

**Granton & District Community Council
Monday, 30 October 2023, 18:30--19:35
RWCC and on MsTeams**

In Attendance: Fred Marinello, George Gordon, Jill Talēyarkhan, Donald McDonald, Maureen Nelson, Cllr Dijkstra-Downie, Cllr Stuart Dobbin, PC Sarah Hall, PC Tony Lawrence, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Online: Lorna Forsyth

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from Carolyn Sampson, Bill Rogers, Cllr Cammy Day, Ben McPherson MSP, Deidre Brock MP

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Maureen said that the parking wardens had been along to ticket parents who were parking incorrectly near the school. She also advised that some of the loose dogs are not necessarily strays but the owners let them out to 'walk themselves'. Also, the pigeon fanciers are no longer congregating in the park.

The Minutes were proposed by George and seconded by Maureen.

4. Police Report

- a) PC Lawrence reported that there had been no house-breakings in September and one motorbike was stolen on 18 September.
- b) There had been some disorder and youth ASB at B&M and Lidl during September, partly due to the travellers camping behind there but this is a long-running issue. Charges have been made against a number of young people. There are still issues with these young people (9 to 14 year olds) reoffending mainly at Morisons, and Lidl and B&M.
- c) PC Hall reported that the usual planning for Halloween and Bonfire night was in place. There will be as many police officers as possible on duty; dispersal zones are in place and police spotters are helping the council remove illegal bonfires. Joint visits, with Family and Social Housing officers have been made to possible offenders.
- d) The regular drop-in had been held at the Library.
- e) There was discussion that Diwali was also this weekend and about where fireworks can be obtained. Some supermarkets are not stocking them but pop-up fireworks shops also appear around this time of year so it is difficult to guess where people will buy their fireworks.

Questions and comments

Cllr Dobbin asked if the police knew about the burnt-out car in Fery Road Drive. PC Hall said that they were aware and working with the council to try and have it removed before the weekend so that it was not a magnet for fire raising.

5. Elected Members' Reports

- a) Cllr Dijkstra-Downie said that work was going on in Forth Quarter Park between Pennywell Road and Gipsy Brae under the Sustrans Active travel route planning. There is funding for 20 bicycles for the Bike Shed.
- b) NGS have received planning permission for their new building.
- c) A report has been given to councillors about the damage and lessons to be learnt after Storm Babet. This is being considered currently.

Cllr Dobbin said that it was business as usual: ASB, housing repairs, issues about damp. Craig Dugdale is the new head of the damp team so he is hoping that there will be a faster response now that there is a dedicated team. He added that a quarter of all the dampness cases in Edinburgh come from the Muirhouse to Granton Crescent area.

Questions and comments

George asked the councillors to be aware that the garage owner on West Granton Road has complained that he has not had sufficient or proper representation with regard to the repurposing of that section of land. He would likely be in touch with them soon.

6. Secretary's Report

- a. Matters Arising from Secretary's Report

George circulates all matters of interest to the community council by email as received.

7. Treasurer's Report

- a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

The current balance is £2806.27. The £60 cheque for previous room rents has now been cashed and a further cheque for October's room rent has been issued.

8. Neighbourhood Network/NW Locality

- a) The group is still consulting on the local development priorities. There is a meeting in early November (w/b/ 6 November) when they are hoping to finalise their plans then.
- b) Fred attended the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils meeting. The discussion was about the 2030-40 plan and how community councils can be more involved in local planning. As there is so much development in Granton it is important that GDCC is involved where it can be. Contributions to the 2040 plan must be submitted in October 2024 but the community councils and NW Locality are working on this on a voluntary basis as there is no funding for this work.

9. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

- a) George has made an objection, on behalf of GDCC to the application for a 2.2m fence on Granton Road. There are currently five illegal fences on properties backing on to Granton Road but the council has not enforced the planning regulations to date.
- b) George has sent out the invitation to the upcoming consultation hubs.

10. AOCB

- a) Jill asked if the councillors knew when the Crewe Road North pavements would be repaired. This has been pending since the start of the year.
- b) There are more cars parking along Wardie Crescent and it is making it difficult for the buses to negotiate.

- c) The potholes along Pilton Crescent are large and numerous.
- d) The Remembrance service at Granton Parish will be held on 12 November 2023.
- e) Maureen advised that the litter problem at Ainslie Leisure Centre has reappeared. A sofa and other fly-tipping has been left.
- f) The uncollected bins on Crewe Road North are blocking the pavement and emptied bins are not always taken in so blow about if it is windy. There was a short discussion about what is residents' responsibility and what is council responsibility.
- g) Fred added that there are discussions about the bit of road near 73 and 75 Crewe Road North as it is difficult for the lorries to stop safely. Recesses could be created to help this and the work will cost around £37K.
- h) There was a short discussion about voids (empty council houses); why they aren't on Edindex; repairs' backlog; waiting lists etc. Cllr Dobbin said it was proving difficult to find an explanation for the situation.
- i) Maureen asked what can be done about the worsening situation near the Spartans ground. As they have gone up a division traffic and inconsiderate parking has increased. George and Fred have raised this at Spartans' board meetings as a solution needs to be found.
- j) Maureen also asked about the Spartans litter issue. She has had a meeting with someone at Spartans who did not seem to be aware of the discussions that have taken place so this has not progressed much. She was told to persist and ensure that whoever she speaks to is aware that the Chair, Craig Gordon, is fully aware of concerns that were raised.
- k) Fred asked councillors to be aware that the bridge by the Spartans ground is in a dangerous state and it cannot take the weight of lorries and big coaches but there is nothing to stop them going over it. He asked councillors to investigate where plans are (or aren't) with regard to repairs.

11. Date and time of next meeting

Monday, 27 November 2023; RWCC and MsTeams, at 18:30.