

Grange/Prestonfield Community Council
Minutes of 20 May 2020
Meeting held via Zoom website

Present

Chair - Ian Chisholm. (IC)

Elected Office Bearers -

Secretary- Raphael Bleakley (RB)

Joint Vice Chair - Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ). Paul Rowllings (PR)

Present :

Stanley Bird (SJB), Sue Tritton (ST), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Scott Paterson (SP), Tony Harris (TH),

Peter Jones (PJ), Ken Robertson (KR), Maureen Edwards (ME), Cris Ferguson (KF), CLLR Alison Dickie, Isabel Clark (IAC)

Apologies :

Julian Newman (JN), Sally Griffiths (SG), Andreas Grothey (AndG), Bill Reid (BR)

Absent - Police Scotland, Stuart Tooley (Edinburgh Uni)

In Attendance -

Gabrielle & Chris Weir

1. **Welcome.** - IC Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.

3. Minutes of 15 April 2020 - Previously circulated Minutes were agreed.

Discussion that it was disappointing that Police Scotland had not been able to join the Zoom meeting with an update. GPCC response sent to CEC in relation to the City Plan.

Discussion that Prestonfield Golf Club was allowing public access for walking but had encountered some members of the public using the Golf course as a picnic ground and leaving mess. Prestonfield Golf Club have erected new signs advising the public that they can use the golf course for walking but not any other purpose.

CLLR Burgess had sent an e mail regarding some matters raised at the last meeting which is to be forwarded to CLLR Dickie.

(IC) advised that GPCC AGM was due to be held in May or June 2020 but the CEC had confirmed that due to the present unprecedented circumstances not to hold AGM until later. (RB) to send CEC email to GPCC members.

4. Reports (External) -

a. **Police** – No Police attended or Report provided

(SJB) enquired if the Police could submit a bullet point report if not attend next meeting which may provide information of ongoing incidents in our area.

(IC) to contact Police and enquire if Police can join GPCC next meeting (Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 7 pm) via Zoom and if not attend can they provide an update of information of activities they are dealing with in our area.

(b) Councillors Report

CLLR Alison Dickie advised -

Zoom meeting is excellent way for GPCC to keep communicating with everyone during this crisis. CEC Councillors are holding crisis management meetings via zoom, skype, emails, etc.

CLLR Dickie advised she has been contacting elderly & vulnerable people and hearing heart breaking stories; discussing hubs, schools, support measures, business issues/grants with businesses while also dealing with emails relating to normal issues. CEC discussing recovery stages. CLLR Dickie advised she is responsible for Education and involved in ongoing discussions regarding when Schools can start back, how phase in children returning to classroom while maintaining social distancing, vulnerable children, digital resources, etc. Child protection is an important area which Social Work Dept is dealing with. Poverty is a big problem and loss of employment.

Recovery stage is being considered when we get back on our feet again. A lot of important matters to be considered. Schools are fundamental to recovery however people may need child care in order to return to work. National Guidance is due to be provided on Thursday 21 May 2020 and we are all waiting for this update, when schools may return and the guidance to be implemented by schools. We all need to keep working together to help ensure recovery for everyone during this crisis.

(ERJ) enquired if CEC would consider raising the issue of the Holyrood Park low road being open to traffic. CLLR Dickie said she would look into this.

(ERJ) raised concern regarding whether CEC were aware of varied space areas at different schools eg Preston Street Primary school is an old Victorian school with very restricted space for accommodating school children compared to a modern school like Prestonfield Primary School with more space. CLLR Dickie agreed space is an issue and that the Headteachers at each school were best placed to decide. Refurbishment of Schools to accommodate social distancing is a big task. Again National guidance is due out Thurs 21.5.20.

(ST) enquired if any update re Sick Kids Hospital. CLLR Dickie advised no update yet.

(SJB) said cannot social distance on public transport are people to wear masks? CLLR Dickie advised that National Guidance was wear masks when out in enclosed space but she would check updated guidance and advise via email.

5. Reports of Interest Groups -

a. Planning

(TH) had circulated his Planning Note to GPCC members prior to the meeting, but commented that perhaps it should be circulated wider to relevant parties eg Councillors, etc. (RB) agreed to email reports to councillors and other relevant parties. (TH) observed that Planning applications had been quieter but was starting to pick up again.

- East Mayfield - planning application for 3 bedroom dwelling in Roof space. GPCC considering objection.
- 10 Craigmillar Park - planning application for safety fences on flat roof of Nursery. Local residents provided helpful information regarding this application. A number of objections already lodged. GPCC considering objection
- Dick Place - change of use -replace garage with ground floor garden studio and mezzanine floor above. GPCC considering objection

- 23 Minto Street - New application submitted with a few changes after last year's application was refused by CEC. GPCC considering objection.
- City Plan and Mobility Plan - TH advised objections submitted as previously discussed by e mail and additionally via Q&A comments to avoid any technical rejection issues.
- 18 Grange Terrace - Solar Panels - (ST) and (TH) discussed that a large number of solar panels was proposed. (TH) advised that one planning application had already been granted and another was being considered for the listed building.

Trees - (ST) advised that Tree Surgeon was cutting trees in our Conservation area for residents without seeking permission from CEC. This was reported to CEC Enforcement Dept. Discussion took place regarding tree chopping and that CEC had a good policy on their website. **Residents should check CEC website before they get any tree work done.**

b) Licensing - None. (IC) commented that for online shopping the licensing legislation still applied when ordering and/or delivering any order which had alcohol in the groceries despite requests that this be relaxed during the crisis.

c). Roads/Transport

(AG) advised that there had been an increase in the number of cyclists during the crisis and he had observed that a lot of adults were not wearing cycle helmets. Public transport - buses had been a lot quieter although getting busier again. Would the CEC consider more cycle/pedestrian routes; e.g. use bus lanes for cyclists only? Discussion that UK Government was asking the public to walk, cycle, use cars rather than public transport which could be a problem for Edinburgh. Further that LRT were using the larger 100 seater buses on different routes to help social distancing.

CLLR Dickie agreed CEC aware more cyclists, people walking during the crisis. Further that the bus lanes prohibition times still apply during the crisis.

(PJ) asked if the vehicle parking fee had been suspended. CLLR Dickie advised parking charges had been suspended during the crisis.

d). Communications/Publicity.

(PR) advised adding coronavirus links to GPCC website to help everyone. Residents and visitors to GPCC website were interested in receiving the GPCC newsletter and had been added to the contact list.

e) Environment

(ST) advised there had been several compliments from walkers regarding the improvements to Newington Cemetery.

Numerous Cyclists had commented on the poor state of our roads.

Blocked drains - (ST) requested that when out walking keep an eye open for blocked drains and report to CEC to prevent flooding.

f) Newington Cemetery

(ERJ) advised that lots of people were walking in Newington Cemetery which was good. However, some people were leaving food for foxes and sometimes dogs were ill from

eating the food. CEC were not emptying the Bins and just discovered that the Bins have been removed. This has resulted in people leaving waste lying around the Cemetery. (IC) advised that special contractors had been brought in to clear up the waste in Holyrood Park and he would contact the CEC regarding the position. CLLR Dickie advised she would deal with this as urgent

Tool Store - (ERJ) advised of attempted break in to tool store and reported to Police.

g) Young People's Facilities - No update

6. Reports from Office Bearers

IC Chair - Nothing to report

RB Secretary - Nothing to report. To circulate note about AGM

AndG Treasurer - IC advised nothing to report at present and continued to next meeting along with financial report.

7. Reports of Outside Groups

a. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) GPCC Representative (KR) advised nothing to report.

b) SNNN (Southside/Newington Neighbourhood Network)
ST attends the SNNN which involves assessing Grant applications, That a few grants had been approved but did not take place over the school holiday due to the crisis. A meeting is to take place.

8 A.O.C.B. -

Garbrielle advised that they had moved to Edinburgh and were keen cyclists who took care to avoid the pot holes. Discussion regarding a neighbour's tree which had been taken down and advised to go on to the CEC website or contact (ST and/or (TH) for help.

(ERJ) enquired if anyone had heard from Bill Reid. (IC) and CLLR Dickie to contact Bill.

(SP) and (SJB) raised the issue of speeding + Joyriding in Mayfield Gardens and Ratcliffe late at night. Although the roads were quieter some cars were driving faster. (IC) to raise this issue with the Police.

(SJB) raised consideration of Community Flags for each area within Southside. Discussion that this had been tried before but did not get far and may be worth trying again.

(KR) raised the economic crisis for businesses and retail premises within our area. Retail premises may close and empty units may attract graffiti, vandalism etc which would be a blight on the neighbourhood. This may be something to consider for the next meeting. IC agreed and hoped businesses get through this crisis.

IC Chair thanked everybody and to keep safe.

9 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 7 pm. Via ZOOM

Meeting Actions

3	CLLR Burgess e mail to GPCC to be sent to CLLR Dickie	RB to send copy email to CLLR Dickie	Before 17 June 2020
4(a) 8	Police join zoom GPCC meeting or provide update information Contact Bill Reid	IC to contact Police to attend next meeting IC to contact Bill Reid and CLR Dickie	Before 17 June 2020
4(b) 5(f)	Holyrood Park - restricted traffic - is this to continue Public Transport - wear masks Newington Cemetery - Bins removed. Why?	CLLR Dickie to look into these issues and advise	Before 17 June 2020
5	Planning Report - TH suggested should be wider distribution eg to Councillors	RB to send copy email to CLLR Dickie	Before 17 June 2020
6	AGM email from CEC	RB to send copy email to CLLR Dickie	Before 17 June 2020