

Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council
Minutes of 15 July 2020
Meeting held via Zoom

Elected Office Bearers -

Chair - Ian Chisholm. (IC); Secretary- Raphael Bleakley (RB); Joint Vice Chair -Paul Rowllings (PR); Minute Secretary - Isabel Clark

Present :

CLLR Cameron Rose, Stanley Bird (SJB), Sue Tritton (ST), Sally Griffiths (SG), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Scott Paterson (SP), Tony Harris (TH), Peter Jones (PJ), Ken Robertson (KR), Julian Newman (JN)

Apologies :

Bill Reid (BR), Andreas Grothey, Ellen Raisa-Jackson, Chris Ferguson (CF)

Absent - Police Scotland, Stuart Tooley (Edinburgh Uni), Maureen Edwards (ME)

1. **Welcome.** - IC Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of 18 June 2020** - Minutes agreed as accurate.

Action Points

Newington Cemetery Bins removal - Cllr Rose confirmed he had asked for the Bins to be returned but not had any response to date and going to chase up. IC enquired when the Refuse Tips were going to be back open (no need to book appt). Cllr Rose advised appointment system still operation. CEC pushing forward to re-instate regular uplifts, special uplifts, etc. but still a lengthy process.

Cameron House Nursery - Cllr Rose advised he had asked Senior Manager to give explanation which he had forwarded to GPCC secretary. CEC intend to close CHN due to significant repairs and alternative nursery accommodation in area. CEC require to have a Public Consultation which is likely to commence in August for an eight week period when objections/comments can be submitted.

Cycle Route - Cameron Toll. Cllr Rose advised he had forwarded GPCC concerns on to the CEC Roads Team. Cllr Rose advised that Cameron Toll - ERI proposed cycle route with amendments had now been approved. A number of changes to the initial plans had been made after feedback in the area and approved in principal but not sure when will happen. AG noted that the proposed Cycle Lane northbound through Inch Park next summer was likely to cost £2m. TH advised that the consultation was over as Approved although a few points still to be finalised.

Cllr Rose advised that the cycle scheme had been approved subject to a number of points to be ironed out. Gilmerton Road route is no longer possible. 80% of respondents in favour of cycle scheme. Some objections had been taken on board by CEC prior to approval. CEC has a backlog of cycle schemes and there is pressure to keep on top of the cycle schemes.

TH advised that the Scottish Govt were providing funding for cycle schemes but there were time limits. KR reminded the meeting that a few meetings ago there had been discussions about the increased volume of cycling/traffic at Cameron Toll Roundabout which should be part of any further discussions.

Newington Cemetery - CLLR Rose confirmed that the Euro funding is correct. Recovery from cremation process has resulted in a foreign company forwarding payment by Euros back to the Council hence the award of 1000 Euro's to Newington Cemetery.

4. Notice of Matters arising - None

5. Reports (External) -

(a) Councillors Report

Schools - Huge movement since last meeting. Scottish Govt issued instructions that 100% schooling for all children in Scotland (start 11 August 2020) which CEC is now implementing. SG asked about the distribution of iPads(25,000) which the Scottish Govt had purchased for children who did not have access to technology at home. There were families who had no iPads or technology and the children could not do any lessons, CEC had approx 1,100 iPads. Cllr Rose advised he did not know how they were being distributed within CEC.

Black Lives Matter - Dundas Statue, St Andrews Square, Edinburgh -Erection of a new Plaque to go beneath statue with more content. Cllr Rose said that a report would be made public proposing the set up of a Committee to look at a number of issues including statues, plaques, etc

Road Surfaces - End of July/August 2020 - significant patching and/or re-surfacing work to be carried out in Kilgraston Road, Mayfield Road, and Dalkeith Road.

RB raised concerns relating to serious RTA incidents in Cameron Park, Mount Vernon and Morningside. Cllr Rose advised that Police are investigating the RTA incidents and our sympathies are extended to all the families. Overall picture during the last 3-4 year period, in local areas, Scotland, and UK casualty rate has been lower. Sometimes get clusters involving a number of varied factors. KR raised concern relating to the increased risk of cycling incidents and whether CEC could highlight this risk in the community, by advertising to take greater care. During Covid 19 crisis significant increase in number of families out cycling when very little traffic and now significant increase in traffic on roads therefore greater risk for cyclists + families. Cllr Rose agreed that there were risks but that it is difficult to balance risks. People out walking, cycling, etc. and risks different. AG referred to a Scottish Report relating to traffic detailing RTA statistics eg. 31% cyclists, 76% people walking, 83% vehicles not slow down.

AG enquired about the high density of buildings e.g. 20,000 flats in the Bio Quarter. TH advised that there had been multiple applications over years and now an entity with complex building plans. Cllr Rose advised that the Bio Quarter area covering Greendykes - Wisp was a green and park area which was largely within CEC area and planning approved in principal.

6. Reports of Interest Groups -

a. Planning

TH had circulated his Planning Note to GPCC members prior to the meeting.

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. Application Withdrawn

5G Mast Mayfield Road at end of Mentone Terrace - Erection of 20' Mast. No comments

9 Relugas Road - Long history with this planning application - GPCC objected.

82 Dalkeith Road - planning application for erection of separate modern 5 bedroom house in space presently being used as driveway and garage beside existing Victorian style dwelling (No 82). ST looked at site and concerned about parking for vehicles at existing dwelling No.82 would there be a further planning application for a new driveway at No.82. IC advised some objections had already been lodged and Blacket Association considering views. GPCC considering objection.

Dunedin Guesthouse, Priestfield Road - 3 dwellings on site. Previous plan consent. TH going to email Planning Dept to confirm details.

17 Cumin Place - Tree works. - Several planning applications to cut down trees and 6 trees now cut down. Plan for back garden has shaped trees. Front garden has lime trees which current tree application states trees are diseased and damaging wall. Grange Assoc are concerned potential loophole that Tree applications are granted prior to planning applications being lodged and seek CEC Councillor support for improved communication between Tree and Planning Departments. CLLR Rose - advised 2 issues here. Tree issue is different process. Note comment made that may be a loophole if tree application dealt with first that may assist Planning application.

Cinema - Cameron Toll Savacentre. - TH advised that this has been granted.

148 Bed Student Accommodation - Mayfield Road. (Old Braidburn site) - consent already granted for original applications
TH advised that 2 new Planning applications lodged to increase the number of beds by 112. CEC Planning Dept already granted consent. Both sites owned by same private company (not University). Discussion that Southside has numerous student accommodation properties in existence and more in the pipeline. GPCC object to increase of number of student beds. Liberton Community Council also keeping a careful watch on this development as in their area although working together with GPCC.

Civic Forum - TH advised that online meeting and ST has signed up to do this. ST to email ERJ in respect of ideas for events. IC discussed Open Doors Day usually at end of September 2020 and that there may be online Zoom guided tours of streets, Newington Cemetery, etc.

b) Licensing - None.

c) Roads/Transport

AG advised that there were a lot of temporary measures to widen pavements. Waverley Bridge onto Princess Street - no tour buses now only a taxi rank. Mound - narrowing road. Cockburn Street, Victoria Street - both now getting closed can only walk or cycle. City Centre - looks likely no cars allowed.

Cycle Route - Cameron Toll to ERI. Bollards in place for cycle lane narrows road and concern for emergency vehicles as traffic has nowhere to go - cycle lane prevents the driver moving over to the side to allow any ambulance or emergency vehicle to get through to the emergency and/or back to hospital. No signage displayed for traffic indicating cycle lane. Cllr rose advised that the Bollards on Dalkeith road were to be short term but it was taking longer than anticipated.

Automatic green man - Do not require to press the buttons as all switched on to reduce risk to public. Not all green man panels have been changed to automatic. CLLR Rose wondered how widespread this was throughout Edinburgh.

Speeding Vehicles - Still an issue with cars speeding along the roads in Southside and industrial estate. Cllr Rose advised he was aware of an increase in speeding vehicles. The Police were aware and taking appropriate action.

LRT - another 12 routes back and increased frequency. LRT asking to make payment by card not cash if possible. Appears to be a move to bring together LRT and Trams. Reduce the number of buses along Princes Street and Leith Cllr Rose advised that LRT was to subsidise grams but unlikely now all bus companies experiencing financial difficulties due to Covid-19.

E Scooters - Trial period - Hire only from 4 July. Banned use on pavements therefore travelling on the roads. Require Licence - Full/Provisional. Concern that less able people may not hear the E Scooters or see them.

PJ asked if CEC had considered less able people, wheelchairs, immobile, elderly when considering road transport changes. Cllr Rose agreed that CEC had not taken enough consideration for older people who rely on their car as a source of freedom. CEC focus on walk/cycle and Pressure Groups.

d) Communications/Publicity.

PR advised that there were a few more registrations on the GPCC distribution list.

e) Environment

ST raised the subject of access to public toilets. PJ had submitted a Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. This is based on information from a Public Health Report which provided excellent succinct information and solutions. CLLR Rose thanked (PJ) for his very helpful Report. Public loos had been closed during the Covid 19 crisis. CEC concerned about anti-social activity. On Monday (13 July 2020) CEC opened up selected toilets eg East Meadow with a Full Time attendant and Social distancing. CEC toilets mostly Victorian era Toilets and now looking at new innovative funding and innovative Toilets to suit all ages and equalities issues. IC asked if there could be local arrangements whereby CEC paid a fee to local cafe's, etc. Cllr Rose advised that CEC had tried this in

Edinburgh but not successful. Current issue is Pubs are takeaway and cannot use their toilets. Good weather brought out lots of people (eg Meadows) where some people used the streets as public toilets.

f) Newington Cemetery

TH advised receiving the Donation of €1,000 to Newington Cemetery and ERJ is looking at ways to spend this money. ERJ had suggested using felled tree trunks as seats.

7. Reports from Office Bearers

Nothing to report

8. Reports of Outside Groups

a. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils). KR advised a meeting arranged for next week.

b) SNNN (Southside/Newington Neighbourhood Network)

ST advised- she had repeatedly attempted to contact CEC person but not had a reply yet. Further that she had not been able to access the Grant Form. Cllr Rose said he would follow this up and asked ST to forward an email to him.

9. Open Forum -

TH discussed the proposal of Grid (formerly National Grid) power development over 38 hectares between Straiton and the Bypass. Likely more installation developments nearer cities. Cllr Rose advised that Engineers had argued this for a long time. Discussion that CEC had approved advertising on roundabouts. Cameron Toll and other roundabouts will be able to display advertisements.

10. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7 pm. Via Zoom

3	Newington Cemetery Bins	Clllr Rose to chase up reply to his previous email	By next meeting
5(a)	Distribution by CEC of iPads to children for education	SG raised con eras about children access to iPads. Can CLLR Rose enquire and advise GPCC	By next meeting
5(a)	Civic Forum - Doors Open Day	ST to email ERJ about ideas	By next meeting
6(a)	Planning - Dunedin Guesthouse	(TH) to email Plan Dept to confirm details of application	
8(b)	SNN	ST to email C Rose about Grant form and contact person	