councillors. GPCC letter sent to the four Southside Councillors to encourage them to adopt this. Cllr Burgess, Cllr Flannery and Cllr Pogson all responded positively.

vi) Summary of CEC Committees - no update yet as under review. Continued to next meeting.

vii) Spaces for People – Response drafted and submitted by Alan.

viii) Police Scotland Representative - Email received from Police Scotland advising will not now be attending GPCC meetings due to funding cuts unless something specific raised. Police Scotland issue quarterly report providing information for area. Can monitor Police Scotland social media and can post any issues on said media. Ian and Stanley advised that NWS had a Your Police Survey and can complete it on individual/organisation basis.

ix) Scammers - Discussion that NWS had issued information and this could be put on GPCC website to alert residents.

x) Planning Issues -

3 Peel Terrace - Julian advised now sorted.

9 Relugas Road - Update by Tony later at 6(a). Planning

xi)Newington Cemetery - Damaged wall and Open Day - Discussed at  5(a) and 6(f)

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

**5. Reports (External) -**

1. Councillors Report  -  Councillor Steve Burgess

CEC not yet got political programme. Budget discussions coming up in November 2022 until February 2023. ll parties will put forward spending proposals. Labour could seek support from other parties. Budget very challenging - advised last year that £60million cuts required. Usually removal of posts (eg salaries, etc). Recent strike added to pressures of CEC budget.

Cllr Burgess advised he now sits on on the Education, Children & Family and Pension Committees. Committees are the same although a review is being carried out. There may be some changes to the existing committees. A Full Council meeting had been held to express the Council’s condolences for the Queen.

Cllr Burgess advised he had received a lot of e mails from residents. Ken asked what issues were being raised with Cllr Burgess.   Cllr Burgess mentioned that he has been petition about CEC twinning with Gaza - he had received a lot of emails both for/against.

The cost of living crisis - not many emails at present but may increase as financial pinch becomes more intense. Cost of living crisis discussed at CEC Level - motion passed for a report on what powers CEC has to help people. CEC has a Welfare fund to help people, however limited budget which is distributed according to needs.

Pavements blocked /streets not cleared

Ukraine school children - requests for help to place Ukraine children in schools where catchment area full.  Cllr Burgess had helped to resolve these issues.

Newington Cemetery Wall- - Ellen asked if any update regarding the accident damage to the wall. Discussion that going to be put out to tender for contractor, however timescale not known

Bins, Dalkeith Road near the Priesfield Road junction - Ellen advised that four years ago this issue was raised. Residents still have difficulty walking through the very small gap because of the bins or having to walk on the road.

Cllr Burgess advised he had received an e mail from a mother complaining about having to walk onto the road. Advised he had contacted the Head of the CEC Waste department to respond to these longstanding issues.

No 42 Bus removed and replaced by No12 bus route.

Discussion that there has been no consultation between Lothian Buses and CEC regarding recent removal and/or changes to a number of different bus routes.   Government want people to use the buses more but the recent Lothian bus changes , removal of bus stops, not encouraging people to use bus transport.  Discussion that CEC give extra funding for some supported bus routes where not financially viable.   Cllr Burgess advised that Lothian Buses are an at arms length  company with CEC.

Bill raised concerns about a hedge protruding over the pavements and CEC response not very helpful.    Cllr Burgess to look into this issue.

(b) Police Report - Police Scotland email advised not attending GPCC meetings unless something specific and would provide Quarterly Report.

6).  Reports of Interest Groups -

1. **Planning**

Tony raised:

* 9 Relugas Road - Discussion that this planning application had been going on for a very long time regarding the 2 large sheds in the back garden now designed as caravan’s and therefore do not require Planning permission. Tony has produced a paper which will be emailed to ward councillors for their views.
* St Crispin School Site -Appeal by Cala.   Inquiry into refusal by CEC of consent. Reporter stated allow appeal, and now appeal subject to deferment for  six months to conclude planning agreement provisions .
* Cameron Toll Development - Application in after recess - 108 objections.

GPCC gave detailed objections.    Comprehensive re-development - budget hotel and 2 areas of future housing

* Scottish Widows Site - Dalkeith Road - Various matters set out and detailed planning application in coming months. GPCC keeping eye on this development.
* Short Term Lets (STL) - Designated whole of city as STL area.   Property requires Planning permission for change of use.   Draft regulations later this year.

Sue raised concerns about residents knocking down boundary walls to create driveways under the cover of installing electric charging points for vehicles.   Discussion that there will be demand for increased on street electric charging points.  Ken expressed the view that CEC require to look forward particularly in conservation areas for installation of Solar Panels, affordable double glazing, etc

**b) Licensing**-  No licensing applications.

**c). Roads/Transport**

Alan raised:

* No 42 bus now changed to No 12 bus
* Tram Report due to be published soon concluding that 50 people at fault.
* North Bridge work -  initially to last 9 months  however recent completion is Spring 2023 with two way traffic and work still being done.
* 20 mph zone in City being extended outwards.   Discussion that map shows include the full length of Dalkeith Road.
* Electric buses are running between Edinburgh and Dundee.
* CEC looking at other modes of transport - suburban train line, ferry, tram to ERI

(**d). Communications/Publicity.**

Paul   advised there was more content on GPCC website.

(**e) Environment**

Sue advised that Cllr Burgess had helped facilitate contacts for leaf clearing.Sueto circulate  email detailing 2 contacts.

Grange Cemetery Open Days - Saturday/Sunday 24/25 September 2022 1-5pm.

**f) Newington Cemetery**

Ellen advised that Open Day was Sunday 25 September 2022 at 1-4pmm. celebrating trees and there would be a Tree Trail. The Jewish part of the cemetery has been cleared. A mushroom growing company were interested in using some of the cut trees to grow edible mushrooms or may remove some of the cut trees.

Dogs must be on leads in parks and cemeteries. Discussion that new signs on display in Newington Cemetery that dogs must be kept on leads in cemetery.   CEC Dog Warden officials had been speaking with dog walkers advising them of these regulations.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

GPCC Account Balance - £2,438

* Income - £980 (CEC annual grant)
* Expenditure - £80 (meeting speaker)

Newington Cemetery Balance - £3,594

* Income £991(metals money)
* Expenditure - none

(b) Secretary. -   Nothing to add.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils -   Ken updated:

EACC AGM to be held in November 2022.   Wider sway of Councillors towards having a members board. Scope of EACC has widened  and Community Councils may wish to consider how take advantage of this. Ken advised that Andrew Field, Head of Community Empowerment and Engagement will be at the meeting and offering CEC ideas.

Neighbourhood Network - Southeast should seize re-birth of this.

EVOC - playing an increased role in the challenge as a City and Community.

Links given to Raphael to go up on GPCC website which hopefully will spur some ideas as to how we involve ourselves more.

9**AOB - Open Forum -**

Sue advised that Maureen Edwards was unable to attend GPCC meetings due to ill health and was now standing down. GPCC to send a card and then flowers.  .

10.  **Date of Next Meeting   -  Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 7 pm**. At  ameron House Community Centre and via Zoom

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| **3 Actions** | Fibre Broadband - disruption and contractors mess in area- now Dalkeith Road | Raphael to email City Fibre and gas contractors with GPCC concerns |
| **3  Actions**  **ii)**  **5(a) and 6(f)** | Newington Cemetery -  Wall damage tenders out for repair  Open Day -  24/25 September 2022 | Cllr Burgess to enquire about tenders and timescale   Continued to next meeting for update |
| **3 Actions**  **iii)**  **vi)**  **viii)** | GPCC Meetings -  In person at Cameron House and Hybrid  GPCC now purchased equipment for zoom but to enquire if can use TV screen  Summary of CEC Committees - Cllr Burgess advised review of committees being undertaken  Police Scotland - Discuss NWS provide Police updates.  (IC) and (SB) to discuss and respond for their Association. | Raphael, to discuss and enquire if can use TV screen for Zoom meetings at Cameron House  Cllr Burgess to update position  re review of CEC committees  Ian and Stanley (SB) to discuss NWS Police updates and  responds for their Association |
| **5) a Councillor Report**  **5(b) Police Report** | Bins - Dalkeith Road  Last four years the Bins have blocked pedestrian access on pavement and have to walk onto road.  Cllr Burgess aware of longstanding issue and had already contacted CEC Head of Waste for response.  Lothian Bus changes  No.42 bus now No12. Bus.  Any consultation between CEC and LRT re bus changes, removal of bus stops  Any future bus changes planned for area.  Cllr Burgess to write to LRT  Police Scotland email not attending meetings unless something specific and will provide Quarterly Report which can  be put on GPCC website. | Cllr Burgess to provide update from CEC Head of Waste regarding long outstanding issue of Bins on Dalkeith road  Cllr Burgess to write to Lothian buses about bus route changes - any consultation with CEC,  Removal of bus stops  Any future changes planned for area.  GPCC to put Police Quarterly  Report and NWS police updates on website |
| **6(a)**  **6(f))** | 9 Relugas Road - discussion that 2 sheds now referred to as Caravans,  No need for planning permission.  Wide implications (TH) had prepared. Paper and forwarded it to various interested parties.  Newington Cemetery -  Planter on Dalkeith Road to be adopted by GPCC  Open Day 24/25 September 2022 update  Damaged Wall – watching brief | Tony to email his paper to ward Councillors for their views.  Ellen to send email confirming GPCC will adopt Planter  (ERJ) and (ST) update  Any update who is responsible (eg CEC) |
| **8 EACC** | EACC meeting scheduled for next week Link to be circulated to GPCC members | Ken and Raphael to circulate EACC link for meeting next week |