**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 15 March 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, Ellen-Raissa Jackson, Cllr Tim Pogson

**In attendance and members of the public**

Ian Wright, Chair of Craigmillar Park Association, Denise Fisher

**Apologies**

Stuart Tooley – University of Edinburgh, Stanley Bird.

1. **Welcome. –** Ian welcomed everyone to the March meeting
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None

**3. Minutes of 15 February 2023**- Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Action Points –

* Next CC elections. Council confirmed to Raphael that these will be held in 2024.
* Newington Cemetery wall damage. Ellen updated that she has written to Andy Hulme, has been promised a meeting but no further action.
* Dalkeith Road planters. Ellen has been in touch with the Inch nursery. Not sure about the lifetime of the planter. Janice at the Inch is going to look into the planter.
* Dalkeith Road bins. No further update. Ken said that bin location issues will be raised at full Council. Siting of bin hubs in the New town is an issue for residents and Community Councils.
* GPCC Planning vacancy – Enquire about plans for CC elections and advertise post on Website/Facebook. Look at options to co-opt new members – held over to April meeting.
* B1 parking query raised by Scott. Cllr Kumar has passed Scott’s query on to the relevant person.
* Licensing – 6 Dick Place. Grange Association did not submit an objection to the licensing application.
* B1 parking proposal information has been posted on the GPCC website.
* Pot holes in Maclaren Road. Sally updated that she met with a Council technician. He explained the Council’s definition of a pot hole. Lots of “holes” that don’t meet their definition. Sally succeeded in getting six holes repaired in Maclaren Road and Ventnor terrace. Residents can report potholes online. Council will assess and see if it meets the definition of a pot hole. Problem is that they are a temporary repair. Different to a ‘patch’, which is a permanent repair. Are assessed according to risk. Ken commented that there is the promise of the hot patch JCB machine.

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

**5. Reports (External) –**

* Cllr Tim Pogson updated:
  + Council budget has been set, and the Council elected the Liberal Democrat budget. Different emphasis in each party’s budget on each aspect. Liberal Democrat budget has references in budget to best value reviews, in for example waste services. Budget is there to set spending limits. Labour administration has been assured that this doesn’t change policy, for example no compulsory redundancies etc. Council tax to be increased by 5%.
  + By-election in Corstorphine Murrayfield ward– a new Lib Dem councillor. Means the Lib Dems are the second biggest group in the Council after the SNP. Lib Dems are content with the current arrangement to work to support the Labour administration.
  + Prestonfield and Priestfield Roads to be resurfaced in May, also to be subject to a street trees pilot. Ian Wright asked about the material to be used, as the micro asphalt work on Lady Road hasn’t held up. Cllr Pogson commented that St Leonards street has been done a few times and is looking better. Cllr Pogson to ask about the status of Lady Road and if there is further work to be done there.
  + St Crispins redevelopment has commenced with demolition work and tree removal. Cllr Pogson has been engaged with Saville area association and another group in Langton Road, to get CALA to speak to the residents.
  + Newington Cemetery wall, Tim understands that work will start in the next few days. Depends on the temperature

**Questions from Community Councillors:**

* Ian asked about the bin relocation review. Cllr Pogson said it’s the communal bins review, programme of work is going round the city. Idea is to install hubs at one location with landfill, recycling, food waste etc. Have created examples in Easter Road. Potential installation of hubs in Dalkeith road in June 2023. Cllr Pogson to enquire. Ken raised that the issue, is that there has been a lack of consultation with residents and a lack of empathy with those living near the hubs.
* Ellen asked about participatory budgeting in South Edinburgh and Neighbourhood Partnership work. Tim raised that the community grants scheme is still going. Ken mentioned that EACC have mentioned participatory budgeting. Cllr Pogson confirmed that there are opportunity to participatory budgeting, in for example green schemes, it is still there. Neighbourhood partnership funding has merged into Community Grants.

**6..  Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning report**

* 51 Minto Street – Blacket Association support the renovation of the property, but objecting to removal of the listed wall to increase the size of the driveway. Conservation area issue not supporting changing walls etc. Ken suggests that GPCC should lean on an objection. Ian to submit an objection on behalf of GPCC.
* Ratcliffe Terrace, - illuminated signage at AG barbers shop. Investigations show that the business has not applied for planning permission. Cllr Pogson advised that this is an enforcement matter. Ian to raise with enforcement team, Cllr Pogson will follow up if required.
* Peter raised residents installing plastic windows – 23 Mayfield terrace issue. The owner ignored the guidelines and enforcement was notified of the changes.

**b. Licensing**  - **no further issues.**

**c. Roads/Transport**

. Alan updated:

* Lothian buses increasing their fares. Parking permit costs also increasing.
* Uptake in under 22 bus journeys is high.
* Newhaven trams being tested and due to be operational in June.
* Low traffic neighbourhood being introduced in Leith.
* Tour buses now leaving from Waterloo Place.
* LEZ – majority of vehicles are compliant.
* Pavement parking – Council ready to go with this. Issues with Transport Scotland, linked to the appeals process.
* 504 additional charging points required across the City, mix of public and private charging points to be installed.

Paul raised the impact in Waverley Park of the proposed CPZ, area is currently a mixed parking area. Sally said that there was strong objection in the consultation to this proposal from residents because there is a Priority Parking Area. Peter and Sally will be asking Waverley Park association on their views on the design.

**d. Communications/Publicity**

* Paul reported that it’s been a quiet month other than adding the CPZ information to the website.

**e. Environment –**

No update.

**f. Newington Cemetery -**

Ellen updated that bench repairs are underway. 500 bulbs have been planted, the survey of monuments in the lower part of the cemetery is under way. Ellen is looking for a volunteer photographer to take pictures of the trees in the Cemetery. They have ordered more plants for the bottom of the catacombs. Sally asked about use of funds to pay for benches, she had sent information to Tony about this.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

* Balance £2,095 – no new income & expenditure of £15 for the Zoom account.
* Newington Cemetery Balance - £4,309m no new expenditure income since February report.

1. Secretary.

Council have confirmed that the next CC elections will be 2024. Cameron House has been booked for meetings to June 2023

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) -

April will look at City Mobility Plan with Daisy Narayanan leading that session. Cllr Mandy Watt will present on March 30th. Participatory budgeting is coming up any issues to be conveyed to Ken. Set in the context of the community empowerment engagement initiative headed up by Andrew Field. Slated to launch this year.

9**AOB - Open Forum -**

Recorded that a gift of a selection of wine was purchased for Tony Harris as thanks for his contribution over the years to GPCC. Sue asked if anyone had heard from Maureen and if it was possible to find out about her whereabouts.

10.  **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7 pm**.

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| **3  Actions**  **ii)**  **5(a) and 6(f)**  **5) Cllrs Report**  **6.a Planning report**  **xii) GPCC Planning Vacancy** | **Newington Cemetery** -  Wall repair, work to commence soon.  **Dalkeith Road  Planters** -  Erect a sign sponsored by GPCC  **Bins - Dalkeith Road**  Last 4 years have blocked pedestrian access.  Bin relocation review ongoing.    **Lady Road Resurfacing**  **51 Minto Street** – removal of  Wall  **Ratcliffe Terrace** Illuminated Signage AG Barbers  **Advert for position to be drafted** | Continued for update at April meeting  Longevity of the planter to be assessed.  Cllr Pogson to enquire about status of bin review and timing for Dalkeith Road    Cllr Pogson to ask about the status of Lady Road and if there is further work to be done there.  Ian to draft objection on behalf of GPCC  Ian to notify CEC enforcement team about lack of planning application. |