

**Grange Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Minutes of 18 December 2019**  
**Meeting held at Cameron House Community Education Centre**

**Present:**

Chair - Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ) (Joint Vice Chair)

Elected Officer Bearers

Andreas Grothey (AndG), (Treasurer)

Paul Rowllings (PR) (Joint Vice Chair)

Stanley J Bird (SJB), (Minutes), Raphael Bleakley (RB), Maureen Edwards (ME), Tony Harris (TH), Peter Jones (PJ), Scott Paterson (SP), Ken Robertson (KR), Chris Sherwood (CS),

**Apologies:**

Ian Chisholm (IC), Isabel Clark (IAC), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Sally Griffiths (SG), Julian Newman (JN), Bill Reid (BR), Sue Tritton (ST), Stuart Tooley (StuT)

**In attendance:**

Cllr Steve Burgess (City of Edinburgh Council - CEC) (Cllr SB) (Green)

PCs Mark Phillips & Stuart Fraser

1. **Declarations of Interest** – None

2. **Reports – External**

**(a) Police Report**

ERJ proposed and the Council agreed to take the report from the PCs Phillips and Fraser at this point in the meeting to enable them to attend a later meeting.

PC Fraser advised that a number of initiatives were taking place over the festive season including presentations about safety at local schools and nurseries, car checks covering speeding, drink/drug testing and vehicle worthiness. He also reported several burglaries over the recent period which had been attributed to one individual who had since been arrested and was about to appear in court. He intimated that advice about vehicle and house security had been issued by Police Scotland and alerted the Council to telephone scams, counterfeit notes and suspicious gatherings of youths.

Members of Council asked questions about the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in the dark winter months; seemingly organised begging (which although was not illegal did raise issues of human trafficking which was being monitored) and gangs of pick-pockets targeting e.g. the Christmas Fair. He stressed that “intimidating begging” at ATMs could be regarded as a breach of the peace and should be reported. PC Fraser urged members to report any issues of concern using the email address

[edinburghsouthsidenewingtoncpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:edinburghsouthsidenewingtoncpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

PCs Phillips and Fraser then left the meeting. Members thanked them for their attendance.

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2019 (previously circulated) were submitted and were accepted as a true record on the proposal of SJB seconded by TH. The Council agreed that any issues arising or comments on these minutes submitted before the next meeting in January would be considered at that meeting.

### **4. Appointment of Secretary**

ERJ advised that Ian Vaughn had resigned from the position of Secretary and as a member of the Community Council. RB volunteered to act as interim Secretary until elections in May 2020 and the Council unanimously agreed to his appointment as such.

### **5. Reports – External (contd)**

#### **(b) Councillor' Report**

Before Cllr SB gave his report PJ requested clarification on the position of EACC and the Neighbourhood Network (see below) and in doing so referred to an Induction Course for Community Councillors which he had attended. Other members were not aware of the Induction and expressed the wish to attend such a course if it were to be repeated/available.

Cllr SB updated the meeting on a number of issues as follows:-

#### **(i) Brexit Working Group**

The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) had previously established a “Brexit” working group which had been considering the potential impact of Brexit on the CEC and Edinburgh residents. He advised that given the outcome of the General Election the group would be meeting more regularly.

#### **(ii) Budget Setting**

Cllr SB advised that because of the General Election, the CEC budget setting process and determination of the Council Tax would have to be undertaken in a shorter time period. Consequently there would be less time for public consultation. He intimated that it was likely that the CEC would be required to consider cuts in its budget which would have a potentially detrimental impact on the provision of its services. As a corollary to that process, he indicated that the CEC would have to consider augmenting its income through increases in its charges/fees. In this regard, he confirmed that the CEC had agreed in principle to the levying of the “Tourist Tax” but that it would take some 2/3 years to implement.

#### **(iii) Green Group Re-Shuffle**

Cllr SB advised that there had been a re-shuffle of responsibilities in his group and that he now had the “Transport and Environment” portfolio. In this regard, one of the group’s initiatives was directed at reducing the energy costs of the CEC school estate - which represented approximately 50% of its costs – to consider renewable/sustainable energy sources. He advised that Officers were shortly to submit a report on achieving by 2030 Net Zero Carbon Emissions in the School Estate.

(iv) Funding Allocations – UK/Scottish Government

Cllr SB intimated that it was likely that the UK Government would seek to reduce the funding allocated to Scotland and then in turn the Scottish Government would have to make cuts to the allocation to Local Government but ring-fencing certain functions/services such as the Police and NHS. He advised that further information could be obtained from the Scottish Parliament’s Information Service (SPICE).

The members expressed their disappointment at the curtailment of the public consultation process and the fewer opportunities for the public/local groups to influence budget setting. Cllr SB recommended that submissions on specific issues e.g. the removal of teachers from nurseries, should be directed to the Council Leader and/or the Convenor of the Finance Committee and representatives of the political groups on that and other relevant Committees.

(v) Illuminated Bollards

ME raised the issue of damaged or non-functioning carriageway dividers/bollards. Cllr SB advised that he would pass on to the local Roads Team details of the location of the bollards etc and that he could be contacted at his CEC email address.

(vi) Neighbourhood Network

In response to the earlier question posed by PJ, Cllr SB advised that this was an “umbrella” grouping designed to cover and to tackle common issues raised by not only community councils but other local interest groups. Unfortunately, there had been no meeting since September. In a change to the previous practice, the budget for road repairs which had been partially allocated by the Neighbourhood Partnerships would not now be so applied. He indicated that the Scottish Government professed to want to encourage local engagement and Neighbourhood Networks were hoped to be the vehicle for this.

## **6. Reports of Interest Groups**

(a) Planning

TH referred to his report dated December 2019 (previously circulated) and to 3 applications in particular:-

- (i) 19/05276/FUL – Side and rear extension with front dormer at 68 Priestfield Road EH16 5JB

TH advised that the proposed front dormer appeared rather prominent, a view supported by a local Member, and seemed not to comply with the CEC Guidance for Householders in being too wide. Although there was no reason for GPCC to object to this application he suggested a “neutral” comment be submitted pointing out this non-compliance. Because the closing date for comment was 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the Council agreed to that TH be authorised to submit such a comment on its behalf.

(ii) Application for Major Development: Edinburgh University Peffermill Sports Village

TH advised that an email received from Stuart Tooley, the University Community Relations Manager, confirmed that a detailed planning application was about to be submitted and he was requesting an opportunity to give a presentation to the January GPCC meeting. TH further advised that this would allow the GPCC to seek clarification on the “student”/ “residential” accommodation issue. The Council agreed to Stuart Tooley’s request and authorised TH to reply accordingly. TH also undertook to update the GPCC’s Planning Group on the proposal if he were not able to attend the meeting in January.

(iii) Cameron Toll Shopping Centre, 6 Lady Road EH16 5PB in Gilmerton/Inch CC Area

TH advised that the site has a current planning consent for additions including retail, multi-storey car park, cinema, restaurants etc, which has never been implemented. This current consent seemed as if it would expire on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The GPCC Secretary received on 25 November an email from a PR firm stating that revised proposals for the consented cinema would be brought forward. A further email on 17<sup>th</sup> December to TH informed him that a planning application had now been submitted for a smaller occupier-led cinema scheme and requesting a meeting with GPCC Members to introduce the proposals and answer questions. Given the impact of the application on GPCC and others he recommended and the Council agreed that he accept on behalf of GPCC the request for a meeting, intimate this to other Community Councils affected and, in the meantime, compare the extant conditions with any news ones in light of changes in the Local Development Plan (LDP).

With regard to the LDP, the Council noted that the public consultation was to commence on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and that this was a matter that the Planning Group should consider and report on – to the February 2020 GPCC meeting. The Council also noted that the “City Vision 2050” initiative would impact on the LDPs and that PR should investigate its contents for future guidance in relation to the Council’s input to the process.

(iv) New Post Office on Dalkeith Road

The Council noted and welcomed the opening of a New Post Office on Dalkeith Road.

(b) Licensing

There were no relevant applications for the Council’s consideration

(c) Roads & Transport

ERJ advised that there was no Convenor for this Group as JN had stepped down. She called on members to consider if any one of them was prepared to take on this role which involved focussing on and distilling relevant information for consideration by the full meeting. This information could be obtained by monitoring the agenda and reports submitted to the City Council's Roads & Transport Committee which were available on line. After consideration, CS volunteered and the Council agreed to his appointment as Convenor of the GPCC Roads & Transport Group.

(d) Communications/Publicity

PR advised that he had been working on a new website which he hoped would be more visible and accessible. He had been looking at other websites to gather ideas and planned to bring to the next meeting of the Council a report on his thoughts and proposals. He suggested that more could be done to promote the website. He hoped that building links to social media e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and to other local resources, together with analysis of "hits" and the creation of a database for an electronic "Newsletter" would enhance the website's and the GPCC's profile. In this regard, SJB suggested an advert in some local newspapers and/or directories might raise awareness of the GPCC and direct people to the website. The Council agreed that the Communications Group would investigate the costs involved and report back to the February meeting. It was agreed that PR would present some proposals on the website at the February meeting.

(e) Environment

In ST's absence ERJ advised that the clearing of leaves etc from the pavements/drains in the Grange area had been successful.

(f) Newington Cemetery

ERJ advised that the CEC parks team had installed the base for the new tool shed and the Group had ordered it. AndG would be dealing with the financial issues arising therefrom. She also advised that planting for the spring was well underway for the "Snowdrop Walk" in February 2020. She also reported that a headstone had apparently been stolen or moved and that CEC had been asked for further information.

## **7. Proposals for New Sub-Groups**

CS proposed the establishment of a new Sub-Group to consider the availability in the GPCC's area of facilities for children and young people. The Council agreed in principle to establishing such a group pending the submission to its next meeting of a written remit by CS for its consideration. PR, RB, AndG and ERJ intimated that they would be interested in joining such a group.

## 8. Reports from Office Bearers

(a) Chair

Nothing to report.

(b) Treasurer

AndG referred to his recently sent email dated 18 December 2019 and reported that the financial position was unchanged from the previous month viz. GPCC had £3647.36 in the bank (after paying for a Newsletter over the summer and receiving the current year's maintenance grant of £770). Of this, he advised that £2417.15 belong to the Newington Cemetery subgroup and that there was also one un-cleared cheque of £51.99 which left a balance due to GPCC of £1178.22.

## 9. Reports from Outside Groups

ERJ advised that TH was stepping down as the GPCC's representative on the EACC. The GPCC needed to replace him. She explained that the EACC met every other month or so and that the task was not an onerous one. She requested that members think about whether they could take on this role.

## 10. Open Forum

No members of the public were in attendance to raise issues of interest. ERJ sought the members' consent to the private circulation within the membership of the GPCC of their home addresses – she stressed that this would be a list for internal use only and to determine the representative coverage of the membership and the GPCC's area. The members agreed to this.

11. **Date of Next Meeting** - Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 7 pm

## SUMMARY of OPEN ACTIONS:

<b>REF</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESP</b>
<i>Dec19.01</i>	<i>Ask CEC about details of any further induction courses for community councillors.</i>	ERJ to contact elections team
<i>Dec19.02</i>	<i>Confirm Stuart Tooley's presentation</i>	TH
<i>Dec19.03</i>	<i>Respond to PR firm confirming that GPCC would attend a meeting about the Cameron Toll proposals</i>	TH to respond and circulate response
<i>Dec 19.04</i>	<i>Website proposal presentation and costing</i>	PR to draft and present at February meeting
<i>Dec19.05</i>	<i>Proposal for Children and Young People subgroup.</i>	CS to draft and circulate
<i>Dec19.06</i>	<i>Create list of councillors' home addresses and alternative contacts (not email).</i>	RB to co-ordinate.

**SUMMARY of CLOSED ACTIONS:**

<b><i>REF</i></b>	<b><i>ACTION</i></b>	<b><i>RESP</i></b>
<i>Dec19.07</i>	<i>Present for Cameron House Staff.</i>	ERJ Done