**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 18 May 2022**

**Meeting held via Zoom**

**Elected Office Bearers -**

Chair - Ian Chisholm; Joint Vice Chair -Paul Rowllings, Ellen-Raissa Jackson; Secretary- Raphael Bleakley; Treasurer - Paul Rowllings; Minute Secretary - Isabel Isabel Clark.

**Present:**

Sue Tritton, Alan Gilmour, Ken Robertson, Tony Harris, Scott Paterson, Stanley Bird, Andreas Grothey, Cllr Simita Kumar.

**In attendance:**

Denise Fisher

**Apologies:**

Sally Griffiths, Julian Newman, Peter Jones, Stuart Tooley (University of Edinburgh).

**Absent:**

Bill Reid; Maureen Edwards

1. **Welcome. –**Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of 20 April 2022.** Circulated Minutes were agreed

**Action Points -**

i). Blackford Avenue Parking and

ii) Liberton Bus Lane Cameras - - continued to next meeting Roads/Transport

iii) Future GPCC Meetings – online or in person. discussed later in meeting

iv). Fibre Broadband - being installed in Prestonfield area with a lot of disruption and mess. Discussion that haphazard mess on pavement causing accessibility problems. Cllr Kumar advised this expected to continue until 23 May 2022, however she would look into GPCC concerns raised and provide an update.

(iv) Newington Cemetery - Wall damaged by road accident - Previous discussion relating to who is responsible for upkeep of the wall (eg CEC ?). Reply from Councillor did not confirm position other than it forms part of scheduled work.

(vi) Damage to Bus Stops - Climate activists put posters up on bus shelters. Discussion regarding flyposting and unlikely to catch culprits.

**4. Notice of Matters -** None

**5. Reports (External) -**

1. **Councillors Report**  - Cllr Simita Kumar raised the following points -

* Expressed her delight at being elected and looking forward along with her fellow Councillors to help. Cllr Kumar discussed her background as a health professional with Public Health Scotland and now working part time to allow time to carry out her new Councillor duties. All new ward Councillors are receiving eight weeks induction and training.
* Full Council meeting to take place on 19 May 2022 then all ward Councillors for GPCC area will meet to discuss how cover all Community Council meetings on a rota basis.
* Cllr Kumar advised she would like to submit her Councillor’s Report prior to GPCC meeting and then discuss at the meeting. Additionally, Cllr Kumar was going to discuss with her fellow Councillors for this area about using a Caseworker - Councillors have access to Caseworker which keeps a record of all the casework which enables them to monitor, evaluate and update information. Currently preparing Surgery times and dates, email contact address.

1. **Police Report**

No report received from Police Scotland. Raphael had requested an update from Police Scotland had no response.

**6.  Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning**

Tony spoke to his Planning Report circulated to GPCC members:

* Thrums Hotel - Variation with existing consent, however new variation for 12 single bedrooms (from 10). Discussion that CEC have previously made decisions before advising of planning update/applications which is unacceptable.
* 42 Grange Road - Revised drawings published now. CEC claim they were available in March 2022. However they only appeared last week.
* St Crispin School Site -Notice of Appeal by CALA. GPCC original objections will still be considered by Reporter.
* 169 Mayfield Road - application to change from house with individual rooms to Doctors Clinic. Discussion that proposal is for change of use from residential to business to aesthetic cosmetic surgery. After mixed discussion on various points it was agreed to let CEC decide.
* Scottish Widows 15 Dalkeith Road - On 31 May 2022 there is a drop in exhibition consultation for proposed residential accommodation open to the public at the Scottish Widows Site. On 7 June 2022 there is an online event for the public. Ellen requested that Scottish Widows development be added as an action for next GPPC meeting in June.
* Cameron Toll Development - no further update
* Short Term Lets (STL) - two fold. Planning - CEC as short term lets area has submitted to Scottish Government and awaiting reply. Change of use application to STL. Very large areas in Edinburgh city eg New Town require applications for change of use to STL. Planning - if CEC get applications and agree - then Airbnb could be granted for 10 years. Residents cannot counter this as no public consultation. Licensing - Form appears to be very elementary and not deal with issues. Trading Standards are leading this. Consultation is extremely disappointing. Does not even state how long the Licence would last. Planners and Licensing departments require to step up and take control otherwise will be a mess.
* Ken expressed his concern that the Planning Dept would be deluged with applications and seriously overloaded. Normal planning applications would be at risk of being seriously delayed and we would not want this to happen. Discussion about a twin track approach - Planning for normal applications and a separate STL track application route. Tony agreed with Ken that CEC overwhelmed due to lack of resources, experience, etc.
* Cllr Kumar advised she would enquire and report back about twin track route or other approach being taken to deal with increase in STL applications.
* 9 Relugas Road - Discussion that as this planning application had been going on for a very long time, there was concern it could be approved.
* Peter expressed his thanks to Tony for the information about Tree Preservation Orders which had been circulated and has been shared with Waverley Park Feuers.

**b) Licensing**-   None.

**c). Roads/Transport**

Alan raised the following:

* Low Emission Zone (LEZ) - starts on 1 June 2022. Unfortunately no updates as no replies to repeated requests. Blue Badges - register on line ,however, not able to do so at present. There is no signage up at present, and no number recognition equipment in place. Unlikely will be ready for commencement on 1 June but there is a 2 year grace period.
* Smokey Brae (Jocks Lodge) - Public consultation on changes here.
* Transport Bill presented in the Queens Speech- proposal to legalise e-scooters Discussion that at present e-scooters are a problem on the pavements.
* Free Bus Pass (under 22years). Overall Scotland 30% applied, however in Edinburgh 49% applied. Inverclyde area had highest uptake as schools helped pupils. CEC Schools are not helping pupils. Replacement bus pass - problem is delay in processing this,
* Walk to School - 61% uptake in CEC area which is very good.
* Controlled Parking Zone - Some owners with drive ways, who do not require them, are advertising them to be used for rental eg £800 or similar amount of income,
* Discussion concerning the recent Tyre deflation in Edinburgh and alerting local residents via GPCC Website. Mixed views expressed and Ian advised the Local media covers this issue.

**d. Communications/Publicity.**

* Newington Library now open and intend to put up notices/poster for GPCC. Paul to suggest a design for printing and provide a few lines which would be circulated round GPCC members.

**e. Environment**

Sue advised -

* Astley Ainslie Hospital - No update. Previously advised on hold until 2026.

**f) Newington Cemetery**

Ellen advised that Working Party had met on Monday and carried out repairs to a path. Will be spending more money on gravel and plants.

Discussion that on 24/25 September 2022 for the Open Day there would be joint publicity for both Newington and Grange Cemeteries.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. Treasurer Report  -

Paul referred to his email to GPCC members. Balance £xx

1. Secretaries report Future GPCC meetings - in person, via zoom, hybrid as restrictions removed. Raphael to check and confirm dates available for Cameron House. Discussion regarding possibly using hybrid set up which may require laptop, camera, microphones, internet, etc. Cllr Kumar advised that the CEC meeting tomorrow is online however next meeting is in person. Some Community Councils are operating a Hybrid approach. Sue advised another Community Council are commencing in person meetings starting next week. Scott advised he could provide a microphone for a hybrid meeting as a trial for GPCC and if approved the equipment could be purchased for future hybrid GPCC meetings.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils – Ken advised: advised EACC scheduled meeting had been put back a week.

**9. AOB - Open Forum -**

Motion - presented forward by Ken Robertson:

“That GPCC begins this new elected official cycle by: making “Edinburgh” a clean and tidy city, fit for residents and visitors alike” the Community Council’s “operational” priority asking that Southside & Newington Councillors endorse that motion and assign it as their own (operational) top priority.

Ken discussed that with the new elected Councillors in GPCC area would they commit to tidying up Edinburgh as a day to day priority. Encourage local self help volunteers similar to Grange Leaves clear up in Autumn. Agreed this would be a topic for discussion on the June Agenda.

Ken enquired if CEC sends out a summary of all current committee business and outcome. Cllr Kumar advised she would investigate and discuss with fellow Councillors then report back to GPCC.

10.  **Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 15 June, 2022, Cameron House & online at 7pm.**

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| **3 Actions** | Blackford Avenue Parking  Liberton Bus Lane Cameras | Discussion to be continued to next meeting | By 15 June 2022 |
| **3  Actions** | Fibre Broadband - disruption and mess in area | Cllr Kumar to enquire into GPCC concerns and update. | By 15 June 2022 |
| **3 Actions and 7b** | GPCC Meetings | Raphael to enquire when can use Cameron House for GPCC meetings in person and set up Hybrid with  Scott.  Consider purchase of equipment for Hybrid at later stage. | By 15 June 2022 |
| **5) a Councillor Report**  **5(b) Police Report** | 3 - Fibre Broadband - disruption and mess in area  3 and 6(f) Newington Cemetery Wall (road accident damage)   Who is responsible for repair - CEC?  6(a) Short Term Lets (STL) CEC overloaded with new applications.  Discussion for twin track approach  9 AOB -  KR presented motion for all new Elected Councillors to prioritise tidying up Edinburgh  Does CEC provide Summary of all current Committee business and outcomes  No Report received despite Raphael email to Police Scotland | Cllr Kumar to enquire into GPCC concerns and update  Cllr Kumar to enquire and advise who is responsible  for repair to wall  Cllr Kumar to enquire if CEC are considering a twin track approach to deal with normal planning applications and having a separate team to deal with STL.  Both matters raised - - Cllr Kumar to enquire and report back to GPCC  Raphael to e mail Police Scotland again. | By 15 June 2022 |
| **6(a)**  **6(d)**  **6(f)** | Scottish Widows Site - ERJ requested that this item be added as an action for next meeting.  Short Term Lets (STL)  CEC overloaded with applications are they considering twin track approach  Communications/ Publicity  GPCC Notices/posters to be designed and placed in Newington Library  Newington Cemetery  Open Day 24/25 September 2022  Update  Damaged Wall (road accident) who is responsible to repair  Eg CEC | Raphael to add  Scottish Widows Site on next GPCC Agenda for discussion  Cllr Kumar to enquire and report back  Paul to design GPCC Posters and circulate to GPCC members  Ellen and Sue update  Cllr Kumar to enquire and provide update who is responsible (eg CEC) | By 15 June 2022 |
| **9 AOB** | KR presented a Motion for the New Elected Councillors to prioritise tidying up the City  KR enquired if CEC provide a Summary of all Current Committee business and outcomes which would help everyone | Continued to next meeting for discussion  Raphael to add to June Agenda  Cllr Kumar to enquire and report. Back to GPCC | By 15 June 2022 |
| **3 Actions** | Blackford Avenue Parking  Liberton Bus Lane Cameras | Discussion to be continued to next meeting | By 15 June 2022 |