

**Grange/ Prestonfield Community Council**  
**Minutes of meeting 22 May 2024**

Meeting held in person at Prestonfield Community Centre and via Zoom

**Office Bearers -**

Chair - Ian Chisholm; Joint Vice Chairs - Paul Rowllings, Ellen-Raissa Jackson;  
Secretary- Raphael Bleakley; Treasurer - Paul Rowllings;

**Members present:**

Alan Gilmour, Ken Robertson, Sue Tritton, Bill Reid, Sally Griffiths, Cllr Steve Burgess.

**Members present on Zoom:**

Ellen-Raissa Jackson, Ian Wright, Peter Jones

**In attendance on Zoom:**

Denise Fisher

**Apologies:** Stanley Bird

**Absent:**

Andreas Grothey

1. **Welcome.** – Ian Chisholm welcomed members to the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest** –

3. **Minutes of 17 April 2024**

- Minutes were agreed as accurate.

Actions:

- **Planning vacancy** – Continued as an issue for GPCC
- **Newington Cemetery wall** – Sally raised that Daniel Johnson MSP is willing to take up the issue. Had mentioned this to Ellen-Raissa. Ellen-Raissa updated that Andy Hulme had been in contact and said that he needs access to a lifting device to finish the heavy top stones.
- **Bin Hubs** – see below.
- **Priestfield Road / Prestonfield Road upgrade** – Cllr Pogson updated that there will be delay.

4. **Notice of Matters Arising -**

None

## 5. Reports (External) – Cllr Burgess updated:

- Prestonfield Bowling Green. Kate Kirkwood had contacted to GPCC to say that ELGT were no longer working on this initiative. Cllr Burgess had some concern about this, discussed this with Council officer. Reassured that the team would take this forward and not going to be dropped. Has been a community consultation with over 300 responses. ELGT have now been put back on the project. Now going to work up a design based on the consultation output. Plan is to host an event at Cameron House before the summer holidays, to share the design with the community. Will take a couple of weeks to ELGT to put the proposal to the Council. Sally asked about funding. Cllr Burgess commented that ELGT are good at raising match funding. Design will need to be costed and funding found.
- New CEO starting at the City Council. Paul Lawrence, who is the head of place has been appointed to take his place.
- Bin hubs are the issues that are coming to Councillors. Many in Southside. Site meeting on Priestfield Road took place. Issue of bins on Dalkeith Road has been a GPCC issue for a number of years. Can't put them on main road in a bus lane. One has been put in place on Priestfield Road. Nearest residents concerned about that. Report provided to residents following the meeting.
- Alan raised – Mayfield Road has now been shut for nearly four years. Is there a penalty for developers due to the inconvenience? Cllr Burgess confirmed that developers need permission to take over the road, but not likely to be a penalty.
- Ellen asked about the timescale for the bins being taken away from Dalkeith Road, especially the stretches near Priestfield Road. Cllr Burgess confirmed that they want to leave the bins for the time being as other bin hubs on Kilmaurs have still to be done. Other bin hubs need to be in place before the Dalkeith Road bins are taken up. – Cllr Burgess to clarify the timescale.
- Denise asked about the bin hub on Marchhall Place outside Priestfield Church – inhabitants would have to walk more than 15m and have to cross a road to reach a hub. Asking if any way of pursuing this? Cllr Burgess says that officers will look at issues as they are raised and can review if there is a possibility for change. Cllr Burgess to check with Cllr Pogson to see what stage this is at.
- Ken asked where bin hub policy sits in relation to planning guidance. Was agreed by TEC – don't need planning permission to put bin hub on a road. Need a Traffic Regulation Order to put bins on the road.

## 6. Reports of Interest Groups -

### a. Planning

- Decision on 15 Dalkeith Road – planning approval granted.

- Ratcliffe terrace – the application for student accommodation has been withdrawn.
- Tony Harris had been in contact to share a note about the CALA Blind School development. A gate with combination lock has been installed, and private property signs erected with CCTV. The development proceeded on the basis that pedestrian access would be given in accordance with planning consent conditions. Tony has notified the planning department about this.

#### **b. Licensing – None**

#### **c. Roads/Transport –**

Alan updated:

- Airport buses restarting on Waverley bridge during redevelopment of Jenners.
- 20mph extension going ahead. Proposal to extend the bus lane hours for 7-7, 7 days a week.
- Improvements to different areas – outside Preston Street school, widening of pavements and moving the bus stop.
  - Sally updated that there is a revised timetable about the strategic parking review. The legal process in B1 area won't commence until later this year, and implementation will be no earlier than August 2025 at the earliest. Implementation will be more than six years after the data was originally collected.
  - Peter is now on the Edinburgh Access Panel – raised that they have drafted a good response to Meadows to George Street proposals – will circulate with GPCC.
  - Denise raised the distances between bus stops and tram stops in Edinburgh. Concerned that distances are getting longer.

#### **d. Communications/Publicity - Paul updated:**

- Promotion and flyers and bookmarks produced for Grange and Meadows fairs.
- Noticeboards – got in touch with BT to position near the bus stop of Dalkeith Road. They have not accepted, alternative to put by the planter near the bus stop. Planter may not be robust enough to hold a noticeboard. Still to approach Newington Library – do have a year to spend the grant. Has found a new supplier who would supply slightly smaller boards at a similar quality.

#### **e. Environment**

- No further update

#### **f. Newington Cemetery – Ellen updated:**

- No progress on the wall, despite assurances. Council staff need access to heavy lifting machinery.
- We were asked to fill out a survey form counting the number of people walking dogs/how long the leads are/whether people are picking up dog poo

etc. The form is unusable and beyond our capacity to carry out this kind of survey. Other Friends groups agree.

- We have had various inquiries about headstones/graves.
- Delivery of planters scheduled for 10 June.

## **7. Reports from Office Bearers**

a. Treasurer Report – Paul updated:

GPCC Account Balance - £2,225

- No new income, £307 expenditure (Promotional items, Zoom)

• Newington Cemetery Balance - £4,208

- no new income or new expenditure

b. Secretary.

No further update

## **8. Reports from external groups**

a. EACC

Ken highlighted that GPCC submitted response to scheme review. EACC wrote to all elected Councillors in response to scheme review. The Governance staff at CEC will be holding a training seminar on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm to re-engage with CCs to engage in the statutory planning function to become closely involved in planning stage.

## **9. Open forum**

Grange Association Fair was well attended. Grange Association also held an energy efficiency session with residents. Discussion about solar panels on south facing roofs. A note by Ken has been placed on the website.

Road Traffic Improvement programme – is there anywhere in GPCC that could be improved? What kind of project would be supported for £50,000? Has to accord with Council strategy. Programme is open for some time.

**10. Date of Next Meeting - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## Action list

<b>3 Actions ii)</b>	<b>Planning vacancy</b>	Continued for updates
	<b>Newington Cemetery wall</b>	Continued for updates
<b>6.d</b>	<b>Publicity –</b>	Paul to take forward noticeboards following award of grant. Also to explore option for giveaways for events