**Grange/Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 16 September 2020**

**Meeting held via Zoom**

**Elected Office Bearers**

Chair - Ian Chisholm. (IC); Secretary- Raphael Bleakley (RB); Joint Vice Chair -Ellen Raissa-Jackson (ERJ);  Minute Secretary - Isabel Clark

**GPCC Members Present:**

Stanley Bird (SJB), Sue Tritton (ST), Sally Griffiths (SG), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Tony Harris (TH), Peter Jones (PJ), Ken Robertson (KR), Julian Newman (JN), Bill Reid (BR),  Cllr Alison Dickie, Maureen Edwards (ME) (unsuccessful joining meeting)

**In attendance:**

Stuart Tooley (Edinburgh University)  Pauline Flannery (resident and Lib Dem Ward Champion)

**Apologies :**

Andreas Grothey; Paul Rowllings; Cris Ferguson; Scott Paterson (SP).

**Absent**- Police Scotland,

1. **Welcome. -**IC welcomed everyone to the meeting.    Discussion that Police Scotland providing written reports to other Community Councils in Scotland and IC or RB would again request Police Scotland to provide written reports meantime.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.

**3.** **Minutes of 15 July 2020**-   Minutes were agreed

Action Points -

* Newington Cemetery Bins removal -  ERJ advised that the Dog Bins had been returned but not the general waste bins.
* Schools - Education - distribution of iPads – discussed   at 5(a)  Councillor’s Report .
* Open Doors   - discussed at 6(f) Newington Cemetery.
* Planning -  discussed at 6(a) Planning.
* Grant Forms - ST advised she had received the forms.

**4. Notice of Matters Arising  -**None

**5. Reports (External) -**

(a) Councillors Report  - Cllr Dickie**-**

Has been out in the community speaking to people who are asking when Community Centres will re-open, young people desperate for Youth Groups to restart.

**Schools & Educatio**n

Cllr Dickie advised her big concern is helping Schools recover.  She praised teachers for their excellent support and guidance for the children.  Holistic support  - breakfast and after school clubs open at schools and  community centres.    Inch House is closed.  Prestonfield Primary School  - after school provider pulled out before lockdown,   Families are struggling, but CEC now secured new provider for after school care.   Preston Street Primary school has a space issue and new measures now in place outside school.   Extra curriculum activities have fallen behind due to cleaning measures and money, however schools are doing the best they can in the circumstances.

Digital resources (iPads)  - CEC given money for digital learning for school children.   Where children and /or class has to isolate due to Covid 19 virus, then school can implement distance learning.   Cllr Dickie was pushing for direct online digital learning.

**Budget**

Cllr Dickie advised that CEC budget discussions about to start again and big decisions require to be made.   Further that something new always pops up every day.

IAC expressed residents thanks for CEC Customer Care line responding very quickly to remove a street lamp post which had been damaged by a removal lorry in Brights Crescent.

6**. Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning**

THreferred to his Planning Note.

* Royal Blind School (RBS) - s76 extended and agreement imminent.
* 12 Marchhall Crescent - change of use from business to residential.   Small objection as not clear if single/several person dwelling.   CEC report confirms single.
* St Margarets Nursery - 10 Craigmillar Park - initial planning application for safety fences on flat Objections lodged and initial application withdrawn. New application  now lodged proposes fencing, hedge and creeper planting round periphery of fencing.  Planting on roof is crucial to reduce noise and visual impact.
* 5G Mast - Mayfield Road at end of Mentone Terrace. Approval for next sub-committee.
* 9 Relugas Road - Long history with this planning application  for Art Studio and Pottery within No 9 and land owned by Network  - GPCC previously objected.   Enforcement investigation pending.   Further application next week.
* 2 Fountainhall Road – café application to supply cold food only.   No action required.
* Tanya Guest House - change of use from Guest house to residential. TH advised that similar properties are changing use due to a variety of circumstances.   No action.
* Peffermill Sports Village application - student accommodation development and outwith university terms will be used hosting athletic events.    Recommendation for approval. However SEPA objection pending       If approved must go to Scottish Ministers to decide and/or refer back.
* (ST) advised that risk of flood was once in 150 years.  CEC position is calculate  from day application submitted whereas SEPA want from day approved.   (TH) advised that the issues were broader than this. Discussion that there is also another planning application in Mayfield Road where  SEPA objected and again referred to Scottish Ministers for decision.
* Local Development Plan.   Revised timetable agreed with date now March 2022.  Public consultation to take place before which is very tight timescale.

IC raised issue of short term lets.  TH advised that neighbours can report CEC, properties that are short term lets, when no planning consent for change of use.   Neighbours would require to check CEC Planning Portal whether the property had planning consent to use the property for short term lets or not.    Discussion that there are proposals for changes in this sector.   Cllr Dickie advised that CEC need powers and consultation gone live.

**b) Licensing**-

Shop - 31 Prestonfield Avenue - application for Off Licence – No comments.

**c). Roads/Transport**

* AG advised that a lot of ongoing measures were being implemented by CEC.- roads closing, wands for cycle lanes, some pedestrian crossings - no need to press buttons, increase in volume of buses/cars, etc.
* Cycle Route – Cameron Toll to ERI via Craigmillar Park, Lady Road, etc.  CEC have no recent data and provided CEC Survey carried out in 2017 that 17% use cycles to go to ERI. However when examine CEC survey figures only get total 6% and (AG) advised he had spoken with CLLR rose about this. Lady Road junction - 28 cyclists Western Toyota to Bio Quarter - 120 cyclists. Craigmillar Park - 10 cyclists. Spoken to a few cyclists who said they preferred the bike lane in Dalkeith Road which would save £2million project for CEC.
* Bike Hangers - CEC are erecting 180 Bike hangers across Edinburgh which will park 6 bikes inside a lock up.  Cost - Deposit £25 - + £75 a year  = £100 total.
* Pavement Parking - Government are to ban pavement Parking and seek comments by 22 September 2020.
* Government Bus Priority Rapid Deployment Fund - to improve Bus travel.    Also intend to build out bus stops on George VI Bridge which is currently one lane which may result in traffic being stuck behind buses when stopped to let passengers off/on.
* Causewayside - Wands up and Objection made.  Lots of missing wands for new temporary cycle/pedestrian, scooter  use in our area .  Concern raised by bus drivers that very tight for vehicles (eg buses) to pass.   Comiston Road has wands up and narrow lanes for vehicles leaving little room to pass each other.   Traders cannot get deliveries and customers cannot park.
* KR said that CEC had done a lot of work in a short time however mixing social distancing and cycle lanes was very confusing for everyone,  CEC require to actively review ongoing road measures and coping strategy which hopefully will not be permanent.
* BR raised that with cycle lanes there has to be a way for less able people to know it is a cycle lane for example, when walking on North Bridge he had difficulty knowing where the bus stops were located due to the ongoing work.   Further that in Prestonfield Avenue there was a lot of road maintenance works being carried out on pavements/roads but workmen not always removing cones, obstacles which is difficult for people with access needs.
* SJB raised concerns about students not social distancing and in groups whereby people had to go onto cycle lanes to get around the students.   Request for University to advise students to observe social distancing. StuT advised that some student behaviour was unacceptable and the University had taken a robust line on this.   Urgent meetings with Police about what can be done and action taken. Prioritise social distancing to students and if not abide by rules - University discipline plus Police action and fines. University taking this very seriously and will keep GPCC updated.
* ST commented about her experience of groups of school children being unaware of others and forcing people to walk in the road when walking along pavements.
* PJ raised an issue for less able people relating to electric scooters which do not make much noise to alert less able people of their presence,
* Cllr Dickie advised that Preston Street had increased measures - cycle lanes to increase space for everyone but not sure all access being considered.  CEC require to listen to people with access needs.
* Cllr Dickie asked if a Top 6 transport issues list could be compiled and emailed to her to forward to the Transport Convenor.   Discussion that at Preston Street the school entrances had been coned off but somehow extended and improved parents picking up children from school.  Students had returned and increase in volume of pedestrian use.   RB raised that Parents are not allowed to wait in playground and wait outside Scottish Widows building.   Concern raised that young children playing and an accident waiting to happen.
* Discussion that cycle lanes had reduced the number of bus stops for passengers.   Delivery vans and Blue Badge holders could not get near shops as walk/cycle only. KR enquired if there were any views to date of how CEC transport plans were performing. TH said hope to get response from Cllr Rose as made similar comments.  No information re current cycle/walking usage to date and must be careful do not sleepwalk into something we do not want and will not serve public.
* ERJ commented that as a cyclist she cycles further to avoid Lady Road junction and Old Dalkeith road is a better cycle route.   Some residents have removed wands in order to get their vehicles parked.  It is not clear whether walking space or cycle space and CEC need to review this. Coning outside school really worked in East Preston Street - people can safely walk past Discussion that a lot more cars and bus transport on the road. Discussion that traffic lights with automatic pedestrian crossings are safer.

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

RB advised that Facebook, Website & Twitter pages have been updated over the period. Idea that other groups/associations be asked to advertise GPCC in their newsletters.

**e) Environment**

ST advised that successfully putting together help for people and keeping in touch.

Leaf Clearing - CEC very helpful at removing bags of leaves.    Grange blitz on removing parking poles/signs and replace with signs on walls/fences to make it easier for people walking along pavements.

**(f) Newington Cemetery**

* Open Doors Day – TH advised that he had not registered Newington Cemetery this year for any events.   Public can go on the excellent website.
* Guides scheme -(TH) advised Report published regarding establishing registered Guide scheme for cemetries in central area.  Raised a number of points which have been raised with Cllr Rose.   Consultation with other groups.
* Wellbeing Walks – ERJ said that hope to have virtual walks about cemetery and audio talks.
* Talks will be posted on website and public can listen at anytime. ERJ to discuss with BR.
* Dog Walkers - more issues again as a few trees destroyed.   Lost a fruit tree due to dogs scraping bark off trees.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

a) IC Chair **-**CEC decided can hold online AGM prior to usual meeting which will be in November 2020

b) RB Secretary - Community Council Code of Conduct.   Requested that complaint investigation against a Community Council Member included on agenda. A reminder to all members of the Code of Conduct. RB advised that Social Media Training described as a remedy has not been commissioned yet. RB to circulate Code of Conduct Schedule 3 to all members.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

1. EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) GPCC Representative

KR advised submitted report and meeting arranged for next week. Climate agenda extremely ambitious and CEC has its own programme.   Essence of CEC statement of key actions is net 0 by 2030.

b) SNNN (Southside/Newington Neighbourhood Network) – No meetings or any information about the Network have taken place.

9**Open Forum -**

JN raised concern regarding increased skate boarding in our area during lockdown and relaxation.  Residential streets were being used by skate boarders.  After discussion GPCC members to find out how common skate boarding is in our area.   CEC can make powers to regulate and GPCC can press CEC to act on this issue.

Pauline Flannery advised she was a resident and had recently joined Southside CC.

She was a Ward Champion and had enjoyed joining the meeting.   She complimented how good Newington Cemetery Website is .Again she agreed with the Transport issues particularly Lady Road junction for cyclists.

10.  **Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 14 September 2020 at 7 pm**. Via ZOOM

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| **1** | Police Report - Discussion Police Scotland providing written reports for some CC in other areas in Scotland. | IC or RB to contact Police Scotland to provide a written report for each GPCC zoom meeting. | Before 14 October 2020 |
| **6(c)** | Roads - university students not social distancing + behaviour | StuT to update GPCC | Before or at next GPCC meeting 14 October 2020 |
| **6(c)** | Top 6 Transport issues List | IC or RB to email Top 6 Road/Transport issues to CLLR Dickie to forward to Transport Convenor, | Before 14 October 2020 |
| **7(b)** | Code of Conduct | IC or RB to circulate to all GPCC members the appropriate section (schedule 3) | Before 14 October 2020 |
| **9** | Skateboarding in our area | All GPCC members to investigate if any skateboarding issues in their own areas and report back to GPCC | Before 14 October 2020 |