

Granton & District Community Council

Monday, 26 May 2025, 18:30

RWCC and on MsTeams

In Attendance: Fred Marinello, George Gordon, Carolyn Samson, Billy Fitzpatrick, Jill Talēyarkhan, David Jamieson, Susan Allan, Ida Maspero, Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie, Cllr Stuart Dobbin, Keir Liddle, Amanada Gilmour, Suzanne Ebel (Minutes)

Online: Lorna Forsyth (until 20:00).

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and welcome

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from Maureen Nelson, PC Tony Lawrence, PC Sarah Hall, Ben McPherson, Cllr Kayleigh O'Neill.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

There were no matters arising and the Minutes were moved by Billy and seconded by George.

4. Police Report

None received.

5. Elected Members' Reports

Cllr Dobbin

- i. Stuart picked up a couple of points from the AGM Minutes. Regarding the weeds in pavements, there have been discussions with the Community Payback Team to draw up a programme to tackle the issues.
- ii. He has asked about the bin hub programme and how the situation can be improved. There is a walkabout with Gareth Barwell in June and all the problem areas will be visited and discussed.

Q: David asked what is being done to tackle weeds as less glyphosate is being used. It shouldn't be left to community groups to tackle problem areas.

A: Sanne advised that there is a team that manually removes weeds but it is just one team and they work in rotation.

- iii. Stuart has written to Parking re Ainslie Park Leisure Centre and Marine Drive.
- iv. Cllr Dobbin spoke about the change of policy regarding class sizes at Wardie Primary, in particular the P3 to P4 transition class where there will be two classes at maximum class size with no contingency for incomers. It does seem to be a cost-saving exercise. There was a discussion about what might be done. The new school at the Waterfront will not be built for three years. **(Note: the situation changed shortly after this meeting. Three classes were reinstated.)**

There was also discussion about the use of PSAs and how they can be very effective, within existing budgets, rather than baby-sitting children.

Cllr Dijkstra-Downie

- i. Sanne has spoken to David Delargy about progress on the Boswell Crescent Park proposals. He feels that they are nearly there and they are just looking at some play equipment. The project team will attend the June meeting.

- ii. Scottish Water did not notify residents in Grierson Crescent properly about the works. They also put the signage on the pavements, which obstructed pedestrians and had to be asked to move it.
 - iii. Cars entering cycle paths – bollards have now been installed to try and prevent this.
 - iv. Cllr Dijkstra-Downie had attended the Ferryfields AGM where it was agreed that Ferryfields and West Ferryfields would try to improve their relationship by holding FerryFest. They may be looking for some funding to help develop this idea.
 - v. Litter bins are required on the Ferry Road path and the one on West Granton Road needs to be replaced – there was one previously. Cllr Dijkstra-Downie has requested this. The size of the vehicles that are being used is bigger so it is a little more challenging to empty them.
 - vi. The Wardie cul-de-sac will become a school street so that parking etc is controlled.
 - vii. Cleanstreets is coming to Forth Ward in June. People need to email with their requests – cleanstreets@edinburgh.gov.uk.
 - viii. Jill asked for another big bin to be installed on Crewe Road North.
 - ix. Keir commented that people in Wardieburn often don't have room for their bins so they just sit on the street. Is there anything that the council can do? Cllr Dobbin replied that when it looked like the bin hubs were going to be rolled out he was optimistic that there would be an improvement. As the programme has been suspended it is disappointing as they do seem to work. Ida added that people do have to take some responsibility too. How can people be encouraged to work together? Carolyn said that housing officers need to enforce the rules.
- George commented that action has been taken and some stairs have been ticketed. The officers doing the walkabout will be looking at these issues. George will notify us when it takes place. There was a reminder to the elected members that West Winnelstrae seems to be left out of everything and should not be forgotten!

Questions for elected members

Q: Kerbside Motors – taxed and untaxed cars are being dumped in side streets and are also blocking pavements.

A: David suggested reporting the cars to the council and PC Lawrence has also been helpful in getting cars moved. David also suggested that if the area was a CPZ cars could be ticketed and then removed.

Q: Who owns the field beside the Toby restaurant?

A: It belongs to a local farmer who rents it out to another farmer.

Q: Suzanne asked where the speed awareness signs on Granton Road had come from. They do not seem to be official signs. There was a short discussion about these but no definitive answer.

Q: What information is given to potential buyers and social renters relating to Granton Station and surrounds? New residents seem unaware of the parking restrictions that exist. There was a short discussion about how this can be made clearer and if there are any solutions.

6. Secretary's Report

- i. George reiterated that David Delargy and the AtkinsRéalisis team will attend the next meeting to report progress on the Boswall Crescent Park project.
- ii. The walkabout in mid-June will focus on the Royston Mains block.
- iii. Ben McPherson MSP will attend the next meeting to discuss the situation with the travellers on the Scottish Government land.
- iv. George had a response from LINK regarding the cashlines in the area. It said that everything was working and there were no issues. George has been monitoring two of the machines in question and will report his findings – again – to LINK.
- v. Fred reported that he had attended the meeting about Gypsy Brae and the Granton Park Avenue travellers. The stakeholders including Police Scotland and CEC were present but no representative from the Scottish Government. There was discussion about the law not being enforced and the lack of security around sites. There are also issues with significant fly-tipping,

human waste and safe access for emergency services. Residents want a fixed entrance and exit point. There is no certainty about what can be done. The ownership of the land is still a big block; the Scottish Government has a court order but has not secured the land. Granton Park Avenue is more of a homeless camp than a travellers' stop. At the first meeting, the Scottish Government had stated that this is a complex issue and it is trying to find a solution.

Regarding the fires, as long as a 'responsible adult' is present then the fire service will not attend BUT due to the material being burnt, it is better for the fire service to be there.

vi. The council now has all the information required in relation to GDCC members.

vii. George asked for permission to cost a new voice activated tracking webcam to use in future meetings. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR.**

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Matters Arising from Treasurer's Report

Apart from issuing a cheque for the room let, there have been no other transactions. Lorna will be having a leave of absence from 22 June 2025 to 22 July 2025.

8. Communication and Engagement discussion

Ida reported that she had attended the in-person training for new community councillors. A community engagement toolkit was shared. George and Ida have had a discussion about what will be updated. Ida will meet with Lloyd to discuss updates and tweaks to the website. Ida is also keen to get the facebook page active again. George added that we do have noticeboards for those who are not digitally active. These are important as there are fewer places that will accept posters.

Ida recognised that we need a multi-pronged approach that can be controlled. GDCC also needs to make efforts to engage more visibly with our community

9. North-West Locality

The Locality meeting has still not been scheduled – they are waiting for dates. George is also still waiting for a meeting with the communications team as CEC doesn't seem to want to hear from either community councils or their communities.

Q: Ida asked why West Pilton, West Granton and Muirhouse & Salvesen did not return a community council George gave some background to this.

Neighbourhood Networks

The Forth Panel has become very successful at giving grants to as many people as apply as possible. The Community Engagement Team under Elaine Lennon worked hard to encourage as many eligible groups as possible to apply. CEC now wants to change the system back to the old system of only awarding a small number of big grants. This didn't really work previously. George added that the Council also favours moving to participatory budgeting, which tends to favour big, well-organised organisations.

10. Consultation, Planning and Licensing

i. There has been consultation about the Granton Harbour development.

ii. The Madelvic House development proposal has been submitted. Sanne suggested that they *may* already have consent but just need to supply the Listed Building Consent (LBC).

iii. David advised that there are seven transport projects that have been approved.

11. AOCB

Covered under previous items.

12. Date and time of next meeting

30 June 2025, 18:00, RWCC and online.