**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 20 April 2022**

**Meeting held via Zoom**

**Elected Office Bearers -**

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

**Present:**

Ian Chisholm, Sue Tritton, Alan Gilmour, Ken Robertson, Sally Griffiths, Tony Harris, Scott Paterson, Peter Jones, Cllr Cameron Rose, Andreas Grothey, Ellen-Raisa Jackson, Stanley Bird

**In attendance:**

Tim Pogson, Denise Bailiu

**Apologies :** Raphael Bleakley, Paul Rowlings, Isabel Clark

1. **Welcome. –**Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of 22 March 2022.** Circulated Minutes were agreed. Approved by Stanley and seconded by Tony.

**Action Points -**

i). Blackford Avenue Parking – Sue raised the issue regarding parking availability outside the Avenue Stores for short duration parking when the new house is built that will impact on the availability. Ken also raised the issue of congestion at the site when cars are parked on the east side of the road. Cllr Rose agreed to discuss the issue with a Roads Engineer to see what arrangements and signage changes can be put in place to help.

ii) Liberton Bus Lane Camera – It was noted in Alan’s report that the number of fines for contravention of the bus lane camera on Liberton Road is higher that any other in the city. Sally asked Cllr Rose to ask for a review of the road layout that is a congestion pinch point with traffic turning right from the A701 in the direction of Lady Road causing drivers who are going straight on to Craigmillar Park to go round the congestion and fall foul of the camera. Cllr Rose agreed to look into this.

iii) Future GPCC Meetings – Although there have been recent changes to the COVID restrictions it is still not clear when these will be fully lifted by CEC. Once it is clear that we can return to face-to-face meetings then a decision can be taken at a future meeting to decide when it would be appropriate, what venue and day is suitable and councillors availability to attend.

iv) Full Fibre Broadband – Ellen brought up the disruption being caused around the Priestfield area by the installation of the full fibre broadband project who have blocked off a number of parking spaces and dug up roads. The signage indicates that it will be complete in a few days, but it looks unlikely. Additionally, the quality of the replacement of the road surfaces has been poor. Ellen was asked to report and details directly to Cllr Rose.

v) Wall Damage Cameron Toll / Newington Cemetery – The damaged wall from a road accident has still not been repaired, Cllr Rose to find out who is dealing with this.

vi) Damage to bus stops by climate activists – Ken raised the issue of a number of bus shelters and other premises that had been ‘vandalised’ by putting up posters advertising a recent climate protest march in Edinburgh. The glue used was particularly difficult to remove. Tim Pogson added that this had been raised as an issue at other community council meetings. Cllr Rose advised that there is a graffiti officer at the council who may be able to help in the future. There is little chance of holding anyone accountable for the ones already posted.

**4. Notice of Matters -** None

**5. Reports (External) -**

1. Councillors Report  - Cllr Cameron Rose raised the following points -

* Newington Library – The site has now been returned for library use following the closure of the COVID-19 testing facility. The work to return it to a library is underway. There is no date yet for re-opening.
* Mayfield Road Closure – The current ongoing roadworks resulting in the road closure on Mayfield Road is ongoing and due to unforeseen issues with utilities, the timescale is likely to stretch beyond the current proposals. There has been knock on consequences to Gordon Terrace although there has been some speed bumps installed. It may be appropriate to close the road to help with traffic flow and congestion.
* It was noted that there has been hustings arranged for the upcoming local council elections; All five candidates for the Southside / Newington Ward have agreed to be there this Friday, 22 April 7pm in The Dining Room at Teviot, Bristo Square.

1. Police Report – The police report was circulated to all attendees in advance of the meeting by Raphael. It was noted that the report was good but lacking some specific details.

Cllr Rose noted that the report highlighted work ongoing in the community with the Alcohol Partnership and recognised the good work that is going on with this initiative, hoping to replicate successes elsewhere with collaboration with schools and businesses.

**6.  Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning**

Tony spoke to his Planning Report circulated to GPCC members:

* Thrums Hotel – changes will require a new application rather than a Non Material Variation.
* **86 Relugas Road EH9 2LZ: loft conversion with rooflights and dormers** The Grange Association and GPCC have objected to this application, which is awaiting assessment.

* **4 Trotter Haugh EH9 2GZ: attic conversion with dormers and extra parking** The Grange Association and GPCC have objected to this application, which is awaiting assessment.

* **30 Lussielaw Road EH9 3BU: Garden room forming ancillary accommodation** Following circulation of a draft to the planning sub-group, GPCC has objected to this application
* **31 Charterhall Road EH9 3HS: front garden driveway & boundary wall removal** This application appeared in the weekly lists for 11th April and was referred to in our email of 13th April. A CLP application does not provide for public consultation, but we have commented to CEC.
* **6 Blackford Hill Rise EH9 3HB: additional floor and new roof to bungalow etc** This application was referred to in the planning lists for 5th April and the closing date is 25th April. Tony is to circulate a draft objection to this by email on 21 April by email, however it was discussed that there are varying existing layouts and extensions already present in this area, some of a similar type proposed.

**b) Licensing**-   None.

**c). Roads/Transport**

Alan raised the following:

**Innocent Path**

The Innocent Path has reopened and news of when the road will open will be advised once work has been completed .

**LEZ**

Approved by Council and will start on 31st May although there is a two year grace period and will start on 1st June 2024 . Transport convenor Lesley McInnes said that despite it only covering only a small central area it will impact the whole city . The whole city will see the benefit .

**Trams**

Newhaven line is on course to open in the Spring of next year . On time and under budget .

**Mobile Phones**

Now against the law to hold a mobile phone whilst in a vehicle unless you are using it to pay for parking . Even whilst stationary at traffic lights you can’t touch your phone . A £1,000 fine , six points and possible ban . Previously only calling and texting were illegal .

**West Lothian – Spaces for People**

A report to a meeting of West Lothian Council confirmed that the reduced 20mph and 40mph speed limits, new cycle lanes, wider footways and parking suspensions put in place during the pandemic will all be removed by mid-July.

This decision follows an extensive consultation which was carried out between December 2021 and January 2022, with over 10,000 responses received. The majority of those who responded did not support retaining any of the measures, especially the temporary 20mph zones.

**Cycle Lane**

The work that has started on the cycle lane (already hitting problems with the asbestos outside Roseburn Bar causing delays) has made a significant impact on our ability to trade. As Balfour Beatty have taken up two road lanes on the terrace, there are no spaces for customers and delivery drivers to stop.

Signage at the start of the work states that work will continue until December 22 long enough for customers to avoid Roseburn altogether and create new shopping habits. The council have produced a video to encourage people to the area . However one business is already relocating and two others considering moving due to 70% reduction in footfall and difficulties getting supplies delivered .

**Bus Lane Fines**

Top three locations , Little France Drive 6438 , Calder Road 8284 and top is Liberton Road 9501 . ( 38 a day ) Two new bus lane cameras installed , one on the Western Approach Road and another on the A90 eastbound at Burnshot .

**Play Street**

One of Edinburgh streets were closed to traffic at the weekend 26th – 27th March to allow children to play freely.

The Blackford Safer Routes group used Edinburgh Council's 'play street scheme' to obtain a temporary closure of Spottiswoode Street and Spottiswoode Road..

Hundreds of children, parents and local residents made use of the glorious sunny weather to enjoy the street without passing vehicles.

"The event was designed to bring the community together and to allow the local kids free play close to their homes, demonstrating how much space in our communities we have given over to vehicles.

**Car Pound**

The car pound is now open in Inch Park . Charge is now £190 to recover a car and there is a charge of £25 for each day it is stored .

**George Street to Meadows 2024**

The vision is to transform cycling, walking, public spaces and accessibility for all on some of Edinburgh’s busiest and most iconic streets.

The project will provide key walking and cycling improvements from Teviot Place along Forrest Road, George IV Bridge and Hanover Street to George Street. As an important part of the Edinburgh City Centre Transformation Strategy, it will be one of the first projects to deliver major street improvements. It is being closely developed alongside the George Street and First New Town project and City Centre West to East Link.

**Pot Holes**

In Edinburgh over 7,000 pot holes have been fixed so far this year . Greendykes Road has had almost 79 defects fixed in the three months . Dalmahoy Road is second with 76 and Queensferry Road had 65 .

**Electric Chargers**

From 1st May the following charges apply

Edinburgh – Slow 25p per kWh , £30 overstay after 12 hours , Fast 30p per kWh , £30 overstay after 3 hours , Rapid 35p per kWh with £30 overstay fee after 30 mins. One kWh gets about 4 miles.

**Pavement Parking**

Delayed until 2023 due to Covid . Guidance to local authorities not expected to be completed until this summer then councils need to access which streets would be exempt . where streets are narrow pavement parking will still be allowed .

**Newbattle Terrace**

The roads team will start work on the 19th April and this will be for six months .

**The Great British Rail Sale**

Over one million off peak rail tickets up to 50% off subject to availability . They went on sale yesterday till May 3rd for journeys from 25th April till 27th May .

**d. Communications/Publicity.**

Scott requested that we look at producing a poster of similar design to the newsletter that was circulated recently. The content is to help raise awareness in the community of the existence and purpose of the GPCC, with signposting to the website and social media pages. Scott will distribute in local businesses / community spaces in the GPCC area.

**e. Environment**

Sue advised -

* Astley Ainslie Hospital - No update .    Previously advised on hold until 2026.
* The Grange cemetery is looking to have a doors open day at the end of September as the full event is not going ahead this year. It is proposed that this is done in conjunction with other cemeteries across the city.

**f) Newington Cemetery**

* Due to the Easter holidays, the next meeting is on Monday 24th April.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -
   * Our bank account balance is £4,513 - made up of:   
     • GPCC Account Balance - £1,711  
     • Newington Cemetery Balance - £2,802
2. Secretaries report - Nothing further to add.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils – Ken advised:

This has been a quiet month in terms of meetings and communications from the EACC. The donation from the GPCC to help with funding was gratefully received. In total the EACC received £700 in donations from community councils which will go towards development of the website and some minute taking

**9. AOB - Open Forum -**

* No new issues raised

10.  **Date of Next Meeting   -  Wednesday 18 May, 2022 at 7 pm**.

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| Item | Issue | Action | Date |
| i). Blackford Avenue Parking | Parking availability outside the Avenue Stores | Cllr Rose agreed to discuss the issue with a Roads Engineer to see what arrangements and signage changes can be put in place to help. | Next meeting |
| ii) Liberton Bus Lane Camera | High number of fines for contravention of the bus lane camera on Liberton Road | Cllr Rose to ask for a review of the road layout | Next meeting |
| iii) Future GPCC Meetings | Return to face-to-face meetings | Awaiting further guidance | Next meeting |
| iv) Full Fibre Broadband | Disruption being caused around the Priestfield area | Report and details directly to Cllr Rose | Next meeting |
| v) Wall Damage Newington Cemetery | Repairs following road accident | Cllr Rose to advise who is dealing with this | Next meeting |
| vi) Damage to bus stops by climate activists | Fly Posting on Bus Stops and other premises | Highlight further issues to graffiti officer | To note |