**Grange/Prestonfield Community Council**

**Minutes of 17 February 2021 - Online meeting**

**Elected Office Bearers:**

Chair - Ian Chisholm. (IC), Secretary- Raphael Bleakley (RB), Treasurer - Andreas Grothey (AndG), Joint Vice Chair - Ellen-Raissa Jackson (ERJ), Paul Rowllings (PR)

Minute Secretary - Isabel Clark. (IAC)

**Present :**

Sue Tritton (ST), Sally Griffiths (SG), Alan Gilmour (AIG), Scott Paterson (SP),Tony Harris (TH), Peter Jones (PJ), Ken Robertson (KR), Maureen Edwards (ME), Cllr Cameron Rose

**Apologies :**

Stanley Bird (SB), Julian Newman(JN) , Stuart Tooley (Edinburgh University)

Bill Reid (BR)

**Absent**- Police Scotland

1. **Welcome. - (**IC) welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None.

**3.** **Minutes of 20 January 2021**– Draft Minutes were agreed.

Action Points -

Police Report Information Update - Previous discussions that prior to lockdown Police attended GPCC meetings and provided very helpful information , however now unable to attend/provide information.

(IC) advised that (RB) had approached Police Scotland with a Template for obtaining specific  information for Southside area. Discussion that specific questions could be emailed to Police Mailbox.

Vans/Vehicles parking on pavement - egarding email Duncan Street Garage owner.

(AG) to obtain email details and contact owner.

Home fire alarm cost - Cllr Dickie update had been circulated to GPCC members. (PJ) asked how CEC going to monitor this and had any consideration been given to this. Cllr Rose advised he had no knowledge of specific arrangements. At present the implementation of Fire Alarms had been delayed by one year.

Parking Signs - (IC) asked if anyone had any specific examples however none provided. Cllr Dickie previously advised she would raise GPCC issues with the Transport Convenor. (ST) advised that electric charging points on lampposts would not work as they are concrete and would not manage standard and/ or high voltage.

Grit Bins - (PR) advised GPCC website updated.   Cllr Rose said CEC have several thousand grit bins.

Living Landscapes consultation - (ST) (ERJ) and (TH) held a zoom meeting to discuss then a response put in but not sure outcome of exercise

**4. Notice of Matters  -**None

**5. Reports (External) -**

a. Councillors Report

**Cllr Cameron Rose advised -**

1. Sick Kids Hospital - due to move on 24 February 2021 and he had seen furniture vans at the hospital but not sure if it will happen.
2. Astley Ainslie - Fences at Grange Loan, Whitehouse Loan which would end access.  Planning application before CEC - objected.
3. CEC Budget - meeting on Thursday 18 February 2021 to approve budget. Unlikely to be any increase in Council Tax.   UK and Scottish Government increased funding to Councils due to various crises, deficits and expenditure which should help to balance CEC Budget
4. Snow - Horrendous winter conditions experienced by everyone this year. Received lots of questions relating to CEC prioritisation - particularly lack of salt/grit on roads and pavements especially on the side streets.

(ME) asked what the ruling was about residents clearing snow from pavements as people believe if someone slips they can sue you. Cllr Rose advised that since 1982 this requirement was removed.  CEC website states there is no legal reason why residents cannot clear pavements and encourage people to do this. (ERJ) advised that the grit bin map was not working - most of the time not able to find out closest bin.   Agreed lots of questions about what priority to Grit but the Meadows which was very icy and busy was not gritted until much later. Cllr Rose said that the main priority was clearing main roads then cycle ways. Cllr Rose to feedback GPCC concerns to CEC.

1. Garden Waste Bins - new/renew applications now closed.   Budget discussion likely to increase charge.   Further, residents can sign up for CEC Garden Waste service at any time and not restricted to two specific periods.
2. City Mobility plan – discussion on 19 February 2021.   Possibility of re-opening South Suburban train route.   This was gaining increased support.  Network Rail were considering electrifying the South Suburban train line for passengers and freight as this would ease Waverley and Haymarket stations.   Improved technology means now getting pushed up Agenda as more people supporting this option.

**Craigmillar Park road changes**

(ME) raised concerns regarding the implementation of the new road layout at Craigmillar Park. cllr Rose advised it was implemented under the CEC Spaces for People programme.   UK and Scottish Government offered money to local Councils to encourage Social distancing and Active Travel.   CEC received full amount, proceeded on programme Spaces for People in Minto Street corridor to Cameron Toll and lots of areas for social distancing to provide pedestrians with more space.

(ME) advised the new layout requires drivers to drive in the middle lane, then manoeuvre to avoid the existing central islands.    Safety is a big issue as dangerous.

Cllr Rose confirmed originally 4 lanes, now reduced to 3 lanes, to enable cycle lanes to facilitate cyclists.   Campaigners argue no chance for Consultation and/or objection. (TH) said several emails from residents about new temporary arrangements as unclear about what going on.  Drivers and pedestrians puzzling to understand priority between 1 and 2 lanes as go up Craigmillar Park.   Due to Covid 19 lockdown the traffic is light but when normality resumes, possible extensive queues.    There is a lot of concern that this Emergency legislation could be permanent.

Cllr Rose advised he had recently spent time with the Engineer contracted by CEC regarding the new road changes.   The Newington Hotels Group and they had raised similar concern.   He was aware of revised plans with slight changes but not radical change. Cllr Rose advised residents should write to Lesley McInnes and their own Councillors with their concerns which may put pressure to bring about change. Cllr Rose confirmed that barriers would be erected to separate the cycle lanes. Discussion that there was concern regarding the confusion over the new layout in Craigmillar Park , increased danger,  and the possibility of increase in number of accidents.

(AG) advised there was a Transport meeting held at the end of January 2021 and committee results by end of April.  Project is to encourage walking/cycling but also what is impact on businesses and disabled.   There is an online Petition - Get Edinburgh Moving - over 6,500 signatures asking CEC to stop and listen.   The cycle lane Bollards are not visible.   (KR) advised that this was to be discussed at EACC meeting next week and will get wider views and (RB) has the link for participating in the Petition.   CEC had acted very quickly and the new layout was more dangerous for everybody, cyclists, pedestrians, cars, etc.  If to be permanent the layout would require a comprehensive review.

(IC) enquired if CEC were receiving income from Parking fees.   CLLR Rose advised that during the Pandemic the parking restrictions had been lifted for a period and also during the recent Snow period which had reduced parking income.

(IC) asked if resident permit holders could still use parking meters without paying? (ST) raised the issue regarding renewal of residents parking permits.  Cllr Rose advised that CEC had stopped issuing them as involved staff going into the office and then send out permits by post.   Now digitalised online and Parking Attendant can check (similar to Road Tax/ Insurance). CLLR Rose to clarify.

(AG) advised that litter bins had been removed from Peffermill Road and not replaced.  (ST) said that litter Bins had been removed from Grange Cemetery.

CLLR Rose said he would check the position relating to Grange and Peffermill Bins.

b. **Police Scotland Report**

(IC) advised he had received a report from Police Scotland for December 2020 and January 2021 which had been circulated to GPCC members.   (ERJ) enquired if the figures were local to Southside or City wide.  Discussion that figures appeared to be city wide.   (IC) advised that GPCC were delighted to have obtained this information at long last which was progress.   (KR) raised the question of providing Police Scotland with the Southside Area Template to complete.  (RB) undertook to look into this. Discussion that police information states break in to garages/sheds but require specific detail for our area.   (IC) advised it would be helpful to have police information for whole South east area and now had police contact details would try to get more specific local information.

6**. Reports of Interest Groups -**

1. **Planning**

(TH) circulated an updated Planning Report to GPCC members and discussed briefly the following points of interest from his full Planning Report-

* St Margarets Nursery Roof space - application refused.
* 23 Minto Street - long history and last proposals refused.   Applicant appealed and before CEC Review Body.   GPCC original objection still stands.  Reporter appointed
* Corner East Mayfield/Craigmillar Park  - roof - appeal due to be heard
* Pharmacy illuminated sign - Ratcliffe  Terrace - waiting to be determined
* Edinburgh University - Peffermill Sports Village application - student accommodation development and outwith university terms will be used hosting athletic events.    Appeal pending.   GPCC objections updated.   Reporter appointed.  In January comments from interested parties lodged.   GPCC asked to respond.  (TH) and (AG) formulating response with help of residents.
* 5G Mast Cameron Toll - development probably going to be permitted.
* City Mobility Plan is a huge document which does not appear to include any arrangements for Community Consultation.   GPCC require to keep a watch on this as important long term.

(TH) discussed the new Edinburgh Development Concordat which seeks to regulate procedures/process of what to do at various stages of Planning applications

1. **Licensing**

(ERJ) raised concerns about the formerThai Restaurant at the corner of East Mayfield/Dalkeith Road as has never operated as a Restaurant but appears to be being used as a Hot Food delivery and not as a restaurant.   Lots of very big lorry deliveries.  Does it require a special Licence? Cllr Rose - allowed takeaway but will check position regarding Licence.

1. **Roads/Transport (AG)**

* City Mobility Plan – Noted that this did not mention the possibility of re-opening the suburban railway. The Tram to Bio Quarter is a concern as the roads are not particularly wide.
* Electric Cars - improved Battery charges for 10 mins and can travel 250 miles. Jaguar - By 2025 only making electric cars Ford - By 2030 only sell electric cars.
* Numerous complaints about the number and dangerous depth of pot holes on the roads.

Cllr Rose agreed nothing in City Mobility Plan about possible re-opening of Railway suburban line however increased interest in train line.   Tram route likely to be Craigmillar Park - Cameron toll - Dalkeith Road. (IC) enquired about Train Stations (e.g. Cameron Toll).   (TH) commented that a feasibility study for trains/trams to Bio Quarter may be required due to new technology, changes to signalling but this would require funding. (SP) said he was aware of an ongoing project Growing Lothians and Borders (GLAB) which was rail travel from the Borders to Edinburgh.

The infrastructure will be dealt with separately by Transport Scotland.   CEC would build the Stations - proposed 2 stations one in East Lothian and one in the Borders.

Cllr Rose advised he had recently received the document and would forward to GPCC.

1. **Communications/Publicity.**

**(**PR) advised that CEC had informed all Community Councils that their Website had to meet the accessibility standards making it easy to read screens for everyone.   Several ways to be compliant - GPCC changed and updated Website last year which automatically provided accessibility.

Access Statement on GPCC website.   (PR) said he would make a few minor changes on GPCC website as our site is largely compliant. (ST) enquired if (PR) had discussed this with (BR) to check how he finds GPCC website.  (PR) to contact (BR) to discuss accessibility. (PR) advised he had received a request from a Heriot Watt Student researching green spaces and if interested in assisting there is a link on twitter.

1. **Environment**

(ST) advised Edinburgh Living Landscapes - trying to get a contact to install an electric charging point for vehicles for public use - e.g. Ratcliffe Terrace Garage.

Discussion that Pollock had a lot of charging points which can use with a card.

1. **Newington Cemetery**

**(**ERJ) advised there was no Snowdrop Walk due to Covid 19 lockdown, however, anyone can walk round the Cemetery.  Preparing an online Newsletter to keep everyone engaged what to look out for in Spring.   Will share Newsletter with GPCC.

**7. Reports from Office Bearers**

1. **(IC) Chair -**

Community Liaison Officer vacant position is a requirement.   (SP) indicated he may be interested in position.   (IC) to check and confirm what is involved for this position to (SP)

1. (RB)Secretary - Nothing to report
2. (AndG) Treasurer -   Treasurers report circulated to GPCC Members

£3,520.61 in the account.1,670.91 belongs to Newington Cemetary, £1,849.70 to core GPCC. £255.91 outstanding in cheques.

**8. Reports of Outside Groups**

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

(KR)  advised GPCC submissions on Public Spaces Management Plan had been made on time.

EACC meeting on 25 February 2021 - (KR) advised this was an open meeting and encouraged GPCC members to join in.   Contact is twofold - context of Edinburgh Development Concordat and relationship between Community Councils.

* Improve ways to increase community involvement.
* New ways to better inform and engage with community planning
* Are we actually reflecting the community?
* Are we the right conduit from the grass roots to the CEC?

(KR) said there was a view that Spaces for People measures were being pushed through forcefully and hurriedly - with a sense of permanency. Road closures - Whitehouse Loan - 3 closures to provide walk/cycle space and there was no hint that this was reviewed.    However resistance to some changes will be raised. (IC) enquired if would be helpful to liaise with various Associations in each Community Council area to get views. (ST) Whitehouse Loan - if closed there is no other route for a bus to get to Ashley Ainslie hospital grounds. (IC) advised CEC Training Day - Plan & Building standards issues. (TH) said limited spaces. (SP) advised he was going to attend.

1. SNNN (Southside/Newington Neighbourhood Network)

ST advised nothing to add.    Cllr Rose agreed he had not heard anything about SNNN.

9**AOB - Open Forum -**None

10.  **Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7 pm**. Via Zoom

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| **3** | Vans & Vehicle parking in Duncan Street | (AG) to get details and contact Duncan Street garage owner |
| **5(a)** | Snow | Cllr Rose to feedback GPCC concerns raised |
| **5(a)** | Resident Permit Holders  Renewal process  Holders nor to pay at parking sites | CLLR Rose to check and confirm renewal process and whether permit holders require to pay to park. |
| **5(a)** | Peffermill Litter Bins  Grance cemetery bins | CLLR Rose to check replacement of Bins |
| **5(b)** | GPCC Police Template | (IC) and (KR) to complete and submit GPCC Template for Police Scotland to use |
| **6(b) Licensing** | Thai Restaurant  Licence for Restaurant but appears to takeaway | CLLR rose to check and confirm Licence terms |
| **6(c) Transport** | Possible re-opening of Railway suburban line | CLLR Rose to forward document to GPCC |
| **6(d) Comms** | Accessibility of GPCC website  Can BR access site | (PR) to contact (BR) to test accessibility of GPCC website |