

Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 28 August 2023, 18:30
RWCC and on MsTeams

In Attendance: Fred Marinello, George Gordon, Donald McDonald, Carolyn Sampson, Cllr Stuart Dobbin, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Online: (Lorna Forsyth, Tim Parker but unable to get a good connection for them.)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from Cllr Day and Cllr Dijkstra-Downie, Jill Taleyarkhan, Tony Lawrence (Police).

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Both Carolyn and Fred have walked along and around Pilton Drive looking for the overgrown hedges that Anne Reid has complained about on several occasions. They were unable to find them. It is possible that they have been cut but if a precise road/street name can be obtained and emailed to Cllr Dobbin, he will take this further.

There were no other matters arising and the Minutes were proposed by Carolyn and seconded by George.

4. Police Report

No officers attending and no written report received.

5. Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Dobbin reported that council business was picking up again after a quieter spell. The issues he has been contacted about are:

1. families seeking appeals in relation to out of catchment placements for a variety of reasons.
2. Pressure on housing – the council is setting up a focused dampness team, but progress is slow and it is a challenge getting updates on his cases.
3. Two council contracts are causing concern: Garden Aid and the window replacement programme. The company providing Garden Aid did not recruit enough staff and there are a number of issues particularly hedges not being cut. The window contract has failed; there are excessive delays and unresolved resulting in homes that are not watertight. It's a major concern with winter approaching. Questions regarding this have been submitted for the council meeting on 31 August 2023.
4. Crewe Road North is on schedule to reopen in mid-September. The repairs are complete, and the safety checks done, just needs final sign-off.

Questions and comments

Carolyn agreed that the Garden Aid failures have been a hot topic in the community as residents pay for the service. Also, there have been complaints that people do not know who their housing officer is or how to contact them when repairs are not being done.

Suzanne asked if there was progress with the Granton Orchard. Stuart responded that it was a huge mess and commercial assistance is going to be required to clear it as it is too dangerous for volunteers.

6. Secretary's Report

a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

1. A condolence card was sent to Alan Macfarlane's (The Granton Bakery) family.
2. George will be attending the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils' meeting to see what their plan is to support community councils.

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

There are no changes to report. The balance is £2861, and the petty cash is £22.41.

8. Neighbourhood Network/NW Locality

The localities are still doing their evaluation. They have had a number of events to decide on their priorities, which will be in conjunction with the council's LIPs. There is also a need for the localities to work better together to service their diverse communities.

9. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

Although GDCC was not notified about the application to renew permissions at the Waterfront, a successful objection was raised as old plans were going to be 'waved through' without much scrutiny. They had been drawn up some years ago and need to be revisited.

10. AOCB

Carolyn asked if there was an update on the Boswall Park issues. George replied that he had asked George Norwell if the consultation event could be set up in the bowling club and is waiting for an answer. Carolyn also said that as new shops open the double parking on the corners of Fraser Avenue and Granton Road have become worse, and an accident is bound to happen. Parking on the pavement is illegal so enforcement is required.

George raised the issue of double-parking too, but it is school related in Boswall Green, Grierson Crescent and Fraser Crescent. He has called the police to report this.

Carolyn raised the subject of an overpopulation of foxes in the Boswall & Grierson area, as they are quite destructive to plants and wildlife, and it was noted that they also destroy personal items in back and front gardens. George informed the meeting that he witnessed a badger in Fraser Crescent being cornered by two foxes which he managed to scare off, but it is concerning that they are having an impact on protected wildlife and family pets.

11. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM on 25 September 2023, RWCC, 18:00.