

Grange/Prestonfield Community Council

Draft Minutes of AGM 22 May 2024 19:00

Meeting held at Cameron House 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, Stanley Bird, Ian Wright, Peter Jones

In attendance on Zoom:

Denise Fisher

Apologies: Stanley Bird

Absent: Andreas Grothey

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the AGM.

2. Minutes of AGM May 17 2023

Minute was approved. Amendments to be made to p.3 with removal of, "She sits on the licensing board.

3. Matters arising not covered by agenda. - None

4. Chair's Opening Statement and Report -

The GPCC continued to meet in person during the year. Zoom was also used enabling those unable to attend in person including visitors to participate in hybrid meetings.

The GPCC has been very well served by its Ward Councillors during the year. The Scottish Police Service decided, as a matter of policy and resource prioritisation, not to attend Community Council meetings. This has been a loss to the work of the GPCC though general three-monthly police reports over a wider area were received. The delay in holding the quadrennial elections to the Community Councils has resulted in a number of members leaving as no longer resident and therefore eligible to remain on the GPCC.

In addition our excellent lead on planning issues, Tony Harris, who had retired at the 2023 AGM was much missed. In the meantime representatives of the local residents'

association are filling the planning role. As a result of these changes the GPCC has weakened though those left have worked diligently and energetically. It has been of great assistance to the GPCC that one of our members, Ken Robertson, is also the secretary of the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils.

A major reason for the delay in elections has been the review of Community Councils, the report of which is awaited. In the view of the GPCC and other CCs the review has addressed only second order issues rather than a more radical consideration of the future powers and financing of CCs. Some of the other major issues considered by the GPCC during 2023-2024 included the proposed extension of parking zones; the Council's Travelling Safely initiative and the Council's 2030 Climate Strategy.

The GPCC operated reasonably during the year. We look forward to new elections enabling more members to join the GPCC and seek to improve the local community in the coming year.

5. Treasurer's Report

Paul gave a brief summary of the GPCC and Newington Cemetery accounts. The Draft GPCC Accounts for 2023-2024 had been prepared and Audited.

Income and expenditure account – total combined figure. For GPCC income £980 for Council Management grants. £440 expenditure, primarily website costs and monthly Zoom costs, membership of Cockburn association and a single gift. Nothing major in terms of expenditure in the year. £2,088.32 brought forward with £2,628.10 carried forward.

For Newington Cemetery income from Metals fund of £833.33. Surplus income over expenditure was £127.28. £4,080.87 was brought forward into the year with £4,208.15 surplus carried forward. This gives a £6,836.25 combined total.

The accounts have been checked and verified by the auditor and now require formal approval.

6. Secretary's Report.

Responding to a more usual flow of correspondence from residents and issues being raised with GPCC which has been done on behalf of the council to respond to, otherwise these have been referred to Ward Councillors. There has been an increase in the amount of correspondence given GPCC has been without a Planning spokesperson for the duration.

7. Election of Office Bearers Continued

- a. Chair** - Ian Chisholm
- b. Vice Chairs** – Ellen-Raissa Jackson & Paul Rowllings
- c. Secretary** - Raphael Bleakley
- d. Treasurer** - Paul Rowllings
- e. Community engagement*** -

* Ken Robertson proposed to work with others behind the scenes on Community engagement.

Proposer- Ken Robertson . Secorder- Sue Tritton

8. Appointment to Outside Groups and Subgroups

- a. EACC** - Ken Robertson
- b. Planning*** -
- c. Licensing** -
- d. Roads/Transport** - Alan Gilmour
- e. Communications/Publicity** – Paul Rowllings
- f. Environment** - Sue Tritton
- g. Newington Cemetery** - Ellen Raissa-Jackson
- h. Southside/Newington representative** - Raphael Bleakley

*Planning has been done collectively with local associations.

9. AOB

No further business was discussed.

Meeting closed at 19:30