**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 23 February 2022**

**Meeting held via Zoom**

**Elected Office Bearers:**

Chair - Ian Chisholm; Joint Vice Chair -Paul Rowllings; Treasurer - Paul Rowllings; Minute Secretary - Isabel Clark.

**Present:**

Sue Tritton; Alan Gilmour; Ken Robertson; Sally Griffiths; Tony Harris; Stanley Bird;  Peter Jones; Bill Reid; Cllr Cameron Rose;

**In attendance:**

Stuart Tooley (University of Edinburgh); Tim Pogson; Rachel Codd; Denise Bailu; Sergey Gorobets.

Unable to join due to internet difficulties -   Maureen Edwards

**Apologies :**   Scott Paterson; Julian Newman; Ellen-Raisa Jackson; Raphael Bleakley

1. **Welcome. -**Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of 19 January 2022**-  Previously circulated minutes were agreed, Ken asked for one point (KR) asked to be amended ?

Action Points -

i). Licensing - Maki & Ramen - GPCC keeping watch on situation and await reply from owners.

ii) Newington Library - currently still a Covid 19 Test Centre.   However, as covid restrictions are relaxing towards end of March 2022 keeping watch on position.

iii)  GPCC Meetings - Zoom, Cameron House, other venue.   The Secretary's  Report advised that that the small room  is not suitable, whereas the larger room is rated to take 14 people for social distancing purposes. This does not provide  enough space for GPCC meetings. The larger room is only available on on 1st , 2nd and 4th Wednesday’s each month.

iv) Councillor Report - Reduced bus Timetable

v) Police Reports - No police report this month. Raphael to chase this up.

vi) Planning - Enforcement -

Tony discussed enforcement and Cllr Rose agreed that enforcement legislation was weak.

vii) Roads/Transport - Free Transport for under 22years.   Cllr Rose advised he had very little information regarding this.

viii) Electric charging Points -  Cllr Rose advised that CEC was very close to bottom out of 32 Councils but starting to move faster.

ix) Newington Cemetery - Tony advised a shortlist had been prepared and will be circulated to GPCC members.  Cemetery grounds very heater logged following recent storms.   One decision made to use aggregate to fill in pot holes.   Previous strategic objectives now out of date and ongoing discussions to agree new objectives.

Sally enquired if could use funds for new benches.   Discussion that must comply with CEC requirements for metal benches which are not very popular. Denise advised when walking around Cemetery very muddy and filling pot holes very helpful.

x) Draft GPCC Accounts - Now finalised and submitted to CEC.  See Treasurer’s Report 7(a).

**4. Notice of Matters  -**None

**5. Reports (External) -**

1. Councillors Report  -  Councillor Cameron Rose  raised the following points -

* Short Term Lets - After consultation CEC adopted City wide short term zone (not just centre).   Back to Scottish Government for approval.   Not sure of timescale.
* Budget Day - Thursday 24 February 2022  Full Council meets to discuss and consider various proposals for CEC.
* Scottish Widows Building - Cllr Rose advised he was due to attend a meeting on site to see proposals for this building.   Extensive planning work done to re-instate and update building.   Anticipate possible invitation to GPCC Chair from owners as to possibilities for building.
* Cllr Rose advised that Cllr Alison Dickie was now an independent Representative in the forthcoming Council elections.  He expressed his considerable admiration for her stance on a number of issues for which she had paid the price. Ian also acknowledged Cllr Alison Dickie’s contributions to GPCC. GPCC to send letter of thanks to Cllr Dickie.

Tony raised concerns regarding the National Planning framework. Cllr Rose advised no surprises, consultations response closes end March 2022.

Peter enquired about proposals for CEC work parking fees.   Cllr Rose advised he was not sure of any details but will be part of CEC Budget to be discussed tomorrow.

Ian advised during the meeting he had received helpful comments regarding Newington Cemetery which were to be included in the Minutes.   All comments to be emailed to Tony

(b) Police Report - None.

**6.  Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning**

Tony presented the planning report to GPCC members .

* 9 Relugas Road - Cabins in wrong place.   No action, awaiting assessment.
* 14/15 Minto Street - Application for change to consent - upgrade number of bedrooms from 10 to 12.   GPCC asked CEC for public consultation.   Difficult case as does not change form of plan. Number of bedrooms from 10 to 12 is crucial on non-material variation.
* St Crispin School Site - GPCC objection lodged to revised application.   First application had 150 objections.   Second application more objections. A variety of different objection grounds.  Good discussion at last meeting.   Cala planning application refused.
* Cllr Rose said he sits on the Planning Committee.   Cala application was recommended by CEC for approval.   162 objections mostly from local residents.  He had represented local views - tall buildings overlooking and block out light, drainage from allotments, car parking - not enough/too much, and won the day.   Initially Cala had proposed low 40 houses and CEC Planners sought more density, approx 60 houses, eventually settled at 49 houses.   Cala may come back with lower height, amend planning application and/or appeal process.
* Tony advised he would circulate objections for 1 Wilton Road and 42 McDowall Road.
* 2a Blackford Avenue - Bathroom Advert - application for house on site.   Not object as better use although small site and decent size house may not work.   Discussion regarding what Grange Association views are.   (TH) will contact Grange Association and seek their views then email GPCC members.   Closing date 4 March 2022.
* Royal Blind School - Cala have started marketing properties on this site as Newington Residencies £810,000 / £849,000.
* Cameron Toll Shopping Centre re-development. Recent display of proposed planning development for the shopping centre within the main foyer.   Pre-application phase coming to an end.   Planning application will go in.   Await planning application and then  GPCC can comment.    Council elections may cause this re-development to become a political issue.

**b) Licensing**-   None.

**c). Roads/Transport**

Alan raised the following points:

* Low Emission Zone (LEZ) - CEC initially threw this out and now the original scheme has been agreed. A lot of polluted streets not included in LEZ.   Cllr Rose advised there had been complex arguments for LEZ to cover whole of City or central area. Alan commented that the Southside area appeared to be impacted more by LEZ. Cllr Rose advised that 6 areas of air quality management zone had been reducing steadily.
* Sergey advised he had read the research which has many errors as based on assumptions. The research assumes reduced vehicle use for next 2-4 years and number of non-compliant cars would go down by 20%.   At the same time petrol cars would reduce from 20 to 0.  How is it possible to assume petrol cars would go and diesel vehicles would last forever?  Concerned that road closures in LEZ would not result in better quality air as large vehicles require to drive around more streets outside the LEZ.   London has had LEZ for years and cars were not compliant at the start whereas Edinburgh has more compliant cars.   The research assumptions misleads the public.
* Trams - Trams only operating to Shandwick Place due to ongoing roadworks at the Terminus in York Place.   Limited support from the Buses as £9.2m subsidy required .   Free Travel for under 22year olds not extended to trams.
* West-East Cycle Lane.  Will take 18 months to complete 2 lane (opposite directions) cycle lane.   Concern raised require to cross looking both ways to get aboard a bus/tram.
* Innocent Path - recently advised by member of public that closed due to rockfall.   Cllr Rose advised repairing Samson Rib area which had recently commenced for 10 weeks for stabilisation process.   Intention is to open the low road.
* Work Car Parking Tax - No cap on this tax.   In Nottingham £400 to park and most firms are paying this.   Private Parking companies getting regulated  and must tell public the costs.  Cannot collect debts.
* Speed limits reduced - there are 23 roads where 40 mph reduced to 30 mph.

Tony on behalf of Ellen raised comments in relation to the pavement parking consultation.   Regulations to regulate parking on pavements.   Ellen asked if GPCC could respond to the pavement parking consultation. Alan advised that likely delay for 1 year as CEC had to decide which roads would be exempt from pavement parking regulations. Tony to email Ellen confirming that he had raised her comments.

Peter raised that vehicles parked on pavements were dangerous for pedestrians/prams/ wheelchair users.   This was a Scottish Government consultation (not CEC).   Bill commented that blind people do not need any parking on the pavement, Leith Walk is impossible to cross and bus stops keep being moved.

(**d). Communications/Publicity.**

Paul advised there were a few more registrations on GPCC website.   Facebook had a significant amount of interest, particularly the Snowdrop Walk.

(**e) Environment**

Sue - Astley Ainslie Hospital  - previously advised on hold until 2026.

**f) Newington Cemetery**

Discussion re companies and charities helping.  (?) advised there was a Tool Library run by volunteers which had 6 staff and 30 volunteers.   An Assembly is held once a year where applicants give a 3 minute talk why Tool Library should help them eg improve/repair a playpark.   Applications are submitted and then whoever gets the vote, the Tool Library volunteers go and do the work.  Far Out Delivery bring tools (£5 delivery charge).   Tool Library have premises at Meadowbank and Portobello.

Tony advised Newington Cemetery had tools but need younger people to help do the work.   Every 3rd Monday of each month the volunteers meet at Newington Cemetery and do what work is required within CEC regulations,

Sally advised could ask for volunteers from Leith Volunteer group. Tony to look into this. Ian said could put on GPCC website seeking volunteers.   Discussion that could enquire at student Unions, SRUC College, Pollock Halls and revive interest as coming out of covid. Stuart may be able to help with contact.

Trees - Ken enquired if could use fallen trees for benches.   Discussion that on list and hope to revive but requires a professional woodcutter to cut trees into benches.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

Paul referred to his email to GPCC members.

* Invoices paid and £4,782 in bank mostly money for Newington Cemetery.
* GPCC account balance £1,765 and Newington meter £3,016.
* Final GPCC Accounts submitted and CEC grant funding application being processed.

Paul confirmed there is no GPCC Bank Card.   GPCC will continue to reimburse members for costs incurred.   GPCC Bank Account is digital (on line) and two signatories are required to authorise online payments.

(b) Secretary. - Main points covered earlier in the meeting.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils -    Ken referred to his 2 page Paper which  had been circulated to GPCC members.

1. Revised EACC Constitution approved at mid-February meeting; intended to strengthen EACC participation within the Edinburgh Partnership.

1. Report from Festivals Edinburgh on their ‘2030 Vision’. See KR for slides. See also Festivals Survery invitation in KR Report
2. Low Emission Zone: EACC to respond with request that inadequate proposals be returned for review to ScotGov.
3. EACC funding position: currently weak; CCs may receive a formal request for modest financial support.
4. ‘Climate Emergency Declaration’: EACC declines to issue a ‘statement’ along the lines of Merchiston Community Council in November; very little support voiced in the discussion.
5. GPCC action on ‘climate change’: Must be practical; must avoid ‘hectoring’.

Ken asked if GPCC could bring both items to more prominent positions for the community, eg engage local contractors (for hire) in community to help individuals which would require to be carefully worded as not endorsing them.   Discussion that tradesmen on Blacket Association website could be seen as endorsing them but require to emphasise local tradesmen and not endorsed by GPCC. Ken asked members to drop him a line about the initiatives.

9**AOB - Open Forum -  Nothing to add**

10.  **Date of Next Meeting   -  Wednesday 16 March, 2022 at 7 pm**.

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| **3 Actions** | Maki & Ramen | GPCC watching brief |  |
| **3  Actions** | Newington Library  - how long closed for Covid Testing. | Watching brief | By  16 March 2022 |
| **3 Actions and 7b** | GPCC Meetings | Await updated Council guidance re: meeting space | By  16 March 2022 |
| **5) a Councillor Report**  **Police Report** | Ian to send letter of thanks to Cllr Alison Dickie  Raphael to chase up Police Scotland for monthly Police Reports. | Ian to send letter of thanks to Cllr Dickie  Raphael to enquire re Police Report | By 16 March 2022 |
| **6(a)**  **6(c)** | Planning -  Tony to email GPCC members regarding objections for 1 Wilton road and 42 McDowall Road  21 Blackford Avenue  Tony to seek Grange Assoc Views then email GPCC members  Roads Transport -  Parking on Pavements.  Tony raised concerns on behalf of Ellen | Tonyto email GPCC members re objections and views for properties stated.  Tony to email Ellen confirming raised her concerns | By 16 March 2022 |
| **3 and 6** | Newington Cemetery  Funding - Shortlist  IC received helpful comments for shortlist to be added to Mins and emailed to (TH)  Volunteers  Tony to look into possible volunteers from University, SRUC, Tool Library, Pollock Halls.  Advertise for volunteers on GPCC website | Tony to prepare short list for funding ideas and submit to GPCC  Tony to contact specified organisations for volunteers.  Email Stuart at Edinburgh University for contacts | By  16 March 2022 |
| **8(a)** | EACC Ken asked GPCC members to drop him a line about EACC initiatives | GPCC members to email Ken | By 16 March 2022 |