

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Cameron House Community Education Centre**  
**Minutes 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Present:** Mike Hunter (MH) (Vice-Chair), Tony Harris (TH), Sue Tritton (ST) (Secretary), Maureen Edwards (ME), Irene Hood (IH) David Stevenson (DS), Doreen Allerton (DA), Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ), Philip Murray (PM), Henry Philip (HP), Graham Dann (GSD), Cllr Jim Orr (JO)

**In Attendance:** PC Neil Mackay (NM)

**Apologies:** Janet Sidaway (JS) (Chair), Andreas Grothey (AG) (Treasurer), Eileen Francis (EF), Ian Chisholm (IC), Harry Mulligan (HM), Fraser Graham (FG), Joe Griffin (JG), Julian Newman (JN),

**Absent:** Bill Reid (BR), Denis Stevens (DeS),

**Public:** Alison Dickie

**1. Welcome**

In the absence of JS (in Canada) MH welcomed everyone, in particular HP who had been absent for some months due to his broken hip.

**2. Declarations of Interest. None**

**3. Minutes of the Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

The minutes had been previously circulated. Proposed by ERJ, seconded by DA.

**4. Matters Arising (not on the agenda)**

a) Gareth Barwell (Waste Management) had sent a list of litter “hot spots” in the GPCC area. This had been circulated.

b) With the change of the Council ward boundaries this meant that a small area to the south of the current GPCC was now included in the Southside Newington ward. GPCC had agreed to consider requesting a change of CC boundaries and FG had agreed to look at this and consult with neighbouring CCs. However, due to FG’s absence it was not known how much work had been done. ERJ commented that GPCC didn’t appear to have much representation in the Prestonfield area and should this be addressed rather than looking at a boundary change. TH commented that Liberton CC tended to concentrate on areas further south and that the area to consider moving might welcome a change. The meeting agreed to defer further discussion to April when more information might be available.

**5. External Reports**

**a) Police Report:** PC Mackay said that his colleague PC Thomas Archer had planned to attend but had been called away. He reported the following:

i) On 8<sup>th</sup> March warrants had been issued for 2 drugs offences in Dumbiedykes.

ii) On 9<sup>th</sup> March there had been an assault in Prestonfield Avenue resulting in head injuries. Three men were involved; one a white male aged 16-17, one a white male in a “hoodie”; no description of the third man.

- iii) A male housebreaker had been caught in West Richmond Street on 5<sup>th</sup> March and is now in custody.
- iv) The rollout of the 20mph limit on 28<sup>th</sup> February had resulted in several tickets being issued. This had also identified several other motoring offences.
- v) Surveys to identify local priorities had resulted in the top three being homes being broken in, violent crime, drug dealing. The latest survey is asking what the Police should look like in 10 years' time. This is a chance for the public to give their views – a powerpoint presentation is available.
- vi) Police Scotland receives about 7000 calls each day – about 1000 relate to crimes. Other calls relate to matters such as missing people.

In response to questions and comments:

- i) ME and DA said the signs relating to the 20mph rollout are often confusing with signs advertising 20mph being placed in streets where the limit remains at 30mph (such as Craigmillar Park). PC NM confirmed that he has a laser gun to check speeds and will issue tickets.
- ii) PM asked if there will be a review of the 20mph scheme to see if it is a success.
- iii) GSD commented that Queens Drive and Holyrood Park is now within the 20mph area.
- iv) IH said that in her residential complex of 51 residents (Sunnyside Court) there are 2 abusive residents. PC NM said this is just outside his area.
- v) HP asked if there had been any complaints about the 24hour opening at Cameron Toll. PC NM said he knew of none. TH commented that the possibility of additional litter had not been noticed.

MH thanked PC NM who left at 7.30pm

**b) Councillor's Report:** Cllr JO reported the following:

- i) Cameron House:** there are more problems with the gym floor with water ingress which seems to be an intractable problem. A working group has been set up by CEC – differences with the Management Group are not helped by publication in the media.
- ii) Restricted Parking Zone problems:** There should be a full review in 6-12 months. Possible that more bays will be introduced.
- iii) 20mph zones:** GSD raised the confusion about whether Craigmillar Park is 20 or 30mph (see above). Cllr JO agreed to check this with CEC officials. PM raised, again, his comment that this scheme has not been well thought through and that Manchester has abandoned a similar scheme. Is this a good use of public money? MH commented that, as GPCC area was part of the pilot, these arguments had been made several times in the past two years.

Cllr JO confirmed that, as he will not be standing in the Council elections, this will be his last time at a GPCC meeting. MH thanked Cllr JO for his help over the past 4 years and said how well the 4 councillors had worked together to help the area. TH thanked Cllr JO for his help in Newington Cemetery. Cllr JO said that he had enjoyed his time on the Council and working with GPCC.

## 6. **Community Empowerment Act**

Cllr JO explained that this extends community buyouts etc. The Community is given the opportunity to buy properties such as the church in Portobello. There must be a recognised community body. The Marchmont and Sciennes Development Trust is looking into buying part of the Sick Kids site. Locally the abandoned shop in Dalkeith Road where the owner has absconded might be suitable. The use cannot make a profit but could be used as a community hub. MH asked if GPCC could get involved – JO thought probably not. Possibly sensible to be a charity and must show that there is local demand.

## 7. **Reports of Interest Groups**

a) **Planning:** A report had been circulated – TH mentioned the following:

- **184 Causewayside:** This application for an HMO was refused on 9 March.
- **St Columba's Church:** Application for disabled parking. A draft objection is in the circulation file.
- **64 Fountainhall Road:** Application to build a house in the garden – considered to be overdevelopment. The Grange Association has objected. Agreed that GPCC will object. There is a second, new, application to extend the existing villa – the materials and style are inappropriate in a conservation area. TH suggested that we should ask for both applications to be considered together.
- **48a Minto Street:** Application for uPVC windows. These wouldn't be visible and therefore felt an objection was not required. Agreed, however, to write to say these must not be used as a precedent for allowing other applications.
- **4 East Suffolk Road:** Considered that the new application is still overdevelopment and agreed to object.
- **Royal Blind School:** Expect a PAN in Autumn 2017.
- **Braidburn Inn:** TH is consulting with Liberton CC about what action to take over the non-advertisement for student housing. Cllr Ian Perry (arrived from another meeting) said this is part of a formal complaint made by local residents. He would check (a) if the letter sent by GPCC would count as a formal complaint and (b) if not, can GPCC still raise a formal complaint.
- **Consultation on the future of the Scottish Planning System:** TH said that GPCC could, if it wishes, use comments drafted by EACC for its response. (see 8b below)
- **2 Marchhall Crescent:** ERJ asked how we could have objected to the removal of a horse chestnut tree in the church garden. TH will raise this through EACC to see if public objections can be invited to applications noted in the weekly lists.

b) **Roads and Transport:** GSD said he will write to support the No 38 Bus route by the deadline date. He also circulated a list of roads to be repaired which had appeared in a local newsletter. There is no date set for the meeting to decide on Roads Capital Funding for 2017/18

c) **Licensing.** Noted that Aldi had received a licence and Lidl has applied for a licence for its new store in Niddrie Mains Road.

d) **Publicity:** FG had met MH and has offered to take on the Facebook page.

e) **Newington Cemetery:** TH reported that, despite the extremely wet day, about 30 people had turned up for the Snowdrop Walk on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February and were very enthusiastic.

**f) Astley Ainslie site:** ST reported that the Grange Association had held a discussion at the recent AGM and distributed a questionnaire asking what people did, and did not, want to see on the site. A second meeting of local people was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting of CC reps with NHS Lothian is scheduled for tomorrow when we expect to learn more. Details are on the Grange Association website.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

**a) Chair's Report:** None as JS absent

**b) Treasurer's Report:** None as AG absent

**c) Secretary's report.** ST mentioned the GPCC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in October 2017 which had been raised at the January meeting. She suggested that members should consider what sort of event should be held – buffet meal, drinks, etc. and who should fund this. Cllr JO suggested asking the new City councillors if the City Chambers could be the venue. Also thought it would be nice to invite all previous Community councillors, City councillors etc. where we still have contact details. To be an agenda item for the next meeting.

**8. Reports from Outside Groups:**

**a) SCNP and subgroups:** TH had attended the SCNP meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March as ST was unable to attend. He reported that this was the last meeting that Cllr Godzik would chair. Items included:

- **City of Edinburgh Fire Plan:** there was a presentation on this
- **Police Plan:** In areas with low crime more and more time is taken up with mental health issues.
- **Community grants:** Cllr JO added that those awarded included
  - i) Friends of Sciennes School - £5k for a feasibility study to close the road.
  - ii) Cameron House - £4.5k for summer holidays activities

**b) EACC:** TH reported that he with others had drafted a response for the EACC to the Scottish Government's Planning Consultation document. This draft is due to be considered at an EACC Committee meeting next week and he would report back as to what approach the EACC is adopting.

**9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**10. AOCB and Open Forum**

ME asked if there is any procedure for removing disabled spaces – there are several near her no longer required and parking spaces are in great demand. ME to write to Cllr JO about this.

The meeting closed at 9pm