

Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council
Minutes of meeting 21 February 2024

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,

Members present on Zoom:

Sally Griffiths.

In attendance on Zoom:

Denise Fisher, Cllr Simita Kumar, Ian Grant, Ian Wright

Apologies: Stuart Tooley; Peter Jones, Stanley Bird. Ken Robertson

Absent:

Bill Reid; Andreas Grothey,

1. **Welcome.** – Ian Chisholm welcomed members to the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – None

3. Minutes of 18 January 2024

- Minutes were agreed as accurate.

Actions:

- Planning Vacancy. Ian had been in contact with Stuart Tooley who had been speaking with a local councillor about this. Suggestion to register the volunteer opportunity for an architecture student on the EUSA website.
- Newington Cemetery wall – construction developing slowly.

4. Notice of Matters Arising -

None

5. Reports (External) – Cllr Kumar updated:

- Budget day – SNP offer is focusing on provision of universal after school care on a Friday afternoon.
- Road closures in the area– improvement works at Grange Road – scheduled for nine weeks. Cameron Toll roundabout – more issues have appeared with damage in the road - likely 3-4 weeks of work.
- Phase 2 public consultations on Community Council scheme and boundary changes is now live.

- Causewayside development – planning application likely to go to planning sub-committee – to hear from concerned parties about the application. Cllr Kumar has received lots of queries about it.

Sally asked about the issues people are writing to Cllr Kumar about. Lots about broader issues, particularly about education cuts. Emails from parent councils, e.g. James Gillespies. Roads is still a big issue in the area. Emails about the proposed tram scheme, including impact on Roseburn path.

Ellen raised – roadworks on Dalkeith Road at Salisbury place. There was no pedestrian provision during these works. There was also electricity works on both sides. Raised this with the Council and no response. People walking in the road and there was little warning about this. Given this is a direct route to school, what could have been done better? Traffic cones have also been removed outside Scottish Widows on the approach to Preston Street Primary School. Ian Chisholm agreed that the provision of a route for pedestrians has been lacking during these works.

Cllr Kumar to raise this as a safety issue with the Council. Trying to align to make sure different services are talking to each other. Will ask why the cones were removed in the first place. Cllr Kumar to follow up.

Alan asked about pavement parking – are any pavements that have been exempted in GPCC area. Cllr Kumar said no roads have been exempted from the pavement parking legislation.

Alan asked about the SNP budget proposal which includes reduction in pothole budget by £1.15m – Cllr Kumar confirmed it's the roads budget – choosing to use £1.4million fund and redirect this towards road safety measures. Cllr Kumar confirmed that additional money in the pot will target road safety measures.

Sally raised that pot holes are a road safety measure – because they are getting bigger, drivers try to avoid them. Last budget included a high figure (upto £10million) on roads, highest amount included for roads.

Sue has reported blocked drains recently. Commented that Council is usually good at clearing these – unable to report the same one again, but they are not being cleared. Is there less resource for clearing blocked drains, as the response is not as good as it used to be? Cllr Kumar highlighted that there have been a lot of blocked drains, if feel that they have not been done – can let Cllr Kumar know which ones have not been followed up.

6. Reports of Interest Groups -

a. Planning

No planning issues had been reported to the Community Council.

b. Licensing - Nothing

c. Roads/Transport –

Alan highlighted:

- Cameron Toll roundabout to Old Dalkeith Road is closed – the barriers are there but no work has taken place.

- Bus lane fines – Edinburgh took in 10 million.
- Parking contract up in Ocxtober 2024 - £31 million take
- Parking charges likely to go up 20% as a result of the budget.
- Bus timetables getting revised at end of March. Likely to have more frequent buses.
- Tram line – likely to cost £2billion – issues have been raised around the proposed route using sections of the Roseburn path.
- Transport meeting – discussed the circulation plan. Closure of streets in the centre of Edinburgh. Will be done over 10 years.
- Plan to deliver drop kerbs, cycle lanes and benches.
- 20mph limits not discussed at February meeting – timeline update.

Sally asked that the circulation plan – Lothian Road would be a boundary road and the Pleasance? Read that South Bridge would be closed off and traffic diverted down the Pleasance

Ellen raised the bus trackers, the current situation affects people’s lives daily and it has a significant impact. Alan confirmed that there was no update on this. Sue said that timetables have been taken away from bus stops and the trackers don’t work. Cllr Kumar commented that the timeline for the trackers to be operational will be six months. Denise said that the bus trackers are not working properly as they have to be linked to new equipment in the buses. Older trackers that still exist still keep good time but are linked to a tracker in the bus.

d. Communications/Publicity -

Paul updated that he and Raph attended the Southside Newington Grant meeting on 13 February. Helped to review the applications for the Community Grants Fund. GPCC had submitted an application for new noticeboards in the area. There were 8-10 applications, the bids exceeded the funding available. At the meeting had been verbally notified that GPCC have been successful for three quarters of the funding requested. Waiting to hear formally and also to see if the Council can pay for installation of the noticeboard.

Cllr Kumar put in a written submission and comments on the applications. First year in a while the funding has been oversubscribed.

e. Environment – Sue updated

- No further update

f. Newington Cemetery -

Ellen updated:

- Snowdrop walk went quite well – had around 30 people attend. Did a lot of work tidying up the front of the cemetery. Spoke to dog walkers and handed out leaflets.
- Ellen working on signage for tree trail. People like the big signs, but tree officers don’t like big signage – need some thing smaller and more visible.
- Still ongoing discussion about cemetery rules across the city. No agreement with the Council about that. Have been asked to in advance any trees that have ivy on – removal – need permission from tree officer. It’s an impractical

process. Split between heritage cemeteries and others where there are volunteers doing work.

- Another payment received from the metals fund.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

a. Treasurer Report -

GPCC Bank balance - £6034

- GPCC Account Balance £2659
 - No new income, £151 expenditure (Zoom, Website)
 -
- Newington Cemetery Balance - £3375
 - No new income & £356 expenditure

b. Secretary.

Raphael updated on the Community Council Scheme Review – New Draft Scheme
There are no changes to the GPCC boundary or structure of 16 Elected Members and 8 Representative Members. On boundaries, there are minor boundary changes recommended for 18 Community Council areas. Updated that EACC have reported wider disappointment in calls to CEC for greater practical support of CC admin structures have gone unheeded.

The date for Community Council elections is currently dependent on when the UK General ElecBon takes place so that there are sufficient resources to manage both elecBon processes.

Sue asked about a newsletter – Paul raised that would need to apply for a grant to afford it. Question about effectiveness of a newsletter. Ken has asked on best practice sharing across CCs. Paul has also asked Southside CC about their experiences.

Cllr Kumar suggested once we know the date of the CC elections – advertise and target constituents online – might give greater reach.

9. Open forum

Sue raised that leaf clearing scheme worked well last winter. Good example of residents working in partnership with Council.

10. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 20th March 2024

Action list

3 Actions ii)	Planning vacancy	Ian to write to Stuart Tooley to see guage availability for future meetings and link to volunteering opportunities at Edinburgh University.
	Newington Cemetery wall	Continued for updates
5. External reports	Lack of pedestrian access during roadworks on Dalkeith Road / Salisbury Place	Cllr Kumar to raise as a safety issue with the Council and follow up with what could be done better
	Blocked drains in Grange area – reported but no action	Sue to let Cllr Kumar know which drains have not had attention