

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 18th November 2015

Present: Tony Harris (**TH**)(Chair), Mike Hunter(**MH**) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton(**ST**)(Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), David Stevenson (**DS**), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), Janet Sidaway (**JS**), Sergey Gorobets (**SG**), Cllr Rose (CR)

In Attendance: PSC Ross Stewart, PC Hamish Munro

Apologies: Hazel Dunn(**HD**), Graham Dann(**GSD**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**) Bill Reid (**BR**),

Public: Mark Pebbles (James Gillespies PS)

Absent: Derek Howie (**DH**), Graham Muir(**GM**),

1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

TH welcomed everyone.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting 21st October 2015

The minutes had been previously circulated; proposed by DS, seconded by DA.

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda) - none

5. External Reports

a) Police Report: PC Stewart reported:

- **Crime statistics:** These are down on the same period last year. A rise in house break-ins is expected at this time of year (Christmas presents, new gadgets etc.) – not yet happened.
- **Drug Detection:** This has shown a rise – possibly because there are more checks and an influx of people.
- **December Police Activity:** There will be more officers “on the beat” partly to prevent house break-ins – e.g. walking round the Grange in plain clothes (one such officer was reported as suspicious!). More resources and funds are being allocated to this.

In response to questions:

- **Yes Café Break in:** PC aware of this but not in his area and he had no details.
- **20mph Enforcement:** No further news.

b) Councillor’s Report: Cllr CR reported:

- **Drugs and policing:** There have been several drug raids in Southside (are most affected) – this is good news. Some users seem to be reverting to heroin etc. rather than “legal highs”. He said that anyone noticing suspicious activity which might be drug related should report this to the Police.

- **Full Council meeting:** This will take place tomorrow – main topic is the report on extending the tram to Newhaven – he suspects it will be deferred. Councillors have different views on this.
- **Council reorganisation:** The budget cuts required are creating unsettled conditions for many staff. Only director still in place after a year is Director of Education. Budget protects Education – but Continuing Education (e.g. this Centre) will be affected.

Questions:

- ME asked where the money for the tram extension will come from. Cllr CR said cost estimated at £162m – not clear where the funding will come from – possibly from Lothian Buses who are cash rich.
- TH asked how the reorganisation will reflect the emphasis on localities and how this might affect NPs etc. Cllr CR said the city is divided into 4 localities (office at Captains Road serves SCNP and Liberton/Gilmerton) – eventually there may be just 4 NPs rather than the present 12 – but not yet.
- ST asked about Council ward boundaries. Cllr CR said the new boundaries are due to be signed off in April/May 2016 – Edinburgh not much changed (increase from 58 to 62 councillors). Population growth in Liberton/Gilmerton means that some of Liberton will move into Southside/Newington and Dumbiedykes will move into Edinburgh Central.
- JN asked how the growth in population was being considered in relation to a probable increase in traffic - will there be changes in the flow of buses e.g. introduce a “shuttle bus” for main roads like Princes Street and Craigmillar Park etc. There followed a general discussion about integrated ticketing, proper interchange hubs etc. Comments that the first and last trams to the airport are too late/early.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

- a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated. TH reported in addition:
- **20 Duncan Street:** Objection to the proposal for 28 bed-sits in enclosed space had been submitted as agreed at the October meeting. The garage owner (Mr Kenneth Dyer) had been in contact wanting to meet to discuss his proposal – TH, ST and MH will meet him on Friday 20th (closing date for objections had passed so no conflict of interest).
 - **East Suffolk Park:** The Hearing had taken place that morning and TH for GPCC and Alan Dewar for the Craigmillar Park Association had spoken against the proposal. TH had stressed the GPCC objection that the application was contrary to the LDP. The application had been refused by 8:6. The LBC proposal to move the pavilion had been passed 7:7 (with casting vote in favour). The meeting thanked TH for his excellent presentation and EF, on behalf of the CPA, asked that their thanks were also recorded. Cllr CR also congratulated TH on his very measured presentation which had changed the minds of some councillors. TH said that this application is likely to resurface – either with an appeal or by a new application from Millers. He also reported that he and ST had met Millers to discuss the matter (after all objections etc. had been submitted).

- **Student Housing Consultation:** TH said consultation on the revised draft closes on 20 November and he suggested that GPCC repeats concerns about what happens to buildings approved as student housing if the market becomes saturated. Noted that applications for student housing have no requirement for affordable housing or parking which make them attractive to developers – also, the student housing is less closely regulated than formerly. There were questions and comments about the definition of student housing and the density of such housing. Agreed that TH would submit comments along the lines of the original GPCC objection

b) Roads and Transport: GSD had circulated a report and (on his absence) reported further:

- **East Mayfield:** The resurfacing of the complete road has, at last, started. AG pleased that Ross Road has been resurfaced but wondered why this road was chosen above others.
- **Proposals for Capital Roads programme 2016/7:** The meeting agreed that two proposals should be submitted on behalf of GPCC – pavements in East Mayfield and (part of) Priestfield Road
- **James Gillespies Primary School:** Mark Peebles (representing JGPS) asked for GPCC support in campaigning for improvements in the pedestrian phases for the Blackford junction crossing and the introduction of a controlled crossing on Kilgraston Road. He was advised to discuss these with GSD – but GPCC consider that it is probably sensible to wait until the final proposals for the Marchmont-KB cycle route are published.
- **Parking Bay in Kirkhill Road:** GD had reported that a neighbour had asked for an additional bay outside her house but received no reply. Cllr CR agreed to follow up.

c) **Licensing.** Nothing in our area.

d) **Publicity.** Nothing new.

e) **Newington Cemetery:** JS reported:

- **Interest Group:** Another 5 or 6 people had joined. A second board, showing the natural life in the Cemetery, is planned for next year (already funded).
- **Working Group:** Concentrating on clearing undergrowth near the catacombs.
- **Southside project:** Alan McKinney has promises of funds but matched funding still required. The Grange Association has promised £2k.

7. Office Bearers Reports

a) Chair's Report:

EACC: AGM on Saturday 28th November, City Chambers 1000-1200. TH will attend as GPCC rep – others welcome. There will be elections for office bearers.

Chair: 2016 is Election year for CCs. As suggested at the last AGM TH has indicated that he would like to resign as Chair before the next election of office bearers (Autumn 2016). He now proposes to resign at the start of the January meeting and will propose Janet Sidaway as the new Chair – other nominations welcome. If agreed, he will continue as Planning spokesperson and EACC rep.

b) Treasurer's Report: £369 for the Newington signboard and £45 for the flyer have been paid. There is now £1931.01 in our account.

c) Secretary's Report:

- **Correspondence:** Information about consultation on the Council Budget is in the circulation file. Also details about a cycle route from Leith Walk to Roseburn.
- **Playing Out:** Information about a proposal for closing streets at certain times to allow children to play safely had been received. Agreed to ask a representative of the group to address GPCC at the start of the January meeting.
- **Present for Centre:** Agreed to give a present (wine and chocolates) to the Centre. ST to arrange

8. Reports of Outside Groups

a) SCNP: Next meeting Monday December 7th.

b) SCNP Action Groups:

- **Older People's:** Nothing to report.
- **Community Safety Group:** MH attended a CSG meeting on November 10th on behalf of the Community Council and reported: that the Fire & Rescue Service report included:
(i) Crews are being trained in CPR in case they arrive at an emergency before the paramedics;
(ii) there was a 'spike' in fires in the Meadows over the summer - BBQs and rubbish bins.
The Police report was verbal only and didn't mention CEC funding of community PCs or enforcement of 20mph limits, both of which MH commended.
The next CSG meeting will be on Tuesday February 23rd.

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 20th January 2016

10. AOCB and Open Forum

New HMO: ME asked about a flat on her stair which has recently been bought for use by the owner's daughter and two friends. Agreed that this would constitute an HMO – but how would the owner know this? Probably only if this is reported to CEC – either by the new owner or a neighbour. Details of properties which are registered HMOs is publically available.

TH thanked everyone for attending and wished them a Happy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm