

Grange Prestonfield Community Council
Cameron House Community Education Centre
Minutes 17th February 2016

Present: Janet Sidaway (**JS**) (Chair), Mike Hunter (**MH**) (Vice-Chair), Sue Tritton(**ST**) (Secretary), Andreas Grothey (**AG**) (Treasurer), Barbara McNaught (**BM**), Maureen Edwards (**ME**), Tony Harris (**TH**), Eileen Francis (**EF**), Doreen Allerton (**DA**), Gilly Dennis (**GD**), Hazel Dunn (**HD**), Graham Muir (**GM**), Bill Reid (**BR**), David Stevenson (**DS**), Cllr Jim Orr (**JO**)

In Attendance: PC Neil Mackay, PC Paul Douglas

Apologies: Sergey Gorobets (**SG**), Denis Stevens (**DeS**), Derek Howie (**DH**), Julian Newman (**JN**), Graham Dann (**GSD**)

1. Welcome - Introduction and Apologies

JS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest. None

3. Minutes of the Meeting 20th January 2016

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

4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)

- **Playing Out:** Following on to the presentation of this scheme at the January meeting AG reported on the public meeting held on February 9th. About 45 had attended and ideas had been shared with councillors etc. Legislation in England makes it easier to arrange street closures etc. There are plans for a one-off event in April as a trial. JS thanked AG and expressed the support of GPCC for this proposal.
- **Transformation Meeting:** TH had attended on behalf of GPCC and had circulated a (very personal) report of the event. The slides presented can be emailed to anyone interested. There was not enough time for interaction with participants and questions; it was not clear if the Neighbourhood Partnerships would continue or if they will merge; due to staff changes in the Council with many people changing jobs and not knowing what they might be doing until April or May. Cllr JO commented that this meeting had been held too early when there are still too many uncertainties. JS thanked TH for attending.
- **Waste problems:** ST had collated problems experienced by GPCC members and forwarded to Cllr Burgess – no reply yet.

5. External Reports

a) Police Report: PC Mackay reported:

- **Prestonfield area:** 17 recorded crimes including 5 of vandalism of cars at Pollock Halls
- **Initiative Day:** This will be held at Cameron House from 3pm to 10pm.
- **Grange area:** There had been 24 crimes – mainly house break-ins (11 – 5 resulted in thefts, 5 were attempts). These mainly happen in the early evening and are often for keys of high-powered cars. Advice about having lights on timers etc. was repeated to make the house seem occupied. If photographs are available of valuables the Police circulate these to second-hand dealers.
- **Stolen car:** During this meeting the Police had received a report of a stolen car being pursued from the Grange area to Greenbank.
- **Legal highs:** Cllr JO reported that legal highs have now been removed from shops and the policeman responsible for this initiative, Neil Wilson, had received a national prize. He hoped that there would be national legislation to prevent legal highs.

b) Councillor's Report:

Cllr JO reported

- **Transformation scheme:** The Council has a new CEO and 5 or 6 new directors – many changes etc. About 40% cuts in internal staff – lots of pain while this is being sorted.
- **Council Budget:** There had been no cuts to the Community Centre. However many senior managers are looking stressed.
- **Blackford Avenue bins:** Ewan Calder (CEC) had reported that these had been replaced.
- **School twinning:** Plans for twinning schools in South Edinburgh with schools in China.
- **Participatory Budgeting:** Cllr JO encouraged the CC to submit proposals to be considered at the meeting to be held on Saturday April 30th. These can be for the roads programme (GPCC has submitted two applications); for the HRA budget; or for community grants (possible application for the Newington Cemetery). All attending the event (anyone over the age of 12?) will have a vote. Deadline for submissions is 25th March.
- **South Suburban Railway:** Thinks this is unlikely to have CEC support at present – extending the tram to Newhaven likely to be the top new transport project.
- **Southside CC:** This is now up and running successfully.

Comments: BM commented that many people don't realise the effect of many of the cuts – for example the adult training centre for disabled people.

6. Reports of Interest Groups

a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated. TH reported in addition:

- **46 Grange Road:** GPCC member SG and the Grange Association had separately contacted Planning about the decision to allow an off-street parking space in the garden. Several applications had resulted in this – it was considered that if the whole scheme had been submitted together it wouldn't have been granted.
- **Minto Hotel 16-18 Minto Street:** GPCC had submitted an objection – the application had now been withdrawn and new applications are expected.
- **East Suffolk Road:** Millers are appealing the refusal. GPCC had objected to the 2014 proposal and this still stands. A first draft of a further submission from GPCC was in the circulation file and will be finalised in consultation with other objectors, including Craigmillar Park Association.
- **KB – School of Biological Sciences:** TH and ST had attended the exhibition on Feb 16th. Formal planning applications are expected shortly. Anna Stamp (xxx) had offered to come to a meeting to explain the proposals – the meeting agreed to invite her for May or June. The next development is expected to be the School of Engineering. Aims of the campus development include more integration with the community with the provision of shops, cafes etc. AG commented that some plans for the campus are controversial – such as the bus route through the campus.
- **Scottish Planning Review:** TH will attend this event in Glasgow.

b) **Roads and Transport:**

- **Cycle routes:** ST had emailed officials about various issues (Ratcliffe Terrace, parking in cycle lanes, Marchmont to KB route etc.) but no replies. Agreed it would be good to have a talk about these matters. ST to ask GD to ask for this – possibly Chris Brace.
- **South Suburban Railway:** TH had attended a meeting in the Parliament and submitted a report – new technology makes trams running on train lines possible. Agreed a feasibility study for this would be good. TH to draft an email to SESTRANS asking for a study – copy to Cllr JO.

c) **Licensing.** Nothing to concern us in our area.

d) **Publicity.**

- Planning reports from Jan 2015 are now on the GPCC website thanks to MH.
- MH reminded everyone to start thinking about articles for a summer newsletter.

e) **Newington Cemetery:** BM reported:

- **Working Party:** Several people attended on Feb 15th and most growth from around the Catacombs was removed.
- **Paths:** Council has also been working hard in the cemetery which was greatly improved – some incidental damage to the paths which would be repaired.
- **Snowdrop walk:** Flier circulated about these on Feb 27th and 28th.
- **Second sign:** Still being worked on – featuring trees and plants.
- **Doors Open Day:** TH to progress application for inclusion this year.

7. Office Bearers Reports

a) **Chair's Report:** JS thanked all those who had produced reports.

b) **Treasurer's Report:** No change from January so we have currently £1891.01 in the account but there are unpaid cheques leaving £1771.31 available to spend.

c) **Secretary's Report:**

- **South Centraf Decides:** As mentioned by Cllr JO (see 5(b)) all invited to come with ideas for the March meeting – possibly for the cemetery.
- **Street lighting:** email complaining about the low level of lighting in Relugas Road had been received. ST to copy to Cllr JO.
- **Road signs:** Cllr Burgess had received a reply (circulated) saying that warning signs placed on pavements must leave 1m space for pedestrians.
- **Southside CC:** The Office Bearers will arrange to meet reps from Southside CC to discuss matters of mutual interest.

8. Reports of Outside Groups

a) **SCNP:** Next meeting Monday March 14th.

b) **SCNP Action Groups:**

- **Active Living Working group:** DS had attended meeting on 15th February – most important item had been South Centraf Decides (see above)
- **Community Safety Group:** Next meeting February 23rd. MH is our rep but won't be attending. He reported that there is very little on the agenda and that very few community reps attend. Anyone else welcome to attend for GPCC.

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 16th March 2016

10. AOCB and Open Forum

- **Potholes:** Several members complained about the state of the roads. Cllr JO said that there could be emergency repairs to all potholes. AG agreed to email Cllr JO asking for the policy on repairing potholes.
- **Gully Cleaning:** GM said some gullies hadn't been cleaned for about 10 years and asked about the schedule for cleaning. Cllr JO agreed to follow up this complaint.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm